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Western Australia on notice from the international mining community

The release of the annual Fraser Institute Survey shows that Western Australia's stranglehold as one of the most attractive jurisdictions in the world for mining, is not to be taken for granted.

The latest results show a declining trend in WA in recent years, dropping from 4th in 2021, 10th in 2022, to 17th in 2023 on the 'Policy Perception Index' (PPI).

Overall, WA sits in fourth place out of 86 regions across the world, as the most attractive mining jurisdiction. Utah (17th last year), followed by Nevada and Saskatchewan are ahead of WA.

Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) CEO, Mr Warren Pearce, commented "The Fraser Institute Survey was conducted in August last year, at the height of public debate over recently introduced Aboriginal Cultural Heritage laws.

"The impact that has had on WA's policy perception index is quite clear. To drop from 4th a couple of years ago to 17th is a concern.

"Ultimately, Premier Roger Cook, heeded the call of industry and community, and repealed those laws. However, it underscores the lasting negative impact that such policies can have on investment attraction.

"Policies that undermine certainty, will deter investment."

The result in WA was also felt across the country, with Australia slipping from the top spot as the most attractive jurisdiction in the world for mining investment, to 2nd place behind the United States.

With the exception of Queensland and Northern Territory, all Australian jurisdictions decreased compared to 2022, with South Australia dropping almost 16 places and Tasmania falling close to 14 places.

Despite an almost 3-point decline in its PPI score, WA continues to be Australia's highest ranked jurisdiction for overall investment attractiveness.

"It will be interesting to see if positive regulatory changes, such as the implementation of the Vogel-McFerran environment regulatory reforms, will have an equally positive impact on WA in next year's survey," added Mr Pearce.

On the issue of 'Timeline Certainty' Queensland was the best performing region in Australia on meeting its timelines, with 80 per cent responding positively. On the flipside, all respondents for Victoria indicated that timelines were only met half of the time or rarely by authorities.

Meanwhile, Australia is the worst performer overall in this category, with only 45 per cent of respondents saying that approval decision timelines were met between 60 and 100 per cent of the time.

AMEC MEDIA RELEASE



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