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WA Liberal Party sets environmental approvals agenda ahead of election

Today's Election commitment by the Western Australian Liberal Party to a raft of sensible environmental policy reforms will cut green tape and expedite approvals, while maintaining Western Australia's world leading environmental protection.

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) commends this announcement, as it aligns with many of the concerns regularly seen and raised by members.

"Ms Mettam's call to 'get the dirt moving' is 100 per cent supported by AMEC."

"Parallel approvals, tightening stop the clock, considering deemed approvals, and a revision of the duplicative Social Surrounds Policy are much needed reforms to get WA moving," said Mr Warren Pearce, Chief Executive Officer of AMEC.

As previously pointed out, the WA Chamber of Commerce has reported that \$318 billion of investment in the resource sector is currently on hold, awaiting environmental approvals.

The measures outlined by the Liberal leader today sets a course to unlock that investment, to take WA from doing well, to doing exceptionally well.

A key measure includes reducing standing for appeals to those directly involved, which will mean out of State, third parties, cannot stop Western Australians from benefiting from future projects based on misguided political activism.

"The use of the State Administrative Tribunal for appeals makes sense and makes use of pre-existing bodies that have the functions needed if called upon, such as mediation to manage appeals."

"Cutting the climate-related assessment and regulation duplication is a no brainer that should have been done already. Carbon emissions are already legislated and regulated by the Commonwealth, who have a bespoke agency managing the entire nations progress to international carbon commitments," added Mr Pearce.

It should be noted that much of today's announcement mirrors the Cook Government's Vogel McFerran Report's 39 clear recommendations - to drive systematic change and reduce approvals timeframes.

"To have consensus among political parties is promising for the State. In this case, it will be actions that speak louder than words."

"When WA returns to the polls next March, whoever is in the hot seat by the end of that month – it is reassuring for the resources industry, that environmental reform will be front and centre."

"And it will be crucial reform if WA wants to provide the critical minerals to power global decarbonisation."

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