



2025

ADVOCACY &
ACHIEVEMENTS





COMMONWEALTH

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) reforms

AMEC has been driving engagement with Ministers, the Opposition and government agencies on the EPBC Act reforms. AMEC appeared before the Senate Inquiry and provided a submission representing member views and arguing for key refinements to ensure the reforms are fit-for-purpose. AMEC has been intimately engaged in negotiations on the Bill, and the Bill now passed has considerable benefits for member companies and the minerals industry, promising Bilateral Agreements with the States and Territories, and significant time and cost savings in the approvals process for proponents.

Critical Minerals Production Tax Incentive (CMPTI)

AMEC achieved significant advocacy success with a \$7 Billion Critical Minerals Production Tax Incentive announced in the Federal Budget. The proposal was developed by AMEC with member companies, and through extensive advocacy turned into a major plank of the Government's Future Made in Australia platform. The CMPTI has now been legislated and will commence on 1 July 2027, providing a 10 per cent tax credit to companies undertaking downstream processing. Since its legislation, AMEC has led engagement with Treasury to identify which refining and processing activities should be considered eligible for the CMPTI.

Critical Minerals Strategic Reserve

AMEC has drawn together the Australian rare earths industry to develop a proposal to the Commonwealth Government on potential financial mechanisms for the Critical Minerals Strategic Reserve. The proposal will develop an industry consensus position on price support options that has extensive industry backing and will be presented to Government in the new year, to support the \$1.2 Billion commitment.

Junior Minerals Exploration Incentive (JMEI)

AMEC advocacy drove the establishment of the JMEI in 2017 with \$200 million in tax credits provided over the next 8 years. To date, this program has not been further extended and AMEC is pushing hard for its renewal. This year AMEC commissioned BDO to model the JMEI and found, for every \$1 of JMEI credits allocated an additional \$6.38 was estimated to be invested into the exploration industry. This stimulated \$2.41 of exploration activity. A total of \$1,163 million in additional capital raising was estimated to occur, stimulating \$404 million of additional exploration activity, that would not otherwise have occurred. Its extension is AMEC's highest advocacy priority.

Congested and Contested: Coexistence Report

With increasing land conflict occurring between the established industries of mining, exploration and agriculture with new industries such as renewables, AMEC has released a report quantifying the increasing severity of the problem. The report recommends actions that State and Commonwealth Government must take to address these issues, that risk sterilising resources and creating community opposition.

JORC consultation

AMEC is actively engaged in the JORC code update, hosting events, drafting a submission and sitting on the JORC drafting committee as the representative of the mineral exploration industry. AMEC maintains strong opposition to the inclusion of new disclosures in public reports that significantly increase the costs to business, specifically new ESG and Risk metrics that sit outside the expertise of the nominated Competent Person.

Diesel Fuel Tax Credit

AMEC advocacy continues to ensure the retention of the Diesel Fuel Tax Credit, which is vitally important to the mining and exploration industry. AMEC will resist any changes to the scheme.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Local Government prohibition on rating Miscellaneous Licences

AMEC's intervention into two specific local government issues results in potential savings to industry of \$50 million per annum in new costs and up to \$250 million in backdated rates. This is off the back of the Shire of Mount Magnet trying to exploit a legal loophole to rate miscellaneous licences. Plus, the attempt from the Shire of Coolgardie to hike rates 120 per cent was also blocked by advocacy from AMEC. Prompt action by AMEC ensured this did not occur, saving the industry millions and preventing a dangerous precedent for every jurisdiction.

Eligible Mining Activities

AMEC has been lobbying Government to introduce Eligible Mining Activities (EMAs) as a part of their Resources Online platform. The EMAs will allow mining tenement holders to receive instantaneous authorisation to undertake certain eligible exploration activities, including drilling in specified non-environmentally sensitive areas according to strict conditions. This has delivered a major time saving for explorers and for Department officers.

Review of costs of cultural heritage protection

In response to ongoing advocacy from AMEC, the WA Government began a review of the costs and delays faced by mineral exploration companies and the wider community when seeking to adhere to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage regulatory framework. Mr Glen Kelly will close out this review in December this year, with action expected in 2026 to improve the processes for land access. AMEC has undertaken a comprehensive survey of members on costs and experience with the current heritage processes, and will be fighting for significant change in 2026.

Removal of Western Australia assessment of carbon emissions

As called for by AMEC, the WA Government revised the policy on greenhouse gas emissions for major projects that are assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority, to align nationally and be appropriately managed through Commonwealth Government's Safeguard Mechanism.

Fixing the Mining Tenure system

AMEC pursued and secured legislative change to rectify concerning elements of the tenure application processes and associated requirements. This will ensure the security of tenure for prospective applications following the 2017 High Court decision *Forrest & Forrest v Wilson*, and the *Blue Ribbon* and *True Fella* court decisions. AMEC also worked with Government to resolve an ongoing issue with the geodatum shifting relevant to the Western Australian land mass.

Royalty Reductions

On behalf of lithium, vanadium, potash, and diamond members AMEC has successfully advocated for the modernisation and meaningful reductions in the Western Australian royalty rate structure to reflect modern market dynamics. These reforms have balanced the need for competitiveness with a return to the community for the minerals in the ground.

Mining Warden

AMEC successfully advocated for an additional Mining Warden to expand judicial capacity to meet burgeoning demand for hearings, which at the peak extended listing dates out a full year.

Gold Royalty, fees and charges

Premier Cook announced at the AMEC Awards Dinner 2024, ahead of the 2025 State Election, a commitment not to increase in the gold royalty, and no new fees, charges or royalty increases.

QUEENSLAND

EPM Rent Waiver

This key advocacy win for AMEC continues to deliver value for members. In 2023, the QLD Critical Minerals Strategy committed to waive exploration permit for minerals (EPM) rents for five years. AMEC estimates this has saved \$15M for companies; money that is not tied up in government coffers but getting drilled into the ground. AMEC is advocating for its extension beyond 2027.

Environment Protection Act improvements

The timeframes and complexity required for environmental approvals in Queensland have hampered exploration, development and good post mining land use opportunities. To strongly illustrate the case, AMEC took the Minister for Environment to the Cattana Wetlands in Cairns, to demonstrate a post mining land use that would not be possible under the current legislation. Throughout 2025, DETSI have engaged with industry to draft significant EP Act amendments. The powerful case study examples shared by AMEC have helped shape the reforms and will lead to improved operating conditions overall.

Acid Supply Study

It was advocacy from AMEC that pushed the Department of State Development to release the Acid Supply Study. AMEC was able to clearly articulate the impact the lack of transparency was generating, with an impacted member experience. This triggered the department to host an industry briefing and release the study, albeit heavily redacted. Following this, AMEC hosted a member workshop to develop key recommendations from members and to prosecute these actions with government going forward.

Low risk activity outcomes

AMEC's advocacy led to the abolishment of Annual Returns for lower-risk activities, such as exploration, reducing the administrative burden on explorers. The new legislation will take this one step further, with financial assurance for Standard EAs being eliminated and refunds of existing financial assurances to be issued after legislation is passed.

Impacts of Renewable energy infrastructure on mineral exploration

After multiple submissions from AMEC and meetings with both the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, and the Minister for Industrial Relations, wind farms are now "impact assessable", meaning there is a mandatory public notification process. Further progress followed later in the year with legislation to ensure consistent development assessment rules across the state and to mandate public notification for both large-scale solar and wind farms.

Safety recognition

Working with Resources Safety and Health Queensland, AMEC has been highlighting the difference between exploration safety and how it differs from an actual mining operation. Part of the solution is the development of an exploration guidance note. The draft guidance note will be available by the end of 2025. AMEC advocacy on this matter will continue.

Water Planning

The ongoing crisis to access water is something AMEC members are acutely aware of. Despite a number of changes within the the Department, the association remains committed to pressing them for solutions. Our advocacy to ensure future projects and new entrants are not disadvantaged against existing water users is ongoing. AMEC advocacy has ensured that water allocations can still be given, while the Regional Water Plans are underway.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mining Act Amendments

AMEC persuaded the State Government to introduce amendments to the Mining Act, to address a range of critical issues, including the 18 year relinquishment provisions, a shift from Right to Negotiate procedures and the introduction of a Mining Rehabilitation Fund. All would have significant benefit for members. Regrettably the Bill was blocked by the Opposition and Cross Bench in the final week of Parliament. AMEC will continue to work for the passage of these amendments, and have already received a commitment from SA Labor to re-introduce and pass the Bill if re-elected.

Biodiversity Act

AMEC successfully influenced key elements of the Biodiversity Act 2025, including the removal of Conservation Agreements, the introduction of ERD Court appeal rights for native vegetation clearance refusals, and narrowing the definition of native plants to those designated by Ministerial decision. AMEC also secured a seat on the stakeholder reference group to continue advocating for mining industry interests as regulations evolve, including the review of the Significant Environmental Benefit and offsets scheme slated for 2026-27.

Regional Plans

AMEC championed the inclusion of mining priorities in South Australia's Regional Plans through submissions to the State Planning Commission. Advocating for updated mining project data, strategic infrastructure planning, and proactive community education to support exploration and mine development across regional economies.

Water

Working with Resources Safety, AMEC advocated strongly against provisions to introduce a 'future use' environmental value for water without clear evidence based justification, during the Water Quality Policy review. With the policy yet to be released, we also backed the move to ANZG 2018 industry standards, and have supported industry to retain allocations and licences.

Green Iron and Steel

AMEC advanced industry engagement and commercial growth by contributing policy advice to the Green Iron and Steel EOI process. We are working with members on recognition of high purity iron as a critical or strategic mineral. We supported a process to promote projects to potential buyers of the Whyalla Steelworks and Port and continue to advocate for third-party port access at commercially viable rates.

Critical Minerals Strategy

AMEC is leading efforts to push for the release of South Australia's first Critical Minerals Strategy, addressing the gap as the only Australian jurisdiction without one despite its rich resource base. This is a key priority in our 2026 advocacy agenda.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Reform of NSW Land Access Process

Following continued advocacy from AMEC, the NSW Resources Minister has agreed to implement changes to the process, with legislation currently being drafted. These reforms aim to streamline negotiations, reduce delays, and provide greater certainty for both explorers and landholders. The changes are expected to be legislated in Q1 2026.

Review of NSW Planning System

Following continued advocacy from AMEC, the NSW AMEC members actively participated in the review of the NSW planning system, ensuring the voice of the exploration and mining industry was represented throughout the process. The outcomes of this review have informed the development of the proposed draft legislation, Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025 (NSW), which will deliver a more efficient and transparent approvals system for industry.

Royalty Deferral Scheme Commences

The New South Wales Government's Royalty Deferral Scheme commenced on 1 July 2025, providing up to \$250 million in royalty deferrals for a period of up to five years, following calls from AMEC for greater industry support. This initiative will support the resources sector by improving cash flow and assisting projects through periods of development and transition, AMEC helped inform the parameters of the scheme.

Exploration Safety Checklist Released

In response to industry requests, particularly from explorers operating across multiple jurisdictions, AMEC developed an Exploration Safety Checklist to assist companies in meeting their obligations and maintaining consistent safety standards. The checklist was launched at the Exploration Safety Conference in March and is now available on the AMEC website.

Co-Funded Drilling Program Reinstated

Following AMEC's sustained advocacy, the NSW Government has reinstated the Co-Funded Drilling Program to support greenfield exploration across the state. The \$2.5 million towards funding and implementing this program will provide critical support to early-stage exploration companies and strengthen the pipeline of future mineral discoveries in New South Wales.

Critical Minerals Ministerial Advisory Committee

AMEC advocated for the establishment of a committee with regular meetings, with the opportunity to raise issues and propose solutions directly to the NSW Resources Minister. The meetings commenced in Q3 2025 and provide an invaluable opportunity to advocate for members.

VICTORIA

Consultation continues on push for effective legislation and regulation

AMEC continues to engage strongly and effectively with government and Resources Victoria on behalf of its members, participating as a charter member in ongoing Industry Reference Group consultations on a number of official Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS), policy initiatives, and legislative proposals. This includes the seminal Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment Act 2023 as the current act transitions to a duties-based model to be in place by 30 June 2027.

Critical Minerals Roadmap

AMEC continues to actively participate in the design framework and implementation of the Victorian Critical Minerals Roadmap with Resources Victoria leadership team. AMEC was instrumental in providing important member feedback on the initial roadmap design and supporting documentation and maintains a solid working relationship with key stakeholders as the next generation of the roadmap is developed and released.

Resources & Renewables Coexistence Framework

AMEC is also closely aligned with ensuring the effective interoperability between the local resources industry and the Victorian government's renewable energy generation, storage and transmission plans and its proponents, along with other land user stakeholder groups, through their relevant statutory authorities and representative bodies and continues to keep its members informed of any likely impacts and developments.

TASMANIA

Exploration Drilling Grants

AMEC continues to advocate strongly for the continuation of the Tasmanian government's important Exploration Drilling Grants Initiative (EDGI) which has now reached 11 rounds with around \$2.5 million awarded to date across 103 eligible recipients. The program has been operating since 2018 and is administered by Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) with current commitments totalling \$5 million through to 2028.

Engagement with Tasmanian Minister

AMEC maintains a strong and open dialogue with the Tasmanian Minister for Resources, Felix Ellis MP. AMEC has provided detailed information on the status of the industry and key issues to the Minister through its role as an inaugural member of his Minerals Industry Roundtable, with a focus on making Tasmania more cost competitive and attractive for investment.

Critical Minerals Strategy

AMEC maintains to be a strong and open supporter and advocate of the Tasmanian Government's Critical Minerals Strategy and its \$3 million investment to accelerate its implementation. Work now begins with the government and our local members to realise the benefits of this important initiative and industry.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Environmental (mining) Licence: Risk Criteria and Standard Conditions

In 2024, the Northern Territory Government introduced the environmental (mining) licence following advocacy from AMEC. The risk-based model adopts core elements of Western Australia's Eligible Mining Activities framework, establishing a tiered licensing system for environmental approvals. However, the framework had several transitional issues once implemented. In 2025, AMEC worked closely with the Department of Lands, Planning, and Environment to introduce amendments to the risk criteria and standard conditions.

Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act

AMEC advocated for several recommendations to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act during a 2016 review. With the change in the Northern Territory Government, AMEC is pleased to have revived these recommendations, and seen them finally come to fruition. Before the Bill was enacted, the legislation did not permit the transfer of Certificates, which were tied to the original applicant and specific works. If a development changed ownership, the new proponent had to seek a new Certificate, even when the work remained unchanged.

This reform enhances efficiency by reducing duplication in long-term projects that involve multiple stakeholders over time.

No Access, No Rent

AMEC proposed to the Government a plan to introduce a reduced tenement rental fee scheme. This initiative aims to provide relief for mining and exploration companies, ensuring that rental obligations align more fairly with operational realities. By implementing a fairer fee structure, we can foster a more resilient industry while promoting responsible resource development. This work continues.

Mineral Royalty Reform

After years of advocacy by AMEC, the Northern Territory Government has adopted a more streamlined and competitive royalty framework, aligning it with other Australian jurisdictions, and ditched their hybrid royalty, easily the highest in the country. Responding to feedback from AMEC, the Government enacted the Mineral Royalty Act 2024, replacing the profit-based model with an ad valorem scheme inspired by systems used nationwide. This reform marks a significant milestone for AMEC and the broader resources sector, delivering meaningful royalty reductions across all minerals. It enhances the Northern Territory's appeal as a competitive and attractive destination for mining and exploration investment.