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Queensland reforms a positive step for critical minerals project delivery

The Queensland Government deserves recognition for reforms to legislation aimed at streamlining the delivery of critical minerals and other State significant projects, according to the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC).

The introduction to parliament of amendments to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* signals a strong intent to improve coordination and reduce duplication, to provide greater certainty to projects that are vital to Queensland's economy and Australia's critical minerals ambitions.

The proposed amendments will create a new pathway for projects to be recognised as State Strategic Projects, while also strengthening the planning and coordination of the infrastructure needed to support them

AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Warren Pearce said, "These reforms reflect the practical reality that successful critical minerals development relies on more than just the resource itself.

"Critical minerals development doesn't stop at the mine gate. Planning for long-term infrastructure such as ports, rail networks, and water and energy supply must be coordinated and forward-looking.

"For many critical minerals projects, particularly in regional and remote areas, access to well-coordinated infrastructure is often the difference between a project proceeding or stalling. Better planning and alignment will give greater certainty and help projects move from discovery to production faster."

Better coordination between government, industry and key stakeholders is essential if Queensland is to capture the full value of its critical minerals opportunity.

Queensland is home to significant deposits of critical minerals in high demand on a competitive global stage. So, it's important for Queensland to position itself as an attractive and efficient jurisdiction for investment certainty.

Mr Pearce added, "These reforms recognise the importance of partnering with industry to plan and deliver infrastructure that supports both mining development and regional communities.

"Strengthening coordination across government and prioritising enabling infrastructure will improve project timelines, reduce duplication, and enhance Queensland's attractiveness as an investment destination."

AMEC said the changes have the potential to support stronger investment outcomes across the State, particularly in regional Queensland where many critical minerals deposits are located and where infrastructure gaps can present a major barrier to development.

These reforms improve certainty for companies and investors. AMEC congratulates both the Deputy Premier and State Development Minister, Jarrod Bleijie, and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Dale Last, for prioritising these amendments.

AMEC looks forward to working constructively with the Queensland Government as the legislation progresses and as more detail of the new framework is implemented.

ENDS

FAQs

What has the Queensland Government announced?
Amendments to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, aimed at streamlining the delivery of critical minerals and other State significant projects.
The reforms are designed to improve coordination, reduce duplication and provide greater certainty for major projects that are important to Queensland's economy and Australia's critical minerals ambitions.

Why is AMEC supporting these reforms?
Because they recognise that critical minerals projects need more than a strong resource to succeed. They also need clear approvals pathways, coordinated infrastructure planning and better alignment across government.

What are State Strategic Projects?
State Strategic Projects are proposed to be a new pathway for projects considered of high importance to Queensland. The pathway is intended to help streamline regulatory processes, improve investment certainty and support the delivery of projects that can create jobs, support regional communities and strengthen Queensland's economy.

How will the reforms help critical minerals projects?
The reforms have the potential to help critical minerals projects move from discovery to production faster by improving coordination between government, industry and key stakeholders. By prioritising enabling infrastructure and reducing duplication, the reforms can help shorten project timelines and make Queensland a more attractive destination for investment.

For further information or to interview Warren Pearce contact:
Ryan Rampling, National Manager – Media & Communications – 0419 809 341 | ryan.rampling@amec.org.au