29 May 2026

AMEC pushes for exploration exemption from proposed capital gains tax changes

As the widespread fallout from the Federal Budget 2026-27 continues, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) met with Federal Treasury officials as part of the Federal Government's consultation on changes to capital gains tax (CGT).

AMEC pressed the case for an exemption from CGT changes for mineral exploration investors. Our industry is the original start-up in this country and statistics show that smaller companies rely on retail investors in order to survive.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Warren Pearce said, "These changes loom as a dark shadow over the investment community. If they are to proceed, it could prove devastating for mineral exploration and companies ability to raise capital.

"Mineral exploration is Australia's original start-up sector.

"These are high-risk, high-reward companies searching for the next discovery that could lead to new mines, deliver jobs, royalties, exports and the minerals Australia and its trading partners need."

If the reward for investors taking the risk on exploration companies is reduced, then investor appetite will fall. That means less capital and fewer drilling programs. It could have a devastating impact on the industry.

AMEC appreciates the Government's commitment to consult on the interaction between the proposed changes and early-stage and start-up investment incentives, but actions will always speak louder than words.

Mr Pearce added, "An exemption cannot be limited to tech start-ups or traditional early-stage businesses.

"A junior explorer is a start-up. It raises capital, takes enormous risk, often has no revenue stream, and employs people. Inevitably, it then either fails or creates enormous value for investors and in-turn the nation."

Today's meeting with Treasury was constructive and the upcoming Senate Committee into the changes is welcomed. It provides an opportunity for members and investors to provide information about how it will change the way they do business.

AMEC has also raised the issue with State and Territory governments, warning that reduced exploration investment would directly affect regional economies and future royalty streams.

“State governments understand the connection between exploration today and mines tomorrow.

“We need a timely resolution in order to maintain confidence in the market and provide the confidence to investors that we want their appetite for risk,” said Mr Pearce.

AMEC is not seeking special treatment, but recognition of the unique risk profile and national importance of mineral exploration.

“This is a targeted and sensible exemption.

“It would protect investment in companies that are genuinely taking risk, creating opportunity and building Australia’s future resource pipeline.

“The Government appears to recognise that early-stage and start-up investment needs to be treated carefully. Mineral exploration fits squarely within that category and must not be left out.”

AMEC will continue to raise this issue with industry, business leaders, media and those on both sides of parliament.

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