AMEC
ASSOCIATION OF MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANIES

MEDIA RELEASE

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Common sense prevails as WA Parliament closes Miscellaneous Rates loophole

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) welcomes the passing through both houses of Western Australian Parliament of the Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025.

The legislation restores the long-standing position that land held under miscellaneous licences cannot be subject to local government rates.

This passage of the Bill is a win for common sense and investment certainty for the future of Western Australia's resources sector.

AMEC Chief Executive, Mr Warren Pearce said, "Common sense has prevailed. This Bill restores the status quo and confirms the long-standing understanding that miscellaneous licences are not subject to local government rating.

"Mining and exploration companies already make significant contributions to local governments through rates on mining and exploration tenements. They also contribute through jobs, royalties, regional procurement, community investment and voluntary partnerships.

"What this legislation prevents is industry being hit again through a novel interpretation of the law that created the risk of double and triple rating of the mining industry."

The Bill was introduced following the Supreme Court of Western Australia decision in Shire of Mount Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd, which created uncertainty by opening the possibility that mining companies could be charged local government rates on land that had long been understood to be exempt.

Miscellaneous licences are commonly used for critical supporting infrastructure such as rail, pipelines, roads, power lines and FIFO accommodation.

Left unchecked, the issue had the potential to impose a major additional cost on industry and undermine confidence in Western Australia as a globally competitive mining jurisdiction.

"Conservatively, this opportunistic legal re-interpretation could have cost the mining and exploration sector more than $50 million per annum.

"With local governments having the ability to seek rates back five years, the resources sector could have faced an extraordinary $250 million additional rates bill.

“That would have been an unacceptable impost on an industry that is already investing billions of dollars across regional Western Australia,” added Mr Pearce.

AMEC especially acknowledges the leadership of Local Government Minister Hon Hannah Beazley MLA in developing and progressing the legislation, and Opposition Leader Basil Zempilas MLA for listening to the concerns of industry and working with his colleagues to ensure this loophole was closed.

“This outcome sends the right message that WA remains a place where investment certainty matters and where common sense can prevail. Parliament is to be commended for protecting the competitiveness of one of the State’s most important industries.”

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