

9 July 2026

Progress for mineral exploration in SA, as PACE Minerals applications open

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) welcomes today's opening of applications for the South Australian Government's latest instalment of the PACE Minerals program, providing mineral explorers with access to co-funding grants to help drive the next generation of discoveries across the state.

As AMEC noted following the 2026-27 State Budget, industry has strongly supported the return of PACE and is pleased the Government has delivered on its election commitment to reinstate the program with a more than \$12 million investment over four years.

AMEC Chief Executive Officer Warren Pearce noted, "This is an important milestone for South Australia's exploration sector. It means explorers can now apply for practical co-funding support for drilling, geophysics and other exploration activities that are critical to making new discoveries.

"For junior explorers in particular, programs like PACE can make a real difference by helping to share exploration risk and attract additional private investment into South Australia.

"More than 70% of mining projects start as exploration targets found by junior mineral explorers. Supporting exploration today is how we create the mines, jobs, royalties and economic opportunities of tomorrow."

Previous PACE programs delivered exceptional value, leveraging around \$19 in private investment for every \$1 of government funding and contributing to major discoveries, including Carrapateena.

The program has a proven track record of helping explorers test new ideas and advance projects in remote areas and at greater depths, which might otherwise struggle to secure funding.

"With applications now open, explorers have an opportunity to access co-investment support that can accelerate exploration programs and help unlock South Australia's significant mineral potential.

"This is exactly the type of initiative needed to keep SA at the forefront of mineral exploration and ensure a strong pipeline of future mining developments," added Mr Pearce.

To apply visit: <https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/pace-minerals> with applications closing on 11 September 2026.

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FAQs

What has been announced?

Applications have opened for the South Australian Government's latest PACE Minerals program, providing mineral explorers with access to co-funding grants for exploration activities across the state.

Why does AMEC support the return of PACE Minerals?

AMEC has strongly supported the return of PACE because it helps share exploration risk, attract private investment and support the next generation of mineral discoveries in South Australia.

What activities can PACE Minerals support?

The program provides practical co-funding support for exploration activities including drilling, geophysics and other work that is critical to testing targets and making new discoveries.

Why is this important for junior explorers?

Junior explorers do much of the early, high-risk work that leads to new mining projects. More than 70% of mining projects start as exploration targets found by junior mineral explorers, so programs like PACE can make a real difference by helping projects advance.

What has PACE delivered in the past?

Previous PACE programs have delivered strong value, leveraging around \$19 in private investment for every \$1 of government funding and contributing to major discoveries, including Carrapateena.

For further information or to interview Warren Pearce contact:

Ryan Rampling, National Manager – Media & Communications – 0419 809 341 |
ryan.rampling@amec.org.au