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Big changes needed from new Victorian Resources Minister

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) welcomes the appointment of Ms Jaclyn Symes, but warns that urgent action is needed to reverse years of neglect of the States's exploration and mining industry.

Having previously served as the Victorian Resources Minister from November 2018 to August 2021, Ms Symes will also oversee the State Electricity Commission, Climate Action and Environment.

Minister Symes should be well aware of the issues facing industry and it is hoped will set about a plan to resurrect resources in Victoria.

Association Chief Executive Officer, Mr Warren Pearce said, "This appointment must mark a decisive change in direction for Victoria's resources policy.

"Victoria's exploration and mining industry has been treated as an afterthought for far too long.

"To date there has been no serious agenda to attract investment, accelerate mineral discoveries or bring new projects into production.

"The industry received plenty of acknowledgment but precious little action. Opportunities have been lost and investment confidence weakened so badly that Victoria is miles off the pace compared to other Australian jurisdictions competing for the same dollars."

AMEC would also like to acknowledge new Premier Ben Carroll and the appointment of Colin Brooks as Victoria's new Treasurer.

"With new leadership, there is the opportunity to make big changes, and nothing less will suffice.

"Hopefully these changes to the leadership and ministerial team will go some way to championing the importance of Victoria's exploration and mining industry on behalf of our members," added Mr Pearce.

AMEC will have more to release in the lead up to the election, with our 2026 Victorian Election Platform, to be shared with key members of government and shadow ministry. The platform identifies key policy priorities to accelerate new mineral discoveries and bring forward project development to deliver significant benefits to investors and Victorians.

ENDS

FAQs

Why is AMEC calling for major changes to Victoria's resources policy?

Victoria's exploration and mining industry has lacked a serious policy agenda to attract investment, accelerate mineral discoveries and bring new projects into production. While the industry has received recognition from government, that has not translated into meaningful action, leaving Victoria well behind competing Australian jurisdictions.

What does AMEC want the new Resources Minister to prioritise?

Establish a clear plan to rebuild investor confidence, encourage exploration, accelerate approvals and provide a more competitive environment for new mining projects. The focus must shift from acknowledging the industry's potential to delivering practical reforms that unlock it.

Why does AMEC believe Minister Jaclyn Symes can act quickly?

Minister Symes previously held the Victorian Resources portfolio from November 2018 to August 2021 and should already understand the major challenges facing the industry. This experience means there should be no need for a lengthy familiarisation period before developing and implementing a clear reform agenda.

How has government inaction affected Victoria's competitiveness?

The absence of a strong resources agenda has weakened investor confidence and contributed to lost opportunities. Exploration and mining investment is highly competitive, and companies can direct their capital toward jurisdictions that offer clearer approvals, stronger policy support and greater certainty.

What will AMEC do ahead of the 2026 Victorian election?

AMEC will release and promote its 2026 Victorian Election Platform to the Government, Opposition and key decision-makers. The platform will outline practical policy priorities designed to accelerate mineral discoveries, bring forward project development and generate greater investment, employment and economic benefits for Victorians.

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