

20 July 2015



Executive Director
Resources and Industry Policy
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

To whom it may concern,

Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Amendment

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) is the peak national industry body for mineral exploration and mining companies within Australia. The membership of AMEC comprises hundreds of explorers, emerging miners and the companies servicing them. Many of these organisations operate in New South Wales (NSW).

AMEC has advocated for many years that the States across Australia are in a dire situation where their forward revenue forecasts are at significant risk in years to come. This claim is based on the situation where royalty producing mines cannot be replaced quickly enough with new mines, therefore leaving States with ever increasing downturns in revenue.

The only way to arrest this development is to expedite growth and productivity of mining activities through strong exploration incentives and consistent regulation. The proposed amendment to the Mining SEPP does not fulfil these goals.

The change to the Mining SEPP was envisaged to encourage development of the next wave of mines in NSW and to ensure that the future revenues that pay for hospitals, schools, roads, teachers and police will continue. NSW has an unenviable task of changing the sentiment of explorers and producers regarding investment in the State. This Amendment will not help this cause.

AMEC notes that the proposed Amendment is to remove clause 12 AA, which identifies the significance of the resource as the principal consideration for the consent authority. This clause was only inserted at the end of 2013 and has barely been in place for 18 months. This change raises greater sovereign risk issues as companies cannot plan for future investment when the NSW Government makes contradictory short-term public policy changes.

The significance of a discovered resource, and the benefits that can be derived for the people of NSW must have a place in the planning process. The installation of resource significance as a primary consideration is an obvious attempt to equalise the strong anti-development voices that seek to hinder the industry in NSW. AMEC recommends that whilst the NSW Government is determined that resource significance will not be the primary consideration in planning assessment, it **must** be considered.

Association of Mining and Exploration Companies

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To remove this consideration entirely will simply lock out development and investment throughout the State. This will severely impact the employment opportunities in rural and regional areas that depend on the mining sector.

As the Planning Assessment Committee (PAC) has such impact on the decisions on which projects successfully gain planning approval in NSW, it is vital that there is a clearly articulated SEPP that supports mining. The proposed Amendments remove the consideration for mining as an industry upon which the economic development and future revenues of NSW depends.

Please contact either myself or AMEC Regional Manager, Eastern States & Northern Territory, Mr Bernie Hogan (bernie.hogan@amec.org.au or 0402142367) if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Bennison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Bennison
Chief Executive Officer