

WA-ARRAY PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [12.03 pm]: I would like to inform the house of this government's latest investment to support Western Australian jobs in the resources sector. As part of the 2022–23 state budget, the McGowan government is investing \$12 million over four years to implement a statewide passive seismic survey. The WA-Array program will be one of the largest of its kind in the world. It will help unlock more of Western Australia's hidden resources, creating investment opportunities and jobs for Western Australians.

WA has no shortage of mineral resources, but most known deposits are near the surface. The WA-Array program will make it easier to locate deeper resources. The subsurface imaging program will deploy 165 seismometers in a grid pattern at 40-kilometre intervals. This will provide valuable insights into the state's mineral deposits. The program will also provide new insights into WA's critical minerals resources, and promote investment in exploration and downstream processing. All data collected will be rigorously assessed before being made freely available to resource explorers, researchers and the WA community. Seismometers will be relocated annually, with the entire state being mapped over 10 years.

The WA-Array program will unlock a new generation of resource discoveries and potentially create billions of dollars of economic benefits for WA. This investment by the McGowan government will digitally transform and supercharge the state's mining industry. It will help to attract investment in the mines of tomorrow, supporting even more local jobs for Western Australians. The WA-Array program complements the government's successful exploration incentive scheme co-funded drilling program, as well as the amazing advice and survey data that the Geological Survey of Western Australia provides to the mining companies.