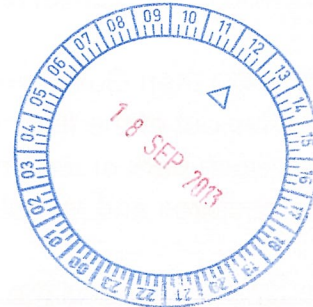


11th September 2013

Hon Liz Behjat MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Parliament House
West Perth WA 6005



Dear Liz

Inquiry into pastoral leases in Western Australia

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the Inquiry into pastoral leases in Western Australia.

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 over 360 explorers, emerging miners and the companies servicing them, with many companies having projects in Western Australia.

AMEC's strategic objective is to secure an environment that provides clarity and certainty for mineral exploration and mining in Australia in a commercially, politically, socially and environmentally responsible manner.

It is in this context that AMEC provides the following comments in relation to the current Inquiry:

Pastoral lease renewal post 30 June 2015

AMEC notes the intention of the Government to renew the majority of current pastoral leases with conditions that are similar to those currently applying.

AMEC considers it crucial that the terms and conditions of the pro forma Pastoral Lease 2015 continue to allow mineral exploration and mining activity as prescribed by the Mining Act or relevant State Agreement Act.

Continued land access, subject to normal development approval processes, is fundamental in providing clarity and certainty for investment and business decision making in mineral exploration and mining activities.

Association of Mining and Exploration Companies

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strategic value, and allow prospective areas to be 'excised' under 'special circumstances' provisions.

AMEC is also concerned that if these former pastoral leases are ultimately transferred to the conservation estate it will lead to longer approval timeframes and costly delays as projects will be referred to various approvals agencies.

I would be pleased to attend before the Committee, if considered necessary. Please keep me informed of the outcome of this Inquiry.

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