

## **President's address to the AMMA Annual General Meeting**

**Delivered by Mr T Palmer, President of the AMMA Board of Directors, at  
the AMMA Annual General Meeting held on 26 May 2006**

A significant focus for AMMA during the reporting year has been active lobbying on why ongoing flexibility in employment arrangement options are critical for the Australian resources sector. Much effort has been exerted by AMMA staff and the Board over the year to getting this message across in the interests of our members, and the community generally. We continue to do so.

AMMA's lobbying efforts have born fruit – clearly there is now bi-partisan recognition that workplace flexibility is critical for productivity growth. A simplified workplace relations system that eliminates complexities associated by competing State and federal workplace relations systems has been advocated by AMMA since the late 1980s.

Accordingly the move by the federal Coalition towards a national workplace relations system has been warmly welcomed by AMMA.

AMMA continues to take up the challenge presented by the Labor Party's uncertain position in relation to the future of Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs). As a major user of these agreements, the resources sector would be adversely affected if AWAs were to cease to exist or become unworkable. AMMA will continue to advocate the public case for maintaining AWAs as a viable employment regulation option in 2006 and beyond.

On the consultancy side, AMMA continued to provide a high standard of consultancy services, with non membership subscription income contributing 58 per cent of total income for the year ended 31 December 2005.

At year end AMMA reported a retained operating surplus of \$2,954,158.00 In accordance with our not-for-profit status, AMMA will use this surplus to ensure that the Association meets its future liabilities and funds relevant industry support activities on behalf of members.

While the WorkChoices legislation is welcome, the current legislation is by no means a panacea. Much more can be done to reduce complexities and business transaction costs. In this regard, AMMA will continue to lobby strongly on members' behalf for a simpler and improved workplace relations legislative environment.

During 2006, AMMA's professional staff will also continue to provide a wide range of quality industry support and consultative services including conducting relevant research projects, education and training courses and making appropriate submissions and representations.

All these endeavours, supported by break-even funding by our members, will be directed towards assisting member companies being successful in their business endeavours.