

MEDIA RELEASE

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Resource industry congratulates the incoming Coalition Government

AMMA – Australian Mines and Metals Association

NATIONAL resource industry employer group AMMA congratulates the incoming Coalition Government and looks forward to working constructively with Prime Minister Tony Abbott to grow Australia's prosperity through a renewed commitment to the future of our industry.

"AMMA has enjoyed a long and constructive working relationship with our incoming 28th Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott since he was first elected to parliament in 1994," says AMMA chief executive Steve Knott.

"The Abbott Government has a clear mandate to restore confidence back into Australia's resource industry and back into our country generally as a globally competitive and productive place to do business.

"We encourage the Coalition to hit the ground running and begin implementing a policy framework that will both attract investment into new resources exploration and also ensure Australia reaps the benefits of a strong production and export phase.

"Welcome first steps in this direction include the Coalition's commitments to remove the carbon and mining taxes which have contributed to Australia's declining global competitiveness, as well as restoring a tough industrial regulator in the building and construction industry within its first 100 days."

Recognised as the resource industry specialists in industrial relations and employment, AMMA welcomes Senator Eric Abetz as Australia's next Minister for Workplace Relations.

"Senator Abetz is very highly regarded by the resource industry for his considered, objective and consultative approach to important policy matters," Mr Knott says.

"His legal and employment background coupled with a strong track record as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate sees him well qualified for this key ministerial role.

"We encourage Senator Abetz to implement the Coalition's *Policy to Improve the Fair Work Laws* as soon as practical to wind-back the plethora of anti-business, pro-union IR re-regulation that has been so damaging to Australian businesses.

"AMMA also welcomes Ian Macfarlane's imminent appointment as the new resources minister. Mr Macfarlane served in this portfolio under the Howard Government from 2001 until 2007, and clearly has the experience and vision to help our sector prosper."

The 'mining boom' is not over

"AMMA's vision is to ensure Australia's resource industry is an attractive and competitive place to invest, employ people and contribute valuably to the national well-being," Mr Knott says.

"The industry has never adopted a simplistic boom versus bust dichotomy. We have never accepted that resources growth is 'over' or that any federal government could wash its hands of an industry generating 1.1 million jobs and over \$20 billion in royalties and taxes for Australia.

"With a further \$350 billion worth of new resource projects under consideration, we look forward to working closely with key Coalition ministers to realise this potential and restore Australia's reputation as a globally competitive and productive business and investment destination."

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