RESOURCES AND ENERGY WORKFORCE FORECAST

2023-2028

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ABOUT AREEA

AREEA is the Australian Resources and Energy Employer Association – the national association for all employers connected to Australia's resources and energy.

Since 1918, AREEA has worked to ensure Australia's resources and energy industry is an attractive place to invest, employ and contribute to the nation's economic prosperity. In doing so, AREEA helps the industry to create a brighter future for all Australians.

AREEA provides particular expertise, influence,



advocacy, leadership and support in key workforce areas including workplace relations, human resources, diversity and inclusion, workforce development, mental health and psychological safety.

Through its support on employment, skills and other people matters, AREEA is a source of considerable assistance for Australia's resources and energy employers to meet their commercial objectives, overcome operating challenges, and run productive, competitive and socially responsible businesses.

METHODOLOGY

Resources and Energy Workforce Forecast (2023-2028) estimates the workforce and skills demands of prospective mining and oil and gas projects in Australia's development pipeline.

Only projects that have been committed by the proponents / investors or have been assessed by AREEA's analysts as advanced and likely to proceed, are included in this forecast series.

Further, this forecast is for the long-term operational phase of these projects, with workforce demand listed in the year they are scheduled to enter full production. It does not include the short-term construction workforces involved in building the projects in the years prior.

A variety of modelling techniques is applied to present as accurate a forecast as possible, including:

- Applying average productivity ratios (commodity volume produced per employee) from official State Government production and reported employee figures.
- Applying workforce planning formulas and occupation breakdown ratios provided to AREEA by leading employers in each commodity group.

- Cross-referencing workforce estimates in company issued formal and public statements or via direct feedback from company representatives.
- Verification of forecasts by key industry participants in each commodity.

Formulas have been applied consistently within each commodity group to average out variances in project design, quality of resource, terrain and locality, technology and the other myriad factors which can impact total workforce numbers.

Across all modelling AREEA has been conservative. It is assumed new resources and energy projects will sit at the higher end of current industry productivity levels and improving technology may reduce the ratio of onsite operators to centralised white collar roles.

For expansion projects, only the actual increase on current workforce numbers is included in the forecasts. Therefore, expansions designed to maintain current production and workforce numbers have new workforce demand listed as nil.

AREEA thanks the various member representatives who assisted in this industry forecasting project.

FOREWORD

As it has throughout history, the resilience of Australia's resources and energy industry continues to rise above all. In the face of domestic policy pressures and global economic and geopolitical headwinds, the number of projects, jobs and capital investment on the horizon, is only trending upwards.

This AREEA forecasting report shows there are 103 major resources and energy projects in Australia's investment pipeline, either already committed or considered advanced by AREEA's analysts, likely to enter production between the second half of 2023 and end of 2028.

While the overall number of projects is roughly on par with last year's edition (107 projects), investment and employment values have seen healthy growth.

The 2023-2028 forecasted projects are worth roughly \$142 billion in capital value (up from \$130bn last year) and promise some 28,260 new production-related jobs (up from 24,000).

In an equally important sign, the growth in projections is well dispersed across the nation.

The strength of Western Australia's resources sector should come as no surprise. Yet while overwhelmingly the largest and most mature jurisdiction, the big 'resource state' has still increased its projected workforce growth by 14% since last year's report.

But the real surprises are in the form of the smaller resources regions where several significant projects have had positive movement in the past 12 months.

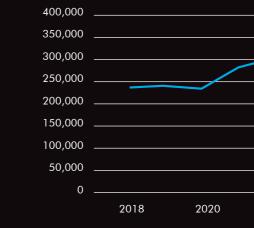
South Australia has tripled its projected workforce growth, Victoria's numbers are up seven-fold and the Northern Territory has seen an increase of 25%.

The mining investment story is not all positive for all states, with Queensland surprisingly emerging

Resources and energy direct workforce (2018-2028)

Historic

Forecast



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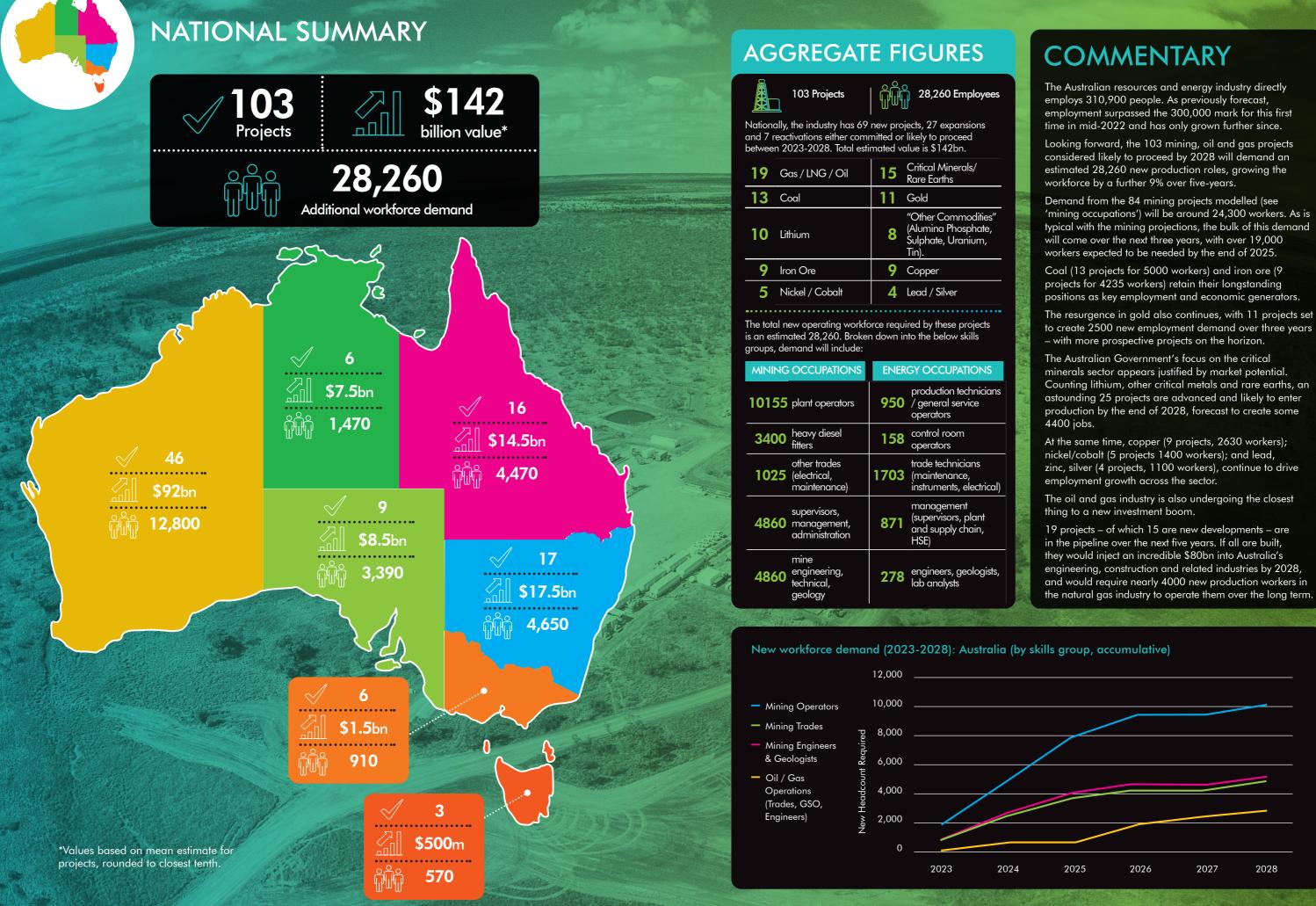
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- as the problem child. This year's report is the first in AREEA's four-year-old series where Queensland has gone backwards, both in terms of project capital (down 15%) and prospective employment growth (down 20% on last year's numbers).
- While still a healthy pipeline, clearly the Qld Government's snap decision to massively increase coal royalties has taken its toll on investor confidence.
- This has seen, also for the first time in four years, New South Wales take the mantle as the second most favoured jurisdiction in the country for mining and energy investment and associated jobs growth over the five-year projected period.
- Nationally, direct employment in Australia's resources and energy sector, which in 2022 smashed through the historic 300,000 milestone, is not slowing down.
- Queensland is, however, a timely reminder to policymakers that the strength and contribution of the industry cannot be taken for granted. Mooted changes to federal taxation, environmental and energy policy must be treated with equal caution.
- AREEA is proud to present Volume Four in its Workforce Forecast series. As always, we hope this tool adds value to member companies and their requirements across labour market analysis, workforce planning and talent retention strategies.

THE AREEA TEAM

National				
2022	2024	2026	2028	



'mining occupations') will be around 24,300 workers. As is typical with the mining projections, the bulk of this demand

to create 2500 new employment demand over three years

Counting lithium, other critical metals and rare earths, an

and would require nearly 4000 new production workers in the natural gas industry to operate them over the long term.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA



AGGREGATE FIGURES





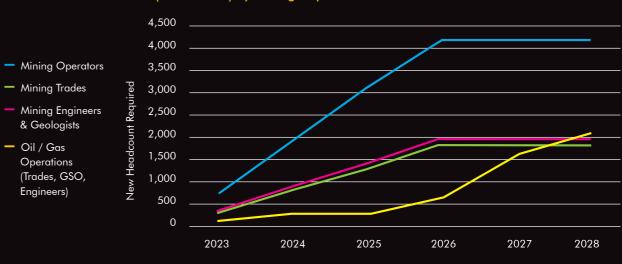
Western Australia has 34 new projects, 9 expansions and 3 reactivations either committed or likely to proceed between 2023-2028. Total est, value is \$92bn.

10	Gas / LNG / Oil	9	Lithium
8	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	6	Iron Ore
4	Gold	3	Copper
3	Nickel / Cobalt	2	Lead / Silver
1	Sulphate & Potash		

The total new operating workforce required by these projects is an estimated 12,800. Broken down into the below skills groups, demand will include:

MINING OCCUPATIONS	ENERGY OCCUPATIONS
4155 plant operators	production 679 technicians / general service operators
1380 heavy diesel fitters	113 control room operators
other trades 460 (electrical, maintenance)	1215 trade technicians (maintenance, instruments, electrical)
supervisors, 1994 management, administration	622 management (supervisors, plant and supply chain, HSE)
1994 mine engineering, technical, geology	198 engineers, geologists, lab analysts

New workforce demand (2023-2028) by skills group: Western Australia



COMMENTARY

Western Australia's resources and energy industry directly employs 166,000 people.

This accounts for 53% of the sector's national workforce - a growing proportion. Over the past two years, incredibly, WA has added over 45,000 new employees to its resources industry.

Looking back over the past five years, WA's resources workforce has grown an average of 12% or nearly 13,000 employees each year.

Growth will continue over the forecast next five years, albeit forecast at a more modest rate of 12,800 employees or 7.7% total, driven by 36 mining and 10 energy projects. This rate may escalate considerably should more projects become committed.

Energy sector growth is headlined in the short-term by Woodside's Scarborough and Pluto Expansion projects, and in the longer-term new major projects in Browse and Crux LNG.

Collectively, the offshore industry has nearly \$63bn in capital investment ready to go, requiring just under 3000 new production workers should they proceed through construction.

Mining demand is concentrated over the next three years and will see 36 projects require just under 10,000 new employment demand.

Lithium (9 projects) alongside other critical and rare earth metals (8 projects) lead the raw project numbers, but with moderate long-term workforce demands, totalling an expected 2900 workers.

Iron ore remains the strongest sole driver of employment with 6 projects likely to require 3900 employees by 2026, with Rio Tinto's Mesa expansions and Mineral Resources' Onslow Iron the largest projects on the horizon.

The WA gold industry has seen 10 new and expansion projects completed over the past year. Another four projects set to add 950 new employees to the sector are expected by 2026.

Projects focused on other metals – copper, silver, nickel and so forth – also continue to come online and are expected to create 2200 jobs by late 2026.

QUEENSLAND

PARADISE SOUTH / D-TREE • 1mtpa phosphate

- Est. start-up: 2024
- Est. workforce: 250

EVA COPPER PROJECT (CMMC)

- 45ktpa copper
- Est start-up: 2025
- Est. workforce: 460

SAINT ELMO (Multicom Resources)

- 5kt vanadium oxide • Est start-up: 2024
- Est. workforce: 150

CONI NICKEL PROJECT Australian Mines Limited)

- 46kt Nickel • Est start-up: 2024
- Est. workforce: 300

NSWOOD (EMR, GEAR)

• 115,000oz gold expansion • Est start-up: 2023 • Est. workforce: 160

> ILLALONG (Shandong En • 4.2mtpa thermal and coking coal • Est. start-up: 2024 • Est. workforce: 400

OLIVE DOWNS (Pembroke Resources)

- 15mtpa coking coal
- Est. start-up: 2024
- Est. workforce: 1000

NEW ACLAND STAGE 3 (New Hope Grou 4mtpa thermal coal

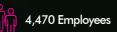
- Est. start-up: 2024
- Est. workforce: 260

SURAT GAS PROJECT (Arrow Energy)

- Gas, 400 TJ/day
- Est. start-up: 2026
- Est. workforce: 200

AGGREGATE FIGURES





Queensland has 11 new projects, 5 expansions and 1 reactivation either committed or likely to proceed between 2023-2028. Total est. value is \$14.5bn.

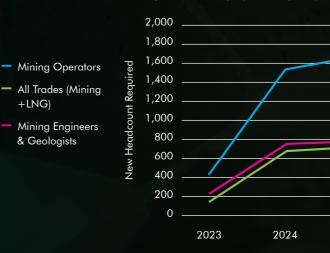
6	Coal	2	Gold
3	Gas / LNG / Oil	1	Copper
1	Phosphate	1	Alumina
1	Nickel / Cobalt	1	Critical Minerals

The total new operating workforce required by these projects is an estimated 4470 workers. Broken down into the below skills groups, demand will include:

MINING OCCUPATIONS	ENERGY OCCUPATIONS	
1764 plant operators	60 production technicians / general service operators	
589 heavy diesel fitters	10 control room operators	
other trades 177 (electrical, maintenance)	trade technicians (maintenance, instruments, electrical)	
supervisors, 845 management, administration	55 management (supervisors, plant and supply chain, HSE)	
845 mine engineering, technical, geology	engineers, 18 geologists, lab analysts	

New workforce demand (2023-2028) by skills group: Queensland

+LNG)



COMMENTARY

Queensland's resources and energy industry directly employs 70,100 people, or roughly 23% of the national workforce.

This is a declining number, given the prior two years the state's resources workforce averaged 87,000 workers or 24% higher than today's level. This may be a slight correction to COVID-19 impacts, given the circa 70k mark is where Qld's workforce sat prior to the pandemic.

Nonetheless, this decline is concerning for what should be Australia's second big "mining state". Qld is the only state to have reduced major project workforce numbers in this year's forecasting report compared to last year.

While the overall number of projects (16) remains the same as 2022, the number of forecast new jobs over the projected five-year period is down from 5560 in last year's report to 4470 this year.

This appears to primarily come from reduced coal project investment. Following the Qld Government's coal royalties hike, several large projects were cancelled or deferred indefinitely.

Last year AREEA forecast 10 coal projects would create demand for 4400 jobs over five years. This year, that number is 6 coal projects with forecast workforce demand near halving at 2600.

Thankfully projects like Olive Downs, Hillalong and Wilkie Creek are keeping the sector alive and well – hopefully until the Qld Government reconsiders its short-sighted approach.

Other sectors remain somewhat healthy. There are 6 projects in the 'non-coal mining' sectors set to drive nearly 1400 new jobs over the next two years, highlighted by Eva Copper, Ravenswood expansion and Saint Elmo.

Another - the Sconi Nickel Project is further out on the timeline and promises 300 jobs.

There are three onshore CSG/LNG projects expected to come online by late 2027, two owned by Arrow Energy including Surat Gas, which is yet to reach FID but promises 200 energy sector jobs.

2025

2026

2027



NEW SOUTH WALES



AGGREGATE FIGURES



New South Wales has 10 new projects and 7 expansions either committed or likely to proceed between 2023-2028. Total est. value is \$17.5bn.

7 Coal	3 Gold
2 Gas / LNG / Oil	2 Critical Minerals
lron Ore	Lead, Zinc, Silver
Nickel / Cobalt	

The total new operating workforce required by these projects is an estimated 4650. Broken down into the below skills groups, demand will include:

MINING	GOCCUPATIONS	ENERGY OCCUPATIONS	
1790 plant operators		59	production technicians / genera service operators
601	heavy diesel fitters	10	control room operators
294	other trades (electrical, maintenance)	105	trade technicians (maintenance, instruments, electrical)
880	supervisors, management, administration	54	management (supervisors, plant and supply chain, HSE)
880	mine engineering, technical, geology	17	engineers, geologists, lab analysts

New workforce demand (2023-2028) by skills group: New South Wales

				• ·
		2,000		
		1,800		
perators		1,600		
(Mining	σ	1,400		
	luire	1,200		
gineers	t Rec	1,000		
sts	New Headcount Required	800		
	eadc	600		
	w H	400		
	Ze	200		
		0		
			2023	2024

COMMENTARY

New South Wales' resources and energy industry directly employs 40,800 workers, some 5900 or 17% more than just one year ago.

This represents strong growth and a promising turnaround from the previous four years, which saw a slight decline in the state.

Further highlighting NSW's resurgence and, potentially, more favourable regularly regime, this year's report is the first time NSW has had greater workforce projections over the forward five-year period than Queensland.

These growth prospects are also across a more balanced portfolio of commodities. While last year coal represented 12 of 19 projects in the pipeline, this year coal represents 7 of 17 projects.

These are, however, significant projects and will drive demand for an estimated 2500 workers over the next five years, led by Dartbrook, Maxwell and Mt Pleasant.

Gold is the next strongest performer with almost 500 jobs potentially coming through two new projects (Cowal, McPhillamys) and one expansion (Cadia) to sustain workforce numbers at the sector's best known mine.

1100 additional jobs are in the pipeline through silver (Bowdens), iron ore (Hawsons) and the Broken Hill Cobalt Project.

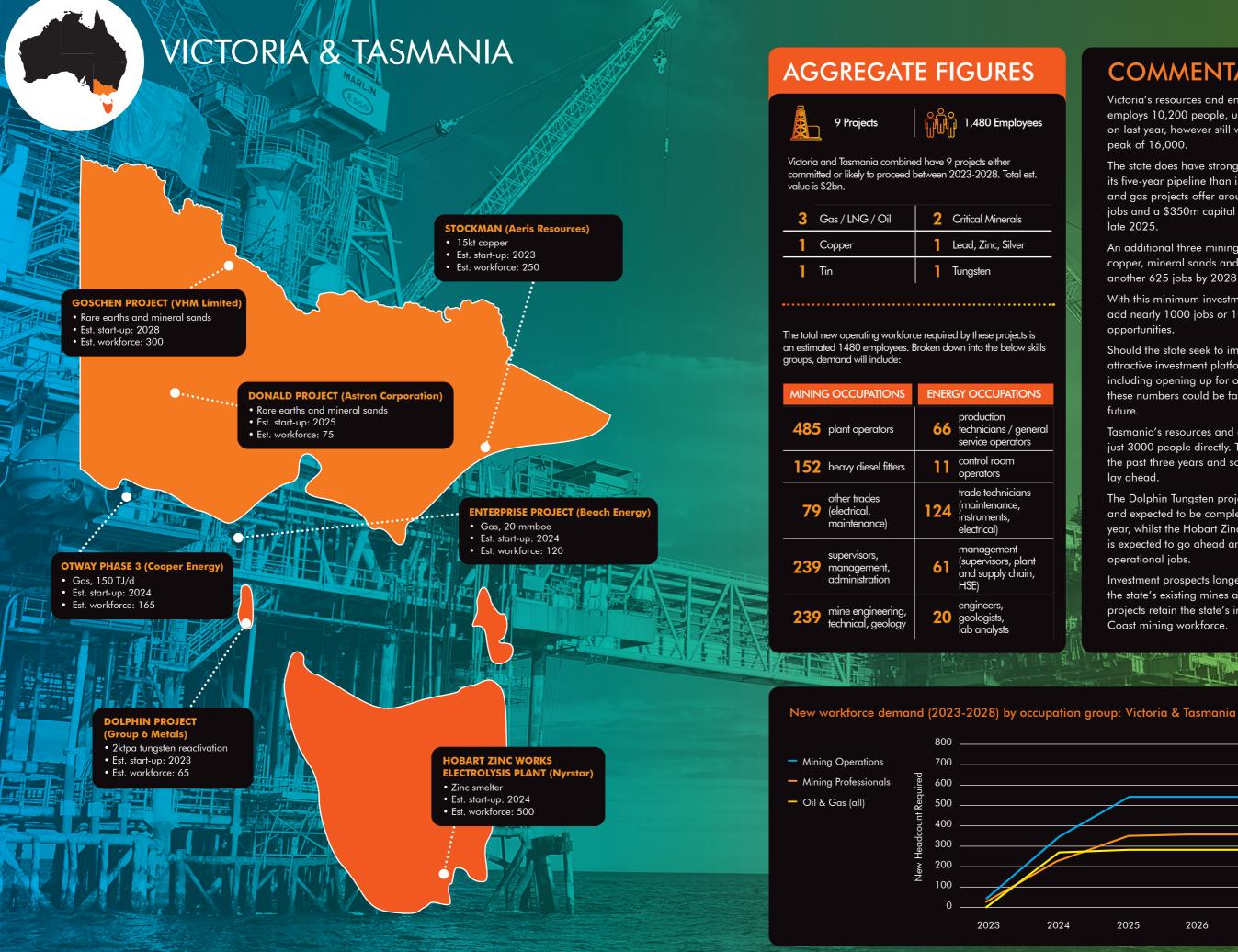
This year also sees NSW enter the critical minerals race, with the Dubbo and Balranald projects awaiting FID and promising around 300 new jobs.

In the oil and gas sector, Santos is nearing final approvals for its long-anticipated Narrabri CSG project, with 200 production jobs (and 1300 construction jobs) on standby.

Squadron Energy is advancing the state's first LNG import terminal at Port Kembla.

In terms of capital investment, NSW has increased the value of its project pipeline from \$14.5bn to \$17.5bn, with more projects earlier in feasibility.

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		Mariah - Color	
2025	2026	2027	2028



COMMENTARY

Victoria's resources and energy sector directly employs 10,200 people, up an encouraging 20% on last year, however still well below its pre-COVID peak of 16,000.

The state does have stronger growth potential in its five-year pipeline than in recent years. Three oil and gas projects offer around 300 new production jobs and a \$350m capital injection in the state by late 2025.

An additional three mining projects, covering copper, mineral sands and rare earths, offer another 625 jobs by 2028.

With this minimum investment alone, the state will add nearly 1000 jobs or 10% more employment opportunities.

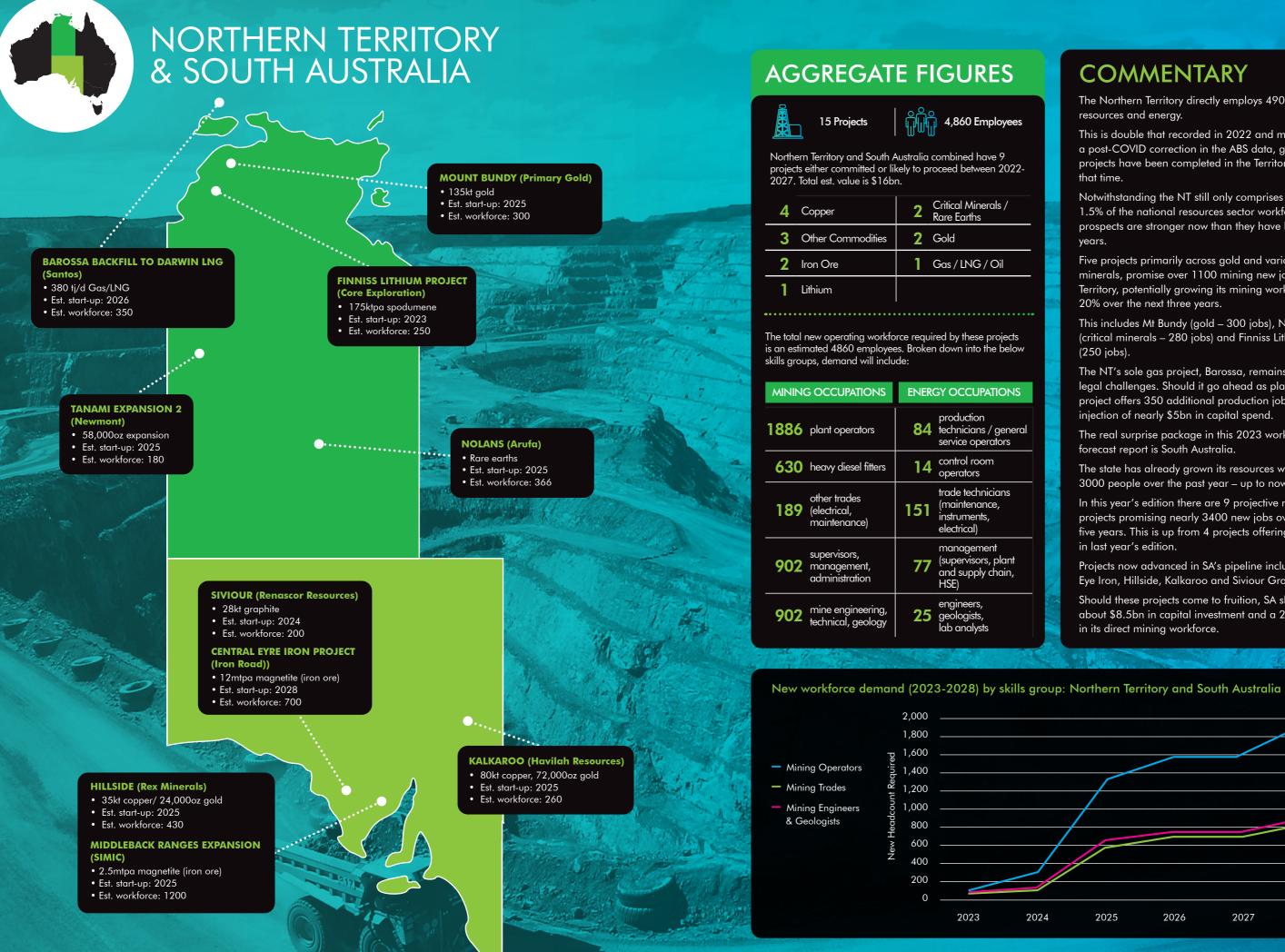
Should the state seek to implement a more attractive investment platform for new projects, including opening up for onshore gas development, these numbers could be far stronger in the near future.

Tasmania's resources and energy industry employs just 3000 people directly. This has been steady over the past three years and some promising projects lay ahead.

The Dolphin Tungsten project is now committed and expected to be completed by the end of this year, whilst the Hobart Zinc Works Electrolysis Plant is expected to go ahead and may offer some 500 operational jobs.

Investment prospects longer term are modest, but the state's existing mines and small number of new projects retain the state's importance to the East Coast mining workforce.

		/	
2025	2026	2027	2028



COMMENTARY

The Northern Territory directly employs 4900 people in resources and energy.

This is double that recorded in 2022 and may indicate a post-COVID correction in the ABS data, given no new projects have been completed in the Territory during that time.

Notwithstanding the NT still only comprises around 1.5% of the national resources sector workforce, growth prospects are stronger now than they have been in years.

Five projects primarily across gold and various critical minerals, promise over 1100 mining new jobs in the Territory, potentially growing its mining workforce by 20% over the next three years.

This includes Mt Bundy (gold – 300 jobs), Nolans (critical minerals – 280 jobs) and Finniss Lithium Project (250 jobs).

The NT's sole gas project, Barossa, remains tied up in legal challenges. Should it go ahead as planned, the project offers 350 additional production jobs and an injection of nearly \$5bn in capital spend.

The real surprise package in this 2023 workforce forecast report is South Australia.

The state has already grown its resources workforce by 3000 people over the past year – up to now 15,700.

In this year's edition there are 9 projective mining projects promising nearly 3400 new jobs over the next five years. This is up from 4 projects offering 690 jobs in last year's edition.

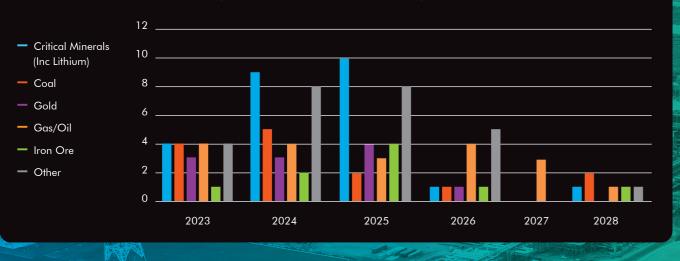
Projects now advanced in SA's pipeline include Central Eye Iron, Hillside, Kalkaroo and Siviour Graphite.

Should these projects come to fruition, SA should expect about \$8.5bn in capital investment and a 22% increase in its direct mining workforce.

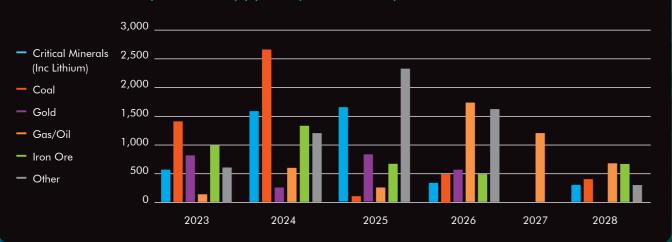
ADDITIONAL DATA BREAKDOWN



Projects: Commodity Breakdown (by year expected first production)



Workforce: Commodity Breakdown (by year expected demand)







PROJECTS

PROJECT	COMMODITY	YEAR	EST. WORKFORCE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
Abra Lead-Silver Project	Lead, Zinc, Silver	2023	280
Australian Vanadium Project	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2025	240
Barrambie Titanium Project	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2024	120
Bellevue Gold Project	Gold	2023	300
Browse to North West Shelf	Oil & gas	2028	720
Caravel (Stage 1)	Copper	2026	450
Crux LNG	Oil & gas	2027	327
Dorado	Oil & gas	2024	266
Eneabba Rare Earths Processing Plant	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2025	270
Equus	Oil & gas	2027	142
Greenbushes Expansion CGP3	Lithium	2025	50
Kalgoorlie Nickel Project (Goongarrie Hub)	Nickel, cobalt	2026	300
Kalgoorlie Rare Earths Processing Facility	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2023	120
Katanning Gold Project (Reactivated)	Gold	2025	150
Kathleen Valley	Lithium	2024	350
KCGM optimisation	Gold	2026	600
Kemerton Lithium Plant Expansion	Lithium	2026	370
Kwinana Lithium Hydroxide Refinery	Lithium	2024	75
Kwinana Lithium Plant (Wes/SQM)	Lithium	2024	150
Lake Giles iron ore project (Moonshine and Ularring)	Iron Ore	2025	258
Mardie Salt & Potash Project	Other commodities	2024	200
McPhee Creek	Iron Ore	2024	145
Mesa B,C & H (Robe Valley)	Iron Ore	2023	1000
Mount Holland Lithium Mine	Lithium	2024	150
Mt Marion Lithium Stage 2	Lithium	2023	140
Mt Thirsty	Nickel, cobalt	2026	300
Mt Weld expansion	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2024	100
Murchison Technology Metals Project	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2025	120
Odysseus	Nickel, cobalt	2023	80
Onslow Iron Project	Iron Ore	2024	1200
Pilgangoora (P680)	Lithium	2023	43
Pilgangoora Lithium Salts Plant	Lithium	2025	45
Pluto expansion (Train 2)	Oil & gas	2026	400
Ravensthorpe Gold Project	Gold	2024	100
Scarborough	Oil & gas	2026	600
Sorby Hills	Lead, Zinc, Silver	2024	95
South Erregulla	Oil & gas	2025	20
Southdown	Iron Ore	2026	500
Thunderbird (Dampier)	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2024	300
Waitsia (Stage 2)	Oil & gas	2023	55
Walyering	Oil & gas	2023	16
West Erregulla (Phase 1)	Oil & gas	2023	80
West Musgrave	Copper	2025	400
Western Range	Iron Ore	2025	800
Whim Creek	Copper	2025	120
Yangibana	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2025	250

PROJECT	COMMODITY	YEAR	EST. WORKFORCE
QUEENSLAND			
Curragh Extension Project	Coal	2023	228
D-Tree Project (Paradise Phosphate)	Other commodities	2024	250
Eva Copper Project	Copper	2025	280
Hillalong	Coal	2024	436
HPA First Project	Alumina	2024	120
Mahalo Gas project	Oil & gas	2023	30
Mount Morgan Tailings Project	Gold	2024	150
New Acland (Stage 3 extension)	Coal	2024	400
Olive Downs	Coal	2024	1000
Ravenswood Gold Mine	Gold	2023	430
Saint Elmo	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2024	150
	Nickel, cobalt	2028	300
Surat Gas Project (Phases 2-5)	Oil & gas	2026	200
Tipton	Oil & gas	2027	20 350
Wilkie Creek	Coal	2023	
Wilton-Fairhill	Coal	2024	130
NEW SOUTH WALES	Critical Minorale / Para Fartha	2025	75
Balranald Project	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2025	230
Bowdens Project Broken Hill Cabelt Project	Lead, Zinc, Silver Nickel, cobalt	2025	400
Broken Hill Cobalt Project Bulas Optimisation Project mod 2 and Bulas Underground mod 7.	Coal	2025	50
Bulga Optimisation Project mod 3 and Bulga Underground mod 7 Cadia PC 1-2	Gold	2028	 Continuity
Cowal	Gold	2024	230
 Dartbrook	Coal	2023	470
Dubbo Project	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2023	200
Hawsons Iron Project	Iron Ore	2023	500
LNG import terminal - Port Kembla Gas Terminal	Oil & gas	2023	45
Maxwell Underground Mine	Coal	2024	400
McXweir Ondergroona Mine McPhillamys	Gold	2025	260
Mt Pleasant Optimisation Project	Cogl	2023	500
Narrabri (Stage 3)	Coal	2024	685
Narrabri coal seam gas project	Oil & gas	2025	200
Vickery	Coal	2025	100
Wallarah 2	Coal	2028	300
VICTORIA			
Donald Mineral Sands and Rare Earth Project (Stage 1)	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2025	75
Enterprise Project	Oil & gas	2024	120
Golden Beach Gas project	Oil & gas	2025	5
Goschen Project	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2028	300
Otway (Phase 3) Development Project	Oil & gas	2024	164
Stockman Project	Copper	2025	250
TASMANIA			
Dolphin Project	Other commodities	2023	65
Hobart zinc works electrolysis plant	Lead, Zinc, Silver	2024	500
Renison Expansion Project (Area 5)	Other commodities	2024	5
SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
Carrapateena Block Cave 1 Expansion	Copper	2026	440
Central Eyre Iron Project	Iron Ore	2028	700
Great White Kaolin Project (Stage 1)	Other commodities	2024	40
Hillside	Copper	2025	430
Honeymoon Uranium Mine	Other commodities	2023	120
Kalkaroo	Copper	2025	260
Magnetite Expansion Project, Middleback Ranges	Iron Ore	2025	1200
Prominent Hill - Wira Hoist Shaft - Life of Mine Extension & Expansion		2024	Continuity
Siviour Graphite Project (Stage 1)	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2024	200
NORTHERN TERRITORY			
Finniss Lithium project (Stage 1)	Lithium	2023	250
Barossa backfill to Darwin LNG	Oil & gas	2026	350
Mt Bundy	Gold	2025	300
Nolans	Critical Minerals / Rare Earths	2025	280
Tanami Expansion 2	Gold	2025	180
Wonarah	Other commodities	2026	110



