

26 July 2024

AMEC represents over 550 national members at Senate Inquiry

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) is a national industry association representing over 550 member companies across Australia.

Today, AMEC Chief Executive Officer Mr Warren Pearce and Director of Commonwealth and WA/SA/NT Policy, Mr Neil van Drunen, attended the Senate Inquiry in Canberra, as part of the newly introduced Nature Positive legislation.

This was the first public opportunity to provide comment on the introduction of a brand-new environmental regulator. Until now, the Government has opted for closed door consultations prior to its entry into Parliament.

No doubt this has fuelled a deep frustration among Industry that its voice has not and is not being heard.

Mr Pearce's opened by saying, "On behalf of over 550 members, many of which are in the critical minerals space, we hold grave concerns for duplication, further delays, more red tape and a lack of accountability, that will be delivered if this Nature Positive legislation is implemented in its current form. And that is what we are expressing at the Senate Inquiry today."

Representing nearly all of Australia's critical minerals developers and producers, AMEC believes our members are directly impacted by this legislation.

Our members are mineral explorers, emerging miners, producers, and a wide range of businesses working in and for the industry.

"The content of the reforms will have severe implications for current and future project developments. The Australian economy faces falling productivity, rising inflation, a skills and labour shortage, and uncertain global economic conditions."

"These proposed reforms do nothing to improve the long timeframes faced by projects in Australia. And they certainly won't reduce the cost of doing business. With more barriers and delays put in front of companies, we risk losing the investment that our country needs right now," added Mr Pearce.

AMEC and our member companies recognise and take seriously our responsibilities to protect our natural environment. However, we seek an approvals process that is efficient, and without duplication.

"The irony of the Nature Positive reforms is that we will be jeopardising our ability to develop the critical minerals projects we need for the energy transition, due to more odious requirements and further delays placed on projects trying to get off the ground."

"These reforms, in their current state, will further harm on our international competitiveness and our ability to attract investment. Ultimately, the impacts of such consequences are felt by all Australians," said Mr Pearce.

*For more see: [AMEC Submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications regarding the Nature Positive \(Environment Protection Australia\) Bill 2024.](#)

**For a copy of our Senate Inquiry opening statement, please contact ryan.rampling@amec.org.au

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