

# National Resources Ministers

## Meeting Communique

**Tuesday 24 March 2020**

FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCES MINISTERS MET TODAY BY TELEPRESENCE TO DISCUSS THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK ON THE SECTOR.

Ministers discussed the need for a coordinated national approach to managing the impacts of COVID-19 in the resources sector. Governments and industry are working together to respond effectively to these unprecedented challenges.

Ministers agreed that the resources sector is essential in maintaining a strong Australian economy.

Ministers also recognised that the maintenance of resources sector operations within their jurisdictions, in parallel to the implementation of new health measures, is a key priority.

### **Helping Australia bounce back**

The resources sector nationally produces nearly 75 percent of Australia's exports. It directly employs nearly 250,000 workers, and it supports nearly a million more workers who are employed in the broader resources supply chain.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19, Australia's resources and energy exports are on track to reach nearly \$300 billion this financial year.

Ministers recognise that maintaining a strong resources sector will be critical to ensuring that communities and the wider Australian economy is well positioned to bounce back when the global economy recovers from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Working together**

The current situation is moving quickly and Ministers noted the need to be flexible and responsive as the challenges of COVID-19 evolve and change.

To facilitate continued engagement between industry and government, Ministers agreed to convene the first Resources National Coordination Mechanism meeting later this week, bringing together senior resources business leaders, senior officials from across government and senior executives from industry bodies.

The first NCM for the resources sector will convene via telepresence on 26 March 2020 through the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre.

The telepresence meeting was attended by the Hon Keith Pitt MP, Commonwealth Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia; the Hon Dr Anthony Lynham, Queensland Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Western Australian Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Energy and Industrial Relations; The Hon John Barilaro MP, New South Wales Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade; Dan van Holst Pellekaan, South Australian Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy; and Guy Barnett, Tasmanian Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Minister for Energy, Minister for Resources, Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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