

MINING TOOLKIT BOOSTS COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Minister for Energy Industries and Resources, the Hon Theo Theophanous, launched the Minerals Council of Australia's Community Consultation Toolkit: A Good Practice Guide for Victorian Explorers and Miners at a ceremony in Ballarat today.

Mr Chris Fraser, MCA Executive Director, Victoria said the toolkit was developed to assist exploration and mining companies operating in Victoria where effective engagement of the community is essential to the success of their operations.

MCA members are committed to the principles of sustainable development and in particular *Enduring Value - The Australian Minerals Industry Framework for Sustainable Development*. This framework requires companies to implement effective and transparent engagement, communication and independently verified reporting arrangements with stakeholders.

Mr Fraser said: "Effective engagement with the communities in which we operate is not only a requirement of *Enduring Value* but good business. Companies not only require the regulatory licence to operate but also seek the social licence to operate before making investment decisions.

"There is a clear business imperative for effective engagement with the community. This rests not only in the regulatory requirements but also in attracting and maintaining a social licence to operate, providing community confidence for investment decision-making."

The Community Consultation Toolkit was prepared by Dr Pam McRae-Williams of the Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness at the University of Ballarat and overseen by the MCA's Victorian Environment and Communities Working Group.

Copies of the Community Consultation Toolkit are available at:
www.minerals.org.au/victoria/publications_and_codes

Enduring Value: www.minerals.org.au/enduringvalue

For further information please contact Mr Chris Fraser, Executive Director, Victoria on 0413 833 229.