



MEDIA STATEMENT

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIAN DIVISION

VICTORIAN
DIVISION

MINERALS SECTOR INNOVATION ROADMAPS

STATEMENT BY THE MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA, VICTORIAN DIVISION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS FRASER

The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) enthusiastically endorsed the Innovation Roadmap of Victoria's Earth Resources sector released today by the Minister for Energy Industries and Resources, the Hon Theo Theophanous.

Minerals sector innovation roadmaps

- > map in a multi-dimensional way, the coal, gold, mineral sands, quarrying, oil and gas sectors across the physical, environmental and social sciences for the first time;
- > identify the challenges of finding and defining ore bodies, reducing the cost of mining and processing as well as resolving environmental issues such as water use and greenhouse gas emissions;
- > have been developed as a collaborative venture between industry, government and researchers, led by the Minerals Council of Australia;
- > identify pathways for the gold, mineral sands, brown coal sectors as well as cross sector areas such as water resources, exploration, environmental management, community engagement, human resources and safety;
- > rank innovation in terms of importance and Victoria's priorities;

Roadmaps are needed

- > for companies and research organisations to use them for preparing collaborative research proposals guided by the priorities established by the maps;
- > to communicate in a simple manner the practical planning required to stimulate innovation leading to strategic investment;

Next Steps

- > the MCA would like to see the establishment of a strategic management committee sponsored by the Victorian government to assist collaborative proposals meet the stringent requirements set by research funding bodies;
- > the success of the innovation roadmaps will be judged by the increased number of collaborative research projects that are funded and ultimately by increased investment, jobs and output from the minerals sector in Victoria.

The Australian minerals industry's support for innovation has helped it remain a world leader in developing and applying new technologies in the search for, extraction and processing of mineral products.

Research and development activities are undertaken either collectively through pre-competitive research programs or individually; in either case with specific research providers such as government-funded organizations like the CSIRO and universities that have strong minerals programs and research agendas.

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