



MCA SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Council's performance in 2004 is reported against the MCA Balanced Business Plan in the strategic goal areas of 'sustainable development implementation', 'globally competitive', 'socially responsible', 'highly skilled', and 'environmentally responsible'.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

- > Developed and launched **Enduring Value** – The Australian Minerals Industry Framework for Sustainable Development, providing the world's first guide for translating the principles of sustainable development into operational practice at exploration, mine and processing plant sites.
- > To provide the industry with resources and support in the extension of sustainable development and capacity building, the MCA established **formal partnerships** with the:
 - **Australian Centre for Minerals Extension and Research (ACMER)** to deliver a comprehensive sustainable development extension strategy over five years, specifically concentrating on improving environmental and social management competencies
 - **Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre (MISHC)** to continue the Minerals Industry Cooperative Initiative (MICI), designed to build capacity through new techniques and technologies in sharing knowledge on safety risk assessment and management.
- > Enhanced the industry's **engagement with stakeholders on sustainable development** by revising the role and function of the MCA's External Sustainable Development Advisory Group (ESDAG), to maximise their input into MCA policy development and extension activities.

- > Promoted the integration of sustainable development principles into company business planning and site operational practices at the **MCA's Inaugural Global Sustainable Development Conference** attended by 550 industry stakeholders.
- > Provided significant input into the WWF Mine Certification Evaluation Project, which is a major research project seeking to identify whether a **certification program** could be effectively applied to mine site operations.
- > Promoted the **development of socially responsible reporting** by participation in the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Mining and Metals Sector Supplement, as a sector specific supplement to the 2002 GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines.
- > Invited to join the Public Land Stewardship Project of Victoria's Department of Sustainability and Environment, which seeks to develop a **consistent policy framework for the management of Victoria's Crown land estate**. The principles of *Enduring Value* are being applied to that framework.



A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE INDUSTRY

- > Advocated **infrastructure investment over excessive tax cuts**, and promoted policies that build and maintain essential infrastructure that assists the minerals sector maximise its export potential.
- > Instigated a **review of minerals transport infrastructure** around Australia to identify urgent areas requiring investment the role of all governments in remedying inadequacies in transport infrastructure in export corridors.

- > Advocated a **national land transport plan**; welcomed the Australian Government's commitment to reinvigorate the Hunter Valley Rail freight corridor; and argued for greater focus on bulk minerals transport infrastructure under AusLink.
- > Secured **key changes to tax legislation**, including bedding down the new Consolidations tax arrangements; improving the minerals industry's treatment under the GST and Uniform Capital Allowance tax regimes; and securing amendments to the international tax regime conducive to increasing investment.
- > Led the development of the **Minerals Exploration Action Agenda** Implementation Group as part of co-operative public and private sector efforts to reverse Australia's dwindling share of global mineral exploration expenditure, and to expand Australia's inventory of known geological wealth.
- > Successfully advocated **energy reform** in the Australian Government's Energy White Paper, including:
 - certainty and comprehensiveness in **removing taxes on fuel** used as a business input
 - emphasis on technology through new **fiscal incentives for efficient abatement**, supported through the establishment of a Low Emissions Technology Fund.
- > Successfully **opposed any expansion of the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target** – a high cost greenhouse measure and non-transparent and inefficient industry development scheme.
- > Underscored the **imperative for step-change technologies** as the driver for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as part of an effective global solution to climate change, emphasising the inadequacies of the Kyoto Protocol.
- > Pivotal role in the successful conclusion of the **Australia–United States Free Trade Agreement**, ensuring the adoption of more liberal trade and investment provisions, and the exclusion of inappropriate environment and labour clauses.
- > Played a central role in encouraging the imminent launch of negotiations on a **Free Trade Agreement with China**, advocating the industry's interests in improving market access and reducing the cost of doing business by removing border barriers and reforms to 'beyond border' measures.
- > Enhanced investor confidence in the minerals industry by jointly leading the development and introduction of the improved 2004 edition of **The Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves – The JORC Code**.
- > Clarified the application of minerals specific aspects of the new **International Financial Reporting Standards**, which revolutionised accounting standards from 1 January 2005.
- > Improved legislation, regulations and educational material underpinning the new **national transport security requirements**.
- > Participated in the Australian delegation to the International Maritime Organisation, which secured improved regulations for dry bulk shipping in the convention to control the spread of marine pests (**International Convention to the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004**).
- > Achieved significant improvement in the **licence application and work plan approval processes** undertaken within the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.
- > Successfully advocated against a **State-based greenhouse gas abatement measure** as originally promoted by the Victorian Government.



- > Successfully leading a tripartite (Commonwealth, State and industry) study into the infrastructure and planning issues associated with the development of the Latrobe Valley coalfield in Victoria to the year 2100.



A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY

- > Promoted **safe working arrangements** in relation to rosters and extended shifts by commissioning the Centre for Sleep Research to develop the resource document *Work Design, Fatigue and Sleep*.
- > Promoted safe working arrangements in remote mining locations by commissioning the Centre for Sleep Research to develop a **pilot study on fatigue and sleep in fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) operations**, and to reconcile the principles and management strategies in the resource document, *Work Design, Fatigue and Sleep*, with those required in FIFO operations.
- > Instigated work aimed at **reducing workplace accidents involving mobile equipment** by examining 'significant incidents' to determine the root causes of fatalities, near misses and high potential incidents.
- > Promoted excellence in safety and health performance through the **10th annual MINEX Awards and the National Safety and Health Innovation Awards**.
- > Raised the profile of workforce health issues, publishing a **report on health impacts** highlighting the lack of publicly available data and the inconsistency between State jurisdictions.
- > Led international initiatives on **benchmarking safety and health performance and the sharing of good practice**, and participated

in the establishment and review of national occupational exposure limits.

- > Promoted good practice in coal mining operations, reaching agreement with the Australian Coal Research Project (ACARP) to jointly support the development of a **roof and rib fall management guideline** for the coal sector.
- > Initiated work aimed at **increasing the participation of women in the minerals industry** by initiating a national dialogue on issues associated with, and the effective engagement of, women in communities in which the industry operates.
- > Achieved a significant step towards building mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous communities in education and training, employment and community development by initiating a **National Indigenous Leaders' Dialogue**.
- > Ensured the interests of the Victorian minerals sector were incorporated into the **Victorian Government's revised Occupational Health and Safety Act**.
- > Through negotiations with Native Title Services Victoria and the Victorian Government, finalised **Agreement Making templates**, including Right to Negotiate Deeds and Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) that incorporate cultural heritage management plans.
- > Successfully completed negotiations on a **Regional Indigenous Land Use Agreement** for exploration in Victoria with the Dja Dja Wurrung people and the Wadi Wadi Burapa Burapa Wamba Wamba people.



A HIGHLY SKILLED INDUSTRY

- > In partnership with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia, secured \$500,000 Australian Government funding for a project to research and develop **strategies to address current skills shortages** facing the minerals industry.
- > Achieved significant **increases in undergraduate enrolments in earth science and mining engineering** through program development undertaken with universities involved in the Minerals Tertiary Education Council.
- > Promoted better **attraction and retention of skilled staff** by conducting two landmark workshops – Attraction and Retention of Professional Staff – The Future of the Minerals Industry – in partnership with the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.
- > Played a critical role in the development of a **new, national school of mining engineering** to be called Mining Education Australia and which will be fully operational in 2007. The centre will draw on the resources of the University of NSW, Curtin University of Technology and the University of Queensland.
- > Secured the **future of metallurgy at the University of Queensland** after a joint industry/university review.
- > Promoted the industry as an 'employer of choice' through the launch of an **interactive career education website** – *Unearth Your Future*, profiling young employees in professional and trades areas.
- > Produced and promoted an **innovative and interactive web-based geoscience education resource**, the *Down to Earth Series*, designed to stimulate and engage secondary students and teachers.

- > Exposed more than 7,700 teachers, 119,000 upper primary students and 17,000 secondary students to the challenges and opportunities of the minerals sector under the **National Education Program**.



AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY

- > Ensured the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) National Water Initiative Agreement recognised the industry's specific needs and performance in relation to **water use and conservation**.
- > Achieved improvements to the implementation of the **Victorian Native Vegetation Framework** as it applies to mining developments, and secured agreement from the Victorian Government to further review the operational guidelines with industry.
- > Commissioned a comprehensive **quantitative impact assessment of the European Union's new chemical legislation (REACH)** on international minerals trade flows and the direct implications for the Australian minerals industry. The MCA is seeking amendment to the legislation that would include minerals ores, concentrates and alloys.
- > Effectively **represented the interests of the Australian minerals industry in national and international fora**, including the:
 - review of the International Finance Corporation **Safeguard Policies** that focus on key social and environmental aspects that should be managed in projects accessing IFC funding
 - ongoing development of the **World Bank Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative**, which seeks to establish a framework for the disclosure of payments (including taxes, royalties and facilitation payments) by companies operating in the resources sector to governments.