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## Red tape reduction plan a 'welcome relief' for industry

West Australian, Perth

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### **DANIELLE LE MESSURIER**

WA business leaders have welcomed the Prime Minister's plan to slash red tape and accelerate priority road, rail and iron ore projects, saying it will boost local jobs and efforts to repair the coronavirus-hit economy.

Scott Morrison yesterday told CEDA's State of the Nation forum in Canberra the Federal

Government will fast-track 15 national priority infrastructure projects worth almost \$72 billion "under a bilateral model" between Federal, State and Territory governments.

The "single touch" process will slash approval times in half for big projects, from 3.5 years to 21 months, to create 66,000 jobs.

Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA chief executive Paul

Everingham said the changes were "welcome relief" for the mining and resources sector.

"The current inefficient and duplicative processes that our mining and oil and gas members have to navigate is holding the sector back rather than allowing it to grow and remain internationally competitive," he said.

Association of Mining and Exploration Companies chief

executive Warren Pearce said the current system "creates significant delays for both small and large projects alike, which holds up investment and economic and employment benefits".

Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA chief economist Aaron Morey said the changes would not come at the expense of the environment.