



23 JAN, 2021

\$1.6m to fast-track WA resource projects

Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie

Page 1 of 2

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The State Government has tipped \$1.6 million into fast-tracking approvals for major resource projects.

The State Government said the cash would help authorities manage a “significant increase in applications” for environmental, mining and heritage approvals.

The funding is expected to help at least 17 projects which are seeking approvals, with the projects being tipped to create 18,300 construction jobs and 4500 operational jobs.

The WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy said it hoped the move was a forerunner to further reform of approval processes.

CME director of policy and advocacy Rob Carruthers said the sector looked forward to ongoing reform around approvals.

“Given increased activity across the mining and resources sector, CME strongly endorses today’s announcement by the WA Government to provide additional processing capacity to work through high volumes of approvals,” Mr Carruthers said. “CME

looks forward to the next WA government prioritising delivery of structural reforms to reduce unnecessary duplication and procedural delays across project approval processes.

“These reforms have the capacity to bring forward both economic investment and job creation while ensuring robust regulatory outcomes.”

WA Premier Mark McGowan said the Government was committed to supporting the economy while maintaining high environmental and heritage standards.

“Our resources sector is the engine room of the nation, and it’s crucial we support the sector to continue our recovery and create jobs and training opportunities for Western Australians,” he said.

“We’re investing more than \$1.6m in additional short-term specialist roles that will help our regulatory authorities process a surge in applications for key environmental, mining and heritage approvals.”

The CME said there were \$129 billion in mining and resources projects in the pipeline across WA.



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Rob Carruthers hopes more reforms will be introduced.
Picture: Ross Swanborough