



24 JUN, 2020

Miners welcome cash boost for exploration

Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie

Page 1 of 2

Miners welcome cash boost for exploration

| Kate Purnell

WA industry leaders have welcomed the Federal Government's pledge to invest a further \$125 million in Australia's resources exploration sector.

Funding will go towards expanding government agency Geoscience Australia's Exploring for the Future program, which uses some of the latest technology to map detailed geological structures.

Resources Minister Keith Pitt said bolstering the program would provide immediate and long-term benefits to multiple sectors, including resources and agriculture.

"Investments in the resources sector are investments in jobs and opportunity, especially in regional Australia," he said.

"The Australian Government is focused on creating new jobs to help Australia recover from impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our resources sector has been the standout performer over the last few months, continuing to operate safely during these unprecedented times.

"This program will help deliver the next round of investment and job creation in our world-leading resources sector.

"Even though Australia is known for its world-class mineral resources sector, over 80 per cent of Australia is still under-explored."

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA has welcomed the funding. CME chief executive Paul Everingham said advancements to the program would help identify new mineral deposits in WA and fuel a new wave of exploration activity.

"Without ongoing investment in exploration activities, many resources would remain undiscovered, stifling the growth and prosperity of the sector and the economy into the future, risking employment, investment and government revenue," he said.

The mapped information of

Australia's geology will be freely available, and is intended to boost education of the country's mineral, energy and groundwater systems.

Geoscience Australia chief executive Dr James Johnson said that so far more than 200 datasets had been released online that would "help explorers assess the economic viability of a resource and make their next big investment decision."

This funding follows a previous \$100 million Federal Government commitment to the EFTF program.



24 JUN, 2020

Miners welcome cash boost for exploration

Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie



CME's Paul Everingham.
Picture: Iain Gillespie