

Meet the winners of CME's Women in Resources Awards 2020



Elizabeth Gaines -
Women in Resources Champion

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia's (CME) Women in Resources Awards (WIRA) celebrates trailblazing individuals and companies who champion gender diversity in the resources sector.

CME CEO Paul Everingham said the significant increase in nominations for the 2020 awards, 11 years since they began, reflected the importance the resources sector placed on gender diversity.

"A diverse workforce is one where employees feel more engaged. It's a more creative and productive one. Diversity leads to better discussions, decisions and outcomes for everyone," said Mr Everingham.

WIRA 2020 was held on 6 March 2020, just over a week before the Government of Western Australia declared a State of Emergency in response to COVID-19 and large gatherings were prohibited.

A lot has changed since then, particularly for female employees. Research suggested that women, often casual workers, lost their jobs at a faster rate than men, prompting leading labour market economist Barbara Pocock to refer to the inequality as a "pink recession".



Michelle McAullay, BOAB -
Outstanding Company Initiative -
Small to Medium Company

Looking for positive inspiration, it seemed like the right time for CME to catch up with five of our WIRA 2020 winners. We asked what winning the award meant to them and whether it had prompted any professional or business opportunities.



Rishelle Hume -
Outstanding Woman
in Resources

**Elizabeth Gaines, CEO,
Fortescue Metals Group
- Women in Resources
Champion**

I was honoured and humbled to receive the CME Women in Resources Champion award earlier this year.

[Fortescue believe] that building a diverse workplace is not just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do.

[We are] proud to be among a handful of ASX50 Boards with female Board members comprising more than 40 per cent of the Board, while women form 26 per cent of our senior leadership team.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the entire Fortescue team, our market capitalisation has increased by 55 per cent to \$43.7 billion in less than 12 months.



L-R: Briohny Evans - Fortescue Metals Group, People's Choice Award
 Vanessa Davies - Compass Group, Outstanding Company Initiative Award
 Rishelle Hume - Chevron Australia, Outstanding Woman in Resources
 Vanessa Bullock - Woodside Energy, Outstanding Young Woman In Resources
 Elizabeth Gaines - Fortescue Metals Group, Women in Resources Champion
 Jennifer Ward - Newmont Australia, Outstanding Operator/Technician/Trade Woman in Resources
 Paul Everingham - CEO, The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia

I strongly believe this is due to our inclusive, diverse culture which is underpinned by the values of family, empowerment and courage and determination.

Vanessa Bullock - Woodside Energy - Outstanding Young Woman In Resources

Highlighting the achievements of women in the resources sector helps to challenge stereotypes and encourages our next generation to get involved in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics].

I think it's been great for people I work with to see that working hard and striving to do your best is recognised.

Rishelle Hume - Chevron Australia - Outstanding Woman In Resources

I felt very privileged and honoured. [It] gave me the opportunity to showcase my

culture and what I do within my community to make a real difference in the lives of so many across our industry.

[It's] also an immense achievement for all Aboriginal women within our resource sector – if I can do it they can do it as I come from very humble beginnings.

Michelle McAullay - BOAB - Outstanding Company Initiative [Small to Medium Company]

Winning the award has had such a positive impact on BOAB, with businesses choosing us as their “go to” business for all matters relating to Indigenous training, employment and mentoring.

[Winning also offered] further business opportunities [including greater] involvement with other companies within the resource sector.

Vanessa Davies - Compass Group - Outstanding Company Initiative Award [Large Company]

[The award win] acknowledges our hard work and commitment to ... gender balance and equality. Gender diversity helps companies attract and retain talented women. Companies cannot afford to ignore 50 per cent of the potential workforce and expect to be competitive in the global economy.

Congratulations to all of our Women in Resources Award winners. We look forward to seeing you all at our gala dinner event next year, subject to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

In the meantime, learn more about us at cmewa.com.au or follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.