



12 OCT, 2020

## Buzz on all fronts



Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie

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## **PAUL EVERINGHAM**

It's always exciting to head to the Goldfields for Diggers & Dealers — but it's even more exciting when there are so many good news stories to talk about.

Gold, the commodity on which Kalgoorlie-Boulder was built, continues to perform extremely well, with all indications that prices will remain strong for some time to come.

The expansion of the Super Pit's resource body just a couple of months ago could hardly have been better timed and it has been predicted that Australia could replace China as the world's biggest gold producer sometime next year.

More broadly, the WA mining sector continues to make vital contributions to both the State and Federal economies. Royalty payments to the WA Government in 2019-20 totalled \$9.29 billion, a record figure that accounted for 28 per cent of all State revenue.

Less tangible but no less important is something I observed on a trip to the Goldfields a month or so ago.

There's a decided buzz about

what's already happening and what's going to happen with the sector: from nickel operations ramping up in Kambalda, to the positive outlook for the Super Pit and other gold operations, and Lynas pushing ahead with its \$500 million processing plant in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Travelling to the Northern Goldfields, it was great to see the strong connections between CME member companies and communities at projects such as

AngloGold Ashanti's Sunrise Dam, Gold Fields' Granny Smith, Minara Resources' Murrin Murrin, St Barbara's Gwalia and BHP's Leinster operations.

But maybe the most exciting thing about Diggers this year is being here at all. In a year where so many things have been either disrupted or cancelled altogether, mining and resources has responsibly continued with a priority on safety but also a determination to get the job done. It is fitting that one of the sector's flagship events should do just the same.

**Paul Everingham is the Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA chief executive**



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**CME WA chief executive Paul Everingham.**  
Picture: Tom Zaunmayr