

## Mid West Roundtable

On 3 March CME hosted a very successful roundtable breakfast aimed at providing an overview of the expanding iron ore industry in the Mid West for state government members of parliament with links to the region.

Seven government parliamentarians attended the event, including the Hon. Norman Moore MLC, Minister for Mines and Petroleum, and heard project presentations from Crosslands Resources, Extension Hill Pty Ltd, Gindalbie Metals Ltd, Golden West Resources, Sinosteel Midwest Corp, Geraldton Port Authority, and Oakajee Port and Rail.

Each presenter gave an overview of their company's project status and planned future expansion. The members of parliament had the unique opportunity to receive first hand, valuable information on the exciting prospects and the challenges confronting the expanding Mid West iron ore industry along with the delivery of the Oakajee Port and Rail project.

The message from all presenters was co-operation and inter-dependence between all the participants is key to the overall success of development in the Mid West region.



*Members of parliament, Mid West project operators and CME representatives at the CME roundtable*

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## Strategic Assessment Briefing

On 24 February CME chaired a meeting where officials from the Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) briefed members and the Department of Mines and Petroleum on opportunities for strategic assessments in Western Australia.

Members were provided with an overview of the strategic assessment provisions under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The recent Hawke review of the EPBC Act recommended greater use of strategic assessments and DEWHA discussed trends in the area as well as some examples of regions which have utilised the process.

DEWHA also touched on recent work with regard to the conservation of the Northern Quoll and opportunities for landscape-scale solutions to protect it against potential threats.

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## Reforms under Part V of the EP Act

On 22 February CME met with officials from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to discuss the development of policy guidelines and the status of the reform program relating to the approval of activities under Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act).

CME is seeking interested members to participate in a workshop with DEC on the restructure of the scoping process (pre-application) to deal with enquiries from proponents on the requirements under the EP Act for applications for works approvals, licences, registrations or amendments to these approvals.

Please contact Regina Flugge at CME to express your interest in this workshop.

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## CME Environment Committee

The CME Environment Committee met for the first time in 2010 on 11 February.

Conservation and land-use planning issues were a focus of discussions, with the Kimberley Industry Position Paper and the Great Western Woodlands (GWW) Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy on the agenda. Feedback was subsequently provided to the Department of Environment and Conservation on the GWW strategy through representatives on the Stakeholder Reference Group.

Approvals reform remains a key area of interest for members and the Committee also looked at the implementation of risk-based environmental impact assessment at their February meeting.

The Department of Environment and Conservation also briefed the Committee on the Western Australian Biodiversity and Science Initiative.

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## New Member

CME is pleased to welcome new member company Flinders Mines.



Flinders Mines is an ASX listed Company, focussed on the exploration and development of iron ore projects. Flinders is currently undertaking a pre-feasibility study on their Pilbara Iron Ore project, and is poised as an emerging iron ore producer.

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## Over the Horizon Conference in Esperance

CME attended the Over the Horizon conference at Esperance on 4 March and delivered a talk on the region's growth prospects and issues affecting the resources sector. Over 200 people attended the conference which was also attended by Minister for Regional Development and Lands, the Hon. Brendan Grylls MLC, Minister for Water the Hon. Dr Graham Jacobs MLA and local member the Hon. Wendy Duncan MLC.

The conference covered a range of topics related to the resources sector, tourism, agriculture and fisheries. The CME talk covered future demand for people, water and energy, infrastructure issues and raised the issue of royalties and the potential impact on the minerals and energy sector. The current debate about royalties in the context of the Henry Tax Review and the state government's proposal to increase royalty rates was explained to the audience.

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## NGO Industry Environment Forum

The Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Industry Environment Forum (NIEF) reconvened on 25 February at CME.

As the name suggests NIEF's membership is a mix of environmental NGOs and CME members. It was established as a forum to identify strategic environmental issues related to the resources sector to achieve mutually agreed tangible outcomes.

At this meeting the forum discussed its work plan, identifying a number of priorities for 2010 with strategic assessment and biodiversity planning highlighted as areas of particular interest.

NIEF has previously undertaken an annual field trip, and to link with the strategic assessment and biodiversity planning themes, it was agreed to work towards a visit to the Great Western Woodlands in late 2010.

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## Mining Act Amendments

CME hosted a meeting with members from the Land Access Committee and the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) on 22 February. Members discussed concerns relating to DMP's responses to the submissions on the review of the operation and effectiveness of the Mining Act 1978 as amended by Mining Amendment Act 2004 (the Act). CME provided a submission to this review in 2009. CME will work with the Land Access Committee to propose improvements in the operation of the Act to DMP.

During the first week in March, CME also liaised with Members of Parliament on proposed amendments to the requirements for the review of mine closure plans in the Approvals and Related Reforms (No 2) (Mining) Bill 2009.

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## Second Round of EIS Funding

On 3 March the Hon. Norman Moore MLC, Minister for Mines and Petroleum, announced the second round of funding for the co-funded exploration drilling program.

This program is part of the five-year, \$80 million Exploration Incentive Scheme (EIS) announced by the Government in February 2009.

Companies planning drilling projects for 2010-11 will be able to apply for a share of \$5 million in funding under this latest round.

Applications for funding under the program must be lodged with the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) by 5pm on 19 March 2010.

Further information about the program is available at [www.dmp.wa.gov.au/EISdrilling](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/EISdrilling) or by phoning Margaret Ellis at DMP on 9422 3000.

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## Immigration and Citizenship Outreach Officer

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) officer, Emma Hogen-Esch, has recently joined CME as the Industry Outreach Officer (IOO). Emma replaces Dan Bell who is continuing in a regional outreach officer role with the Department.

DIAC created the IOOs to allow for the provision of expert advice on immigration related matters to employers linked through peak industry bodies. Emma is primarily based at CME but also provides support to the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association and the Australian Mines and Metals Association.



Emma Hogan-Esch,  
DIAC Outreach Officer

Members are invited to access the DIAC Outreach service for the following matters:

- Employer sponsored temporary visas such as the 457 visa
- Employer Sponsored Permanent visas
- Use of DIAC e-visa systems for application lodgement
- Feedback on DIAC policy

Members may contact Emma directly by email to [emma.hogen-esch@immi.gov.au](mailto:emma.hogen-esch@immi.gov.au) or phone 0434 077 5855.