



28 JAN, 2021

## Regional register backs WA business optimism

Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie

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### OPINION PAUL EVERINGHAM

Last time I penned one of these columns, it was with a sizeable level of optimism about what 2021 would deliver.

That hasn't changed. But the past five weeks have been a reminder of the uncertain world that we live in because of COVID-19.

Freedom of movement into WA has been restricted because of community transmission of the virus in the Eastern States.

I'm sure there are people in both the mining and resources sector and the wider Goldfields community who have been affected by these changes.

Much of my own family lives in the east and it is difficult to not see them in person as much as I ordinarily would.

But I still think we have much to be excited about as 2021 unfolds. From a whole-of-WA perspective we continue to enjoy freedoms that parts of Australia and much of the world could only wish for.

Locally, it is hard to think of a place that is more buzzing than Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Goldfields. Every day when I pick up the Kalgoorlie Miner there seems to be positive news for the region, particularly the mining and resources sector.

Whether it is shareholder

approval for the Saracen-Northern Star merger, Lynas preparing to produce critical minerals products in Kalgoorlie-Boulder for final processing in the US, mothballed mines bursting back to life, new renewable energy projects on

mine sites or positive projections for mine production — there is a lot of cause for optimism.

I'm thrilled to be able to add another item to that list on behalf of CME and eight of its member companies. Our Goldfields Esperance Business Register is

officially up and running, with more than 30 local businesses having created profiles that will showcase their capabilities and capacities to mining companies and other Goldfields businesses.

A lot of hard work has been put into the register by CME Goldfields regional manager Ryan O'Hanlon and our partners at the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission and Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry, so it is fantastic to see the portal thriving so early.

I would urge all local businesses in the Goldfields to visit [gebusinessregister.com.au](http://gebusinessregister.com.au) and create a profile.

Communities such as Kalgoorlie-Boulder are only as strong as the businesses that underpin them and the GE Business Register has been designed specifically to promote small and medium-sized businesses.

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



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**Ora Banda Mining is targeting first gold this month from its Davyhurst processing plant near Menzies.**