

NATIONAL MINERAL EXPLORATION STRATEGY: A VISION FOR UNLOCKING AUSTRALIA'S HIDDEN MINERAL WEALTH

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The National Mineral Exploration Strategy sets out a 5-year program to overcome major challenges to discovery of new mineral deposits in frontier terrains across Australia. The Strategy, as endorsed by the COAG Energy Council, will be driven by the Geoscience Working Group (GWG), comprised of the Commonwealth, State and Territory government geological surveys. The Strategy will be delivered in partnership with the resources industry, the research community, and the services sector. It includes programs to attract increased investment into the Australian exploration sector but does not address the financial or regulatory challenges facing mineral exploration.

The Geoscience Working Group (GWG) will deliver the Strategy by:

1. Encouraging investment through a renewed commitment to the creation and delivery of government-funded pre-competitive geoscience, and a refreshed approach to the global promotion of Australia.
2. Harnessing our capability through a cross-institutional research venture focused on delivering the applied geoscience needed for industry to better explore beneath the covered regions of Australia, as well as continued development and promotion of Australia's world-leading METS sector.
3. Protecting the environment through provision of robust baseline pre-competitive geoscience data for evidence-based decision making and reducing the exploration footprint.
4. Supporting our people and communities through wider engagement and clear communication of relevant geoscience information, and the economic and social benefits of a vibrant minerals industry to a broad audience.

This paper will outline each of the four themes with examples from across Australia of the actions currently underway.