Overview

The Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum visited Cape Town in South Africa from 3 to 9 February 2018. The purpose of the visit was to present at the African Mining Indaba Conference, to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding between Western Australia and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), to renew relations with other African nations interested in resource development, and to meet with Australian companies operating in Africa.

The relationship between Africa and Western Australia is important and long standing; particularly in the mineral and energy resources sector. The Western Australian State Government is committed to broadening and deepening Western Australia’s relationship with Africa. There are more than 90 Western Australian companies actively operating over 200 mining projects in Africa, as well as hundreds of Western Australian mining, equipment technology and services companies operating on the continent.

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy Western Australia (CME) also attended the conference following the announcement of the Minister attending, and facilitated a number of meetings with mining executives during the travel.

The Minister for Mines and Petroleum was accompanied by:

- Dr Phil Gorey, Acting Deputy Director General Resource and Environmental Regulation, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)
- Mr Filippo Raggi, Commercial Manager Africa, Government of Western Australia Office (Kenya), Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation.
- Mr David Alexander, Principal Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY

Travel from Perth to Cape Town.

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Delegation Briefing

- Meeting with DFAT officials, Austrade and Heads of Mission for Africa to discuss matters relating to the conference and organised events during the week. Discussions also regarding coordinating collaboration with African countries.
- The Minister was welcomed to Cape Town by the Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, His Excellency (H.E.) Mr Adam McCarthy.
- The Minister spoke on the importance that Western Australia places in the relationship with Africa, and that an objective of his visit is to promote to African countries that Western Australians (and the technology that they have developed) can greatly assist the responsible development of resources within their countries.
M4DLink Women in Resources Mentoring Program 2018 Launch

- This event was the launch of the Minerals and Energy for Development Alliance (MEfDA) M4DLink Women in Resources Mentoring Program for 2018. MEfDA is a partnership of the University of Western Australia and the University of Queensland, and the program is a partnership of MEfDA and DFAT.

- M4DLink provides an online forum for its members to collaborate on policy issues through networking, problem-solving and sharing expertise.

- Along with officials from MEfDA and DFAT, the Minister delivered a speech on the importance of mentoring young professionals, and the importance of enabling gender diversity in the resources sector (and within Government).

- The Minister also used the occasion to highlight that Mr Jeffrey Haworth (Executive Director Geoscience and Resource Strategy; DMIRS) is one of the mentors participating in the program. This inclusion reflects the Western Australian Government's support for the M4DLink program, as well as the reputation of Western Australia as a resource regulator.

‘Paydirt and Friends’ Pre Conference Dinner

- The Minister delivered a speech at the annual pre-conference dinner hosted by Paydirt Media for government and non-government officials attending the Mining Indaba conference.

- The dinner was attended by Chief Executive Officers of Australian-based mining and mining equipment, services and technology companies with interests in Africa, Heads of Mission in Africa, senior officials of DFAT, and representatives of Western Australian universities.

- The Minister used the speech to highlight the economic relationship between Australia and Africa, particularly the role of the Western Australian resources sector.

- The Minister provided an update to the attendees on the Western Australian Government’s Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The Minister also briefed the audience on the education and training initiatives and opportunities for African countries in Western Australia.

MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY

African Mining Indaba Conference

- African Mining Indaba is the largest mining conference in Africa. The annual conference has been held for 24 years, and over the last few years has grown in size and diversity. The attendance at the conference was around 6000 delegates.

- Along with many investors, junior miners and explorers, and mining service companies, the conference is a vibrant hub of engagement between Mining Ministers and senior government officials from across Africa. This year, a record 36 African Ministers attended the conference.
The conference received a high profile and attendance from officials from DFAT; including the High Commissioners to Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, and the Australian Ambassadors to Morocco, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe. The conference is therefore the premier forum for diplomatic and commercial relationships in the resource sector across Africa.

While officials from the Western Australian Government have been regular attendees since 2012, this is the first occasion where the Western Australian Minister for Mines and Petroleum has attended the forum. The Minister was the only Australian Member of Parliament to attend.

The attendance of the Minister was well received by the Australian companies at the conference, and provided a clear demonstration to Western Australian resource companies and universities that the Government supports engagement with Africa. African nations are significant emerging economies.

In addition, African Mining Ministers also appreciated the attendance by the Minister, with a number advising that they will now be considering attending Perth for Africa Week in August 2018.

The Minister attended the opening session to the conference which included presentations delivered by the Hon. Mosebenzi Zwane (Minister of Mineral Resources, South Africa), Mr Olusegun Obasanjo (Former President of the Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Brenthurst Foundation), Mr Norman Mbazima (Deputy Chairman, Anglo American South Africa) and Mr Bold Baatar (Chief Executive, Energy and Minerals, Rio Tinto).

Key themes for this year’s conference were sustainability in the resources sector, and the impacts of regulatory changes. Western Australia is considered to have a stable regulatory regime that enables investment, and has well-developed policies to facilitate sustainability in the resources sector.

The Minister undertook a tour of the conference exhibition centre to meet with representatives from Australian service companies and junior explorers and miners who are operating in Africa.

Meeting between COMESA and the Western Australian Government and signing of new Memorandum of Understanding

A meeting of COMESA and the Government of Western Australia Working Group was held during the visit to Cape Town. The meeting was attended by the Secretary General of COMESA, His Excellency Sindiso Ngwenya, and provided an opportunity for the Secretary General and the Minister to follow up from their meeting in Perth during Africa Week 2017.

The meeting achieved a number of significant milestones in the cooperation between Western Australia and COMESA, most significantly being the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with COMESA for a six-year period.

The first MoU between WA and COMESA was signed in 2014 and was due to expire in early 2019, and since Africa Week in Perth in 2017, the Western Australian Government has been working with COMESA on a new MoU to continue to strengthen the inter-governmental collaboration.
The MoU provides a framework for cooperation between Western Australia and COMESA for capacity building in mineral and petroleum resources (and agriculture and agribusiness), as well as the transfer of mining and petroleum (and agriculture and education and training) related services and technologies. The MoU identifies sharing knowledge and expertise in mining and petroleum law and regulations in tenement management systems, state agreements, ownership of minerals royalty regimes, geological survey practices and data, and safety and environmental regulation.

The signing of a new agreement reinforces the value that both WA and COMESA place in the relationship, and is reflective of the potential both parties can see for further collaboration.

A major achievement under the MoU in the last two years is DMIRS’ series of short-term (two-day) in-country policy and capacity building workshops supported by the Australian Government's missions in Africa. These workshops are highly valued by host countries, and strongly supported by COMESA.

A further milestone achieved at the Working Group meeting was the presentation by the Western Australian Government of a reference document for COMESA to use as a resource for policy, capacity and governance enhancement for the resources sector in member African nations. The document, Principles for a Sustainable Resource Sector, covers both the minerals and petroleum sectors. This document provides an overview of the key leading practice principles upon which the regulatory framework for the resources sector in Western Australia has been developed. These principles range from encouraging investment and ensuring the rights of explorers to the resources they find, through to providing a clear and consistent regulatory framework that provides certainty and confidence to both industry and the community. This document has been prepared by DMIRS explicitly under the MoU as a reference for COMESA in its work with member countries.

In addition, the Western Australian Government also presented to COMESA, a business case for resource regulation capacity building as part of Western Australia’s support for COMESA to secure funding for long-term resource regulatory capacity building for member nations. Regulatory capacity building is a key area for support under the MoU, and Western Australia and COMESA have been working on identifying strategies to ensure sustainable regulatory training and support is provided to regulators in member countries. This long-term training will complement the two-day workshops that have been successfully delivered by DMIRS.

The next COMESA and Government of Western Australia Working Group meeting will be held in Perth during Africa Week, where it is expected that His Excellency Sindiso Ngwenya (who is set to finish his term in June) will attend with the new Secretary General of COMESA.

Meeting with the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources (South Africa)

The Minister met with the Chairperson of the South African Parliament’s Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources to discuss progress of the Committee’s work.

In August 2017, the Minister met with representatives of the South African Parliament’s Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources during their visit to Perth.
Meeting with South 32

- The Minister met with the President and Chief Operating Officer in Africa for South 32 and the CME. The meeting included discussion of South 32’s operations in Western Australia as well as Africa.

- Discussion included promoting Western Australia as a centre of service excellence for the resources sector in Africa.

Meeting with Alcoa Corporation

- The Minister met with senior executives of Alcoa Corporation. The meeting covered matters of Alcoa’s operation in Western Australia, and the Minister outlined the importance of the bauxite industry for Western Australia. The meeting also discussed the history of rehabilitation success at Alcoa’s operations in South Western WA.

Meeting with Gold Road Resources

- The Minister met with Gold Road Resources and the CME. The meeting included Gold Road officials providing an update on the company’s operations in Western Australia and southern Africa, and observations of operating in the various jurisdictions.

BDO Annual Mining Indaba Cocktail Function

- The Minister attended the informal function hosted by BDO, which was attended by BDO officials from both the African and Western Australian operations.

- This event allowed the Minister to meet individually with senior officials to discuss mining investment issues across Australia and Africa.

Dinner with Murdoch and Cape Town University Officials

- Murdoch University sponsored this dinner, which was attended by senior scholars from both Murdoch and Cape Town universities.

- Various research projects were discussed, as was a mine closure discussion ahead of Wednesday’s Murdoch mine closure briefing and panel discussion.

TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY

Meeting with the Australia-Africa Minerals & Energy Group (AAMEG) and Australian Government Heads of Mission in Africa

- This meeting was coordinated to bring together senior officials from DFAT, the WA Government and AAMEG who were attending the Africa Mining Indaba. The meeting was attended by:

  o **Australian Heads of Mission**: Her Excellency (H.E.) Alison Chartres (High Commissioner to Kenya), H.E. Jenny Dee (High Commissioner to Mauritius), H.E. Berenice Owen-Jones (Ambassador to Morocco), His Excellency (H.E.) Mark Sawers (Ambassador to Ethiopia), H.E. Andrew Barnes (High Commissioner to Ghana), H.E. Paul Lehmann (High Commissioner to Nigeria), H.E. Adam McCarthy (High Commissioner to South Africa), H.E. Richard Stuchbery (High Commissioner to Zimbabwe), H.E. Grant O’Dea (High Commissioner to Tanzania), H.E. Sandra Wintle (High Commissioner to Botswana), H.E. David Spence (High Commissioner to Zimbabwe), H.E. Andrew Pocock (High Commissioner to Mozambique), H.E. Andrew Mott (High Commissioner to Namibia), H.E. Paul Miller (High Commissioner to South Africa), H.E. Andrew Schapiro (High Commissioner to Zimbabwe), H.E. Grant O’Dea (High Commissioner to Tanzania), H.E. Sandra Wintle (High Commissioner to Botswana), H.E. David Spence (High Commissioner to Zimbabwe), H.E. Andrew Pocock (High Commissioner to Mozambique), H.E. Andrew Mott (High Commissioner to Namibia), H.E. Paul Miller (High Commissioner to South Africa), H.E. Andrew Schapiro (High Commissioner to Zimbabwe).
This meeting included a short presentation by DFAT and AAMEG, followed by a roundtable discussion focused on security, mining policy and regulation, and capacity building initiatives in Africa. The opportunities for METS services into Africa was also discussed; with Africa being the largest market for Australian METS outside of Australia.

**Meeting with delegation of Canadian Government**

- The Minister met with a senior delegation of officials from the Canadian (Federal) Government to discuss matters relating to resource development and regulation in Africa.

- The Minister was briefed on the Canadian Government’s regulatory capacity building programs which it funds in Africa, and also discussed the opportunities for engagement between Canada and Western Australia on such programs.

- The Minister noted the presence of senior officials from Australian State and Federal Governments at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada annual conference in Toronto.

**Meeting with the Hon. Godfrey Oliphant, Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources (South Africa)**

- The Minister met with the Hon. Godfrey Oliphant and discussed the respective prospects for mining development within Australia and South Africa, as well as some of the emerging challenges to responsible resource development. It was generally acknowledged that the investment outlook is broadly improving at the international level.

- The sharing of experiences between both countries was discussed, with the opportunities identified to share Western Australia’s experiences in worker safety, abandoned mine site management and royalty management.

**VIP Lunch for African Mining Ministers hosted by ENSafrica**

- The Minister was invited to deliver a speech to an invitation-only event for African Mining Ministers.

- The Minister used the opportunity to set out Western Australia’s ongoing commitment to the relationship with the African continent. The Minister cited examples of the re-signed MoU with COMESA, and the formal partnerships between Western Australian and African Universities, as demonstration of this commitment in action.

- The Minister also invited all Ministers to attend Perth in August 2018 for the Africa Week event which has continued to grow and support collaboration between business, government and universities.

- The former South African Finance Minister, Pravin Gordhan, gave the keynote address at the event and attendees included Ministers from Angola, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, and Mali, as well as representatives for the Ministers of Kenya, Mali, and Niger.
Meeting with the Hon. Aggrey Masi, Minister for Natural Resources, Energy and Mining (Malawi)

- During a meeting between the Minister and the Hon. Aggrey Masi, the growth of the resources sector in Malawi was discussed, as well as the activities being undertaken by the Malawian Government to attract investment in the resource sector and reform the administration and regulation of this sector.

- The Minister also discussed the opportunity supported by the Australian Ambassador accredited to Malawi for officials from the Western Australian Government to deliver in-country policy and capacity building workshops for a successful and sustainable resources sector in mid-2018.

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Panel Discussion on Australia’s key role in building a successful future for Africa’s mining sector

- Together with other representatives from Australia and Africa, the Minister participated in a Panel Discussion as part of the Mining Indaba program.

- Aside from the Minister, the panel included representatives from the Namibian Ministry of Mines and Energy, the AAMEG and the Victoria Division of the Minerals Council of Australia. It was moderated by a South African mining lawyer, while the Australian High Commissioner to South Africa provided an opening speech.

- The Minister outlined that the Western Australian Government approaches the relationship with Africa as a partnership, with benefits flowing both ways. The sharing of experiences in sustainably developing the resources sector will deliver positives for both Africa and Australia.

- The Minister also promoted the signing of the six-year extension to the MoU with COMESA as a demonstration of the Western Australian Government’s ongoing commitment to the relationship.

Meetings with Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (CME) member companies

- The Minister participated in a series of brief meetings coordinated by CME. Meetings were held with representatives of Allens and Thiess.

- Matters discussed included the different operating environments of resource exploration and development in Africa and Australia, and the business opportunities being pursued by these companies.
Meeting with the Hon. Christopher B. Yaluma, Cabinet Minister, Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development (Republic of Zambia)

- The Minister formally met with the Hon. Chris B. Yaluma and Zambia’s High Commissioner to South Africa, His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Mwamba.

- The Ministers discussed the development opportunities for mineral resources in Zambia, and also discussed the Western Australian Governments signing of the six-year extension to the MoU with COMESA.

- Minister Yaluma had personally opened a two-day regulatory capacity building workshop held by officials from DMIRS in Lusaka in 2016. Minister Yaluma expressed gratitude to the Western Australian Government for supporting these workshops which are valued by the host countries.

Murdoch University business briefing on Mine Closure

- The Minister delivered an opening presentation on applied research activities being undertaken by the Murdoch University in Africa.

- During the presentation, the Minister promoted the expertise of Western Australian researchers, engineers and scientists (both within industry and universities) who have worked in the area of resource sustainability and development. This includes the research institutes within Western Australia, such as the Harry Butler Institute, which was recently launched by Murdoch University and Chevron Australia.

- The Minister also discussed the mining rehabilitation regulation within Western Australia, and the example of the policy and regulatory approach to respond to the concerns of unplanned mine closure and abandonment.

Visit to the University of Cape Town

- The Minister attended the University of Cape Town and met with the Vice Chancellor, Heads of Faculties and senior researchers from the University. For this visit, the Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research Murdoch University and other senior representatives from Murdoch University.

- The University of Cape Town senior officials provided presentations of the research activities that the university is undertaking in mining and metallurgy. This presentation also covered collaborative research programs being developed between Murdoch University and the University of Cape Town.

- The Minister spoke at the presentations and congratulated the University of Cape Town on the research programs and success, and also promoted the expertise of Western Australian research in mining and metallurgy, and encouraged officials to continue to seek opportunities for collaboration.
African Minister's Dinner

- The Minister accepted a dinner invitation arranged for African Mining Ministers attending the Mining Indaba hosted by Hon, Godfrey Oliphant, with the majority of the 36 attending Ministers being present.

- The dinner included discussion between Ministers on matters relating to resource development and investment, ensuring appropriate benefits flow to local communities and national governments, and approaches to supporting skills development and associated businesses along with resource investment.

- The presence of the Western Australian Government at Mining Indaba was positively received by African Ministers, and the Minister also expressed the desire for African Ministers to attend Africa Week in Perth in August 2018.

Australian CEO's Dinner

- The Minister later attended a dinner event of CEOs of Australian exploration and mining companies operating in Africa, hosted by Indiana Resources Ltd. The dinner was attended by Indiana Resources Ltd, Volt Resources Ltd, the AAMEG and Black Rock Mining.

- The dinner enabled discussion on the Mining Indaba conference, the activities of Western Australian companies in Africa, collaborative opportunities between Western Australia and Africa and the regulatory challenges faced in a number of African countries which demonstrated the importance of DMIRS capacity-building workshops.

THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2018

Travel from Cape Town to Perth