The National Resources Statement sets out a blueprint for a collaborative, long-term reform agenda to ensure Australia has the world’s most advanced, innovative and successful resources sector.

The resources sector is integral to Australia’s economy, supporting strong employment and high standards of living. It has underpinned economic growth, supported us through a number of financial downturns, and been a key contributor to Australia recording the world’s longest period of uninterrupted economic growth.

Australia’s resources sector:
- Exports are expected to generate a record $264 billion in 2018–19. Resource commodities make up six of Australia’s top ten goods.
- Paid an estimated $12.1 billion in company tax and $11.2 billion in royalties in 2016–17 by the minerals sector, which supported the development of critical public infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads.
- Employs 255,800 people directly and over 1 million people indirectly when mining services are included.
- Supports rural and regional communities with more than half the sector’s workforce located in rural and regional areas and has the highest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working for it than any other industry.

Global demand for resources is projected to grow at a steady rate over coming decades, driven by growing populations and economic development in emerging economies. Much of this growth will be in the Indo-Pacific region.

By 2030 Asia is expected to produce more than half of global economic output, consume 40 per cent of the world’s energy and have a middle class of almost 3.5 billion people. Increasing global demand for both traditional commodities and emerging minerals will offer new opportunities for growth. By virtue of our geographic location, abundant resources, skilled workforce and strong mining services sector, Australia is well positioned to be a key supplier for the region.

A NATIONAL RESOURCES POLICY FRAMEWORK

**Vision**

To have the world’s most advanced, innovative and successful resources sector which delivers sustained prosperity and social development for all Australians.

**Goals**

- Deliver the most globally attractive and competitive investment destination for resources projects
- Develop new resources, industries and markets
- Invest in new technologies and approaches especially to deliver better environmental outcomes
- Create well paid, secure jobs
- Support communities to ensure they receive benefits from the development of Australian resources

**Principles**

- Australia’s national resources wealth belongs to the Australian people and should be developed for their benefit. In particular, the development of resources should contribute to public revenues and provide business and employment opportunities to remote Australia and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- New policies and regulations should be based on robust science and account for the needs and interests of the broader community, especially the communities where the resources sector operates.
- Foreign investment remains an important vehicle to develop Australia’s resources.
- We must embrace technological change to remain competitive, responsive and improve environmental outcomes.
- Foreign investment remains an important vehicle to develop Australia’s resources.

**Actions**

- Delivering the most globally attractive and competitive investment destination for resources projects
- Open up new industries and resources regions
- Better focus the sector’s innovation and R&D on long-term, sectoral growth
- Develop and retain the world’s best workforce
- Deliver better outcomes for stronger and more engaged communities
The government will support a skilled and inclusive workforce by:
• Working with industry, which is undertaking a skills mapping exercise to determine the sector’s future workforce needs with a view to driving strategies so that curricula delivered by universities and VET providers adapt to meet the longer-term needs of the sector.
• Convening a roundtable with industry and academia to identify opportunities to boost tertiary and VET outcomes for the sector. The COAG Energy Council will work closely with CDAG Skills Ministers to take forward actions identified through this process.
• Working with industry and the states and territories to attract and retain women in the resources workforce, particularly in STEM fields.

The government will promote strengthening communities by:
• Working to improve community trust in the sector starting with a comprehensive evaluation of current community engagement and benefit sharing practises by industry, governments and other bodies to identify best-practice and information gaps. This will inform and guide future actions to secure stronger Australian communities, and we will do this through the COAG Energy Council and with industry.
• Finalising regional deals for Australia, initially focusing on the Barkly region in the Northern Territory. Early consultations about the deal include ways to maximise the local economic opportunities and benefits from any developments that gain community consent, which align with the goals of this statement.
• The Minister for Resources and Northern Australia will work closely with the Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation to support the pilot Barkly Regional Deal, and ensure that lessons from the Barkly are applied to help build supportive communities receiving the benefits of a strong sector in other resource-rich regions.

FUTURE SUCCESS
This statement sets out a blueprint for a more collaborative and long-term reform agenda to create an Australian resources sector for the 21st Century.

Australia has a technologically advanced, forward-looking resources sector. It is well placed to meet the challenges of the future. The vision and actions of this statement are key to attracting and cultivating the best and brightest people, capturing more investment and delivering prosperity to Australians, particularly those in regional communities.

Future success will be measured by whether the goals in this statement are achieved to increase exploration investment and success for new Tier One resources, develop new resources regions and industries in Australia, develop a long-term R&D strategic agenda and data capacity across the sector, develop a knowledge and environmental management economy, and that the reputation of the sector is one of being inclusive, diverse and accepted by communities as socially responsible and safe.