

## AUSTRALIAN MINING TAILINGS COMMUNIQUE

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Australian mining is committed to the safe and responsible management of tailings\* storage facilities during and after mining – ensuring the safety of workers and local communities is our highest priority.

In co-operation with governments, communities and researchers, Australian minerals companies have developed robust, innovative, world-leading practices in health and safety, tailings storage engineering and environmental management.

Tragic incidents around the world over the past decade reinforce the need for ongoing vigilance, review and change. They have also raised legitimate questions about tailings management practices from governments, investors and the community.

Australian companies are committed to playing a role in the global response to develop international guidelines and standards for tailings management by the International Council on Mining and Metals. This contribution should ensure that the global minerals industry rises to the challenge of having the best possible systems, culture and technology, while remaining vigilant and ready to respond quickly and effectively.

Tailings management in Australia is advanced and highly regulated. Yet we must guard against complacency and engage in continuous improvement, including honest and transparent communication and engagement.

Because collaboration is essential, Australian minerals companies are working together to assess tailings management systems and approaches to highlight leading practice and identify areas for sharing and further improvement.

### ACTIONS

The Australian minerals industry will work together to drive the following actions:

- **Communicate and engage** – Communicate and engage with the community including government and other key stakeholders on our approach to tailings management in a transparent manner to build community confidence
- **Leadership, governance and systems** – Assess and identify key elements of corporate leadership, culture, systems and governance to proactively manage tailings risks and share information
- **Share leading practice** – Continue to actively share and promote industry leading practice and lessons learned in Australia and overseas from all industries
- **Build industry expertise** – Identify opportunities to enhance industry capacity in key technical aspects of tailings management
- **Engage internationally** – Offer Australian expertise to help build global initiatives on tailings management including the development of, and alignment to, standards and guidelines.

The MCA will develop a program of work to reflect the above actions by the end of 2019.

*\*Tailings are fine grained solid residues left after minerals and metals have been extracted and are commonly transported as slurry and 'thickened' (to minimise water) prior to storage in tailings storage facilities or dams, either above or below ground.*