

# Media release

## Re-election of Labor Government in NT

Statement from Drew Wagner, Executive Director, MCA NT

The re-election of the Labor Government provides the Northern Territory with a new opportunity to build a strong economy on the back of a bigger mining industry.

The MCA NT congratulates the Hon Michael Gunner MLA and his team on their return for the next four years and looks forward to working with the government on the task of creating jobs, securing investment and making a substantial contribution to the community.

As the NT Reconstruction Commission, established by the government, has noted it is time to accelerate projects with faster approvals, more certainty around policy and investment in skills and training and support for exploration. Mining is ready to lead the economic rebound as the Territory emerges from COVID-19 pandemic.

There have been many reviews on the path forward, now is the time for action. The MCA NT will work with government to develop a policy framework that is consistent and efficient. Work was already under way with government to improve the safety culture and response capabilities of mining and the release of the Code of Conduct for Minerals Explorers will help explorers, investors and communities to operate better together.

Mining operations are actively looking at ways to reduce emissions from their facilities as part of the commitment to Paris Agreement's goal of net zero emissions and support a cooperative, technology-led approach. The Territory has the capacity to develop rare earth elements, lithium and copper deposits which are key inputs to products such as phones, household goods, energy and transport used in everyday living for Territorians.

The minerals industry is keen to contribute to the second stage of environmental reforms and looks forward to a wide-ranging consultation process. The government should also consider restoring cooperation with the Commonwealth on the development of 'single touch' environmental assessments and approvals system.

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