



# Media release

## Australian mining supports jobs and regions in their time of need

### Statement from Tania Constable, Chief Executive Officer

BHP's five-year commitment to fund 3500 new Australian apprenticeship and training positions and spend \$450 million with the mining, equipment, technology and services (METS) sector is a huge boost for regional jobs and skills across Australia.

Along with the existing commitment by the Australian minerals industry to create more than 1000 apprenticeships in partnership with the Australian Government through the Mining Skills Organisation Pilot, this will mean that the industry will create close to 5000 new apprenticeships in the next few years, mostly in regional Australia.

This is great news for communities and young people in the Pilbara, Bowen Basin, Hunter Valley and many other Australian mining regions.

Regional Australian communities need more support as the nation rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic which has hit young Australians and their job prospects hard.

Australia's minerals industry is supporting jobs and regional economies in their time of need.

In particular, the sector has sustained its backing for apprenticeships. The resources sector currently employs 8,836 apprentices and trainees.

And recent National Centre for Vocational Education Research figures show that while apprenticeships across all industries were down 11 per cent, the mining industry only experienced a 1.41 per cent decrease.

The success of Australia's resources sector – including its ability to meet strong export demand – depends on a highly skilled workforce which is qualified and experienced in a range of scientific and environmental fields, professional occupations and trades.

Support for METS companies by BHP over five years will help to ensure a stronger, more efficient and technologically advanced minerals sector.

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