NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA FELLOWSHIPS TO TELL MINING’S AUSTRALIAN STORY

Statement by Brendan Pearson, Chief Executive

The MCA is pleased to announce a new partnership with the National Library of Australia to expound the role of mining in Australia’s national story.

The MCA will fund three National Library of Australia Fellowships to support advanced, original research using the library’s collections which document more than 200 years of mining in Australia.

The Fellowships will be available to academics and independent scholars, policy makers, industry specialists, social researchers, journalists or other professionals. Research may include topics as the social, economic or environmental contribution of mining, public policy, infrastructure, innovation, science and technology, resource or environmental management and sustainability, Indigenous relationships, economic diplomacy, international relations, industry and trade, security, community engagement.

The Fellows and topics of study will be assessed and selected on merit by the Library’s independent Fellowships Advisory Committee.

The MCA support for the National Library of Australia’s fellowship program builds on earlier support for the library’s Harold White Fellowship program under which the Director of the Historical Publications and Research Unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dr David Lee, researched ‘the minerals boom: 1960-2012’.

Dr Lee’s research was first published in 2015 in the MCA monograph Iron country: Unlocking the Pilbara then expanded in the acclaimed history The second rush: Mining and the transformation of Australia published last year.

Dr Lee’s work demonstrates how quality scholarship can elucidate Australia’s economic and social history including the story of mining’s broad national contribution.

Dr Lee commented that the National Library of Australia had a panoply of material on Australian mining history including monographs, mining company publications and annual reports, manuscript collections, oral histories, maps, and newspapers and periodicals.

‘It is a credit to the Minerals Council of Australia and the mining industry generally that scholars and researchers on Australia’s rich mining history will have the support of these fellowships,’ Dr Lee said.


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