



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **State Development**

Quarterly Newsletter

Jul – Sep 2017

## Meet us at International Mining and Machinery Exhibition (IMME)



Avail a chance to meet with WA representatives during the event and know more about the METS and Mining opportunities with WA companies by contacting Bhanu Rahoni (Manager – Trade and Investment) - [Bhanu.rahoni@jtsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:Bhanu.rahoni@jtsi.wa.gov.au) or call +91 22 6630 3973”

## Changes to the public sector in WA

The New Premier has just announced a number of changes to the machinery of government, including a new name and responsibilities for Department of State Development (DSD).

The Premier has announced that WA's 41 government departments and agencies will be cut from 41 down to 25, **effective as of July 1.**

The Department of State Development will become the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation - merging with Tourism WA and taking on the industry promotion and innovation functions of the Department of Commerce.

According to the Public Sector Commission's material:

*"This Department will be focussed on international trade, major industrial developments, tourism and the new economy. It will also assume responsibility for the Office of Science, International Education and Innovation. All of the State's overseas offices and in market promotion will be consolidated and co-ordinated under the leadership of this Department."*

You can view full detail [here](#)

## New WA Economic Profile out now

Strategic Policy's latest WA Economic Profile has just been released, and you can view it via the DSD website. Read on for the main updates.

You can view detailed report [here](#)

## Mining

### Mining and Mining equipment, technology and services

Western Australia's dynamic mining industry, which operates in some of the world's harshest and most remote conditions, relies heavily on the mining equipment, technology and services (METS) sector.

Australia's METS sector generates \$90 billion in gross annual revenue; Western Australia's 350 METS companies – approximately one-third of the total number surveyed nationwide – account for 26 per cent, or around \$23 billion. Western Australia was announced as the world's most attractive mining investment destination in the Fraser Institute's 2015 Survey of Mining Companies.

Read More detail [here](#)

### Lithium supply to fall short

Global demand for lithium is expected to increase by three to four times by 2025 and projected supplies will not keep up, Tianqi Lithium Australia general manager Phil Thick told a Mining Club.

"Over the past two or three months there has been a significant change in sentiment, but more reality, about where the lithium market is headed," Mr Thick said.

"Companies like Macquarie that have been very bearish on lithium have completely changed their position.

### RCT founder wins top Austmine innovation award

The founder of Kewdale-based technology manufacturing business RCT, Bob Muirhead, has been named the Austmine champion of innovation for 2017.

Mr Muirhead is the second person to receive the award from the nation's leading mining equipment, technology and services industry (METS) body – with the announcement made at a Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre event last week. The prestigious award recognises individuals who have pioneered innovation in the mining industry.

## Sodexo solutions make the humdrum high tech

Mundane services such as catering and cleaning are rarely associated with complex technology solutions, yet facilities management company Sodexo is seeking to change that perception.

At its Balcatta operations centre, Sodexo workers huddle around clusters of keyboards and computers, while large screens on the wall monitor the company's service delivery in the Pilbara.

It's similar to the high-tech remote operations centres established by the big iron ore miners in Perth.

## Agriculture

### WA grain industry update- Crop Progress report:

The past few months have seen well below average rainfall across agricultural areas. The seasonal rainfall outlook for June to August 2017 continues a high level of agreement among models for below average rainfall being most likely over most of WA. Assuming the outlook for below average seasonal rainfall unfolds as indicated, crop and pasture performance is likely to be determined by timing of key rainfall events and access to stored soil water.

Most seeding is now finished, the area sown to oats, field peas and lupins increased from 2016 off the back of strong market support. There was a general decrease of intended cropping paddocks due to the lack of rain and projections of a low decile rainfall year. Most of the reduction in plantings has been wheat, as canola and lupin areas were committed earlier in the season.

Compared to last season, wheat planting is estimated to fall about 5 per cent, while canola will be down 3.6 per cent and barley 3 per cent.

Read more detail [here](#)

### Indian mangoes touch down in Australia

Mangoes from India have been exported to Australia for the first time, with the inaugural consignment of around 400 trays landing in Sydney on last week on May. Revised protocols have opened the door for Indian imports, with fruit allowed into Australia as long as it has been treated with irradiation prior to export. Perfection Fresh Australia (PFA) took delivery of the mangoes, all of which were the Kesar variety.

"The first consignment, I've got to say, was a little disappointing," PFA chief executive Michael Simonetta said.

"The fruit had a little bit of blemish on the skin and wasn't as evenly coloured as we expected it to be, so we're in the process now of getting it to colour more evenly and then offer it for sale following that.

"The eating quality is quite nice. It's pleasant to eat.

"The feedback has been okay and the upside for me as a consumer is that it tastes better than the Mexican Keitt [mangoes] that are in the market as well at the moment."

## **Changes to Aussie import conditions**

Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has announced changes to fresh produce import conditions from 30 June 2017.

Fresh grapes from China, **fresh mango from Vietnam and India**, fresh apricots and interspecific stone fruit hybrids from the US, and fresh mushrooms from all countries will also no longer require import permits.

From 30 June, fresh strawberries from the US will now require an import permit prior to the produce being imported into Australia.

The department stressed that all produce imported into Australia will still be required to meet Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions System.

## **WA avocado producer Jasper Farms smashes sale deal**

A deal has been struck for the sale of Australia's biggest avocado farm to an offshore buyer.

It is believed confidential terms were agreed recently on the sale of Neil Delroy's Busselton-based Jasper Farms, subject to the approval of the Foreign Investment Review Board.

The buyer remains unknown, though speculation suggests it is based in North America.

The sale, potentially worth more than \$100 million, comes amid skyrocketing global demand for avocados.

In Australia, where the fruit has become something of a cultural phenomenon, per capita consumption has tripled over the past 10 years to 3.5kg.

Jasper Farms is reportedly Australia's biggest individual grower, producing up to 6000 tonnes of Haas avocados a year. Malaysia and Singapore are Australia's main avocado export markets but the industry is hopeful of gaining access to others, including Thailand. Domestic demand is growing at more than 10 per cent a year.

WA produces about one-third of Australia's avocados.

## **LENTILS CAN BEAT THE HEAT**

Screening of lentil genotypes by a global team, including researchers from The University of Western Australia has revealed some significant traits in lentils that will allow the important grain legume to endure increasing global temperatures.

To find heat tolerant traits and its underlying mechanism, the team from Panjab University, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) - Indian Institute of Pulse Research, Punjab Agricultural University, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and UWA screened several lentil genotypes in the field and controlled environmental conditions.

Read more detail [here](#)

## Education

### **Global university rankings: one Australian university makes the top 20**

One Australian university is among the world's top 20 universities and five are in the top 50, according to a major global ranking that shows Australian universities have made overall improvements in all measures, including teaching, employability and research.

Monash University, with a rank of 60, and the University of Western Australia at 93 round out the seven Australian universities in the top 100.

Read more detail [here](#)

### **Time is ripe for WA to scoop up international students**

The US election of Donald Trump and Britain's decision to exit the European Union together represent a seismic shift in international relations

Australia's position in third place as a destination for international students faces competition from the next countries in line: France, Germany, Japan and Canada.

As a nation we have 6 per cent of the world's international student market. WA has 6 per cent of the international market in Australia.

Read more detail [here](#)

## Oil & Gas

### **Shell's Prelude, the world's biggest vessel, sets sail for WA's North West**

At 488m long, it is the world's biggest vessel, and it's coming to WA's North West Coast.

The world's biggest floating facility and a feat of engineering, Shell's 488m-long Prelude FLNG platform has begun its journey to the North West.

Built by the Technip Samsung Consortium, the facility has the capacity to process and offload about 3.6 million tonnes of LNG and 400,000 tonnes of LPG per year and about 36,000 barrels per day of condensate.

On arrival, Shell said pre-installed mooring chains would be lifted from the seabed and secured to the facility. Then the hook-up and commissioning process would begin.

Prelude will handle the production, liquefaction, storage and transfer of LNG at sea, as well as the processing and exporting of liquefied petroleum gas and condensate.

## Design phase for WA gas project announced

The design competition phase for the Waitsia gas project in the northern Perth Basin has been given the green light.

Starting immediately, the competition for the project facilities will include a gas plant capable of processing 100 TJ/d, carbon dioxide extraction, collection hubs and flow lines.

The four contractors selected for the design competition include Quanta/Suez, ATCO Australia, SNC-LAVALIN, and Clough.

Read More detail [here](#)

## Investment

CEDA released a research report on 27 April 2017 that examines Australia's outbound investment. The report assesses whether Australia has the right institutional setting to support an outbound focus for business, and discuss case studies of successful foreign investments by Australian businesses.

For 200 years Australia has utilised foreign investment to develop its economic potential. However, as a mature economy, and with the end of the mining boom, outbound business investment will play an increasingly important role in the nation's economic growth.

For more detail click [here](#)

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For Enquiries Contact:

**Bhanu Rahoni | Manager – Trade and Investment**

**Government of Western Australia**

Trade and Investment Office

Email: [Bhanu.rahoni@jtsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:Bhanu.rahoni@jtsi.wa.gov.au)

Tel: +91 22 6630 3973

web: [www.watoindia.in](http://www.watoindia.in)

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