



## Don Harwin

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Minister for Resources  
Minister for Energy and Utilities  
Minister for the Arts

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## NSW SUPPORTS MINING JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

The NSW Government has thrown \$16 million behind a national push to unlock new areas for mineral exploration that will help secure jobs in the mining industry.

The funding will go towards operating the \$215 million MinEx Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) project, which has received backing from the Federal Government, 34 companies, most Australian geological surveys, the CSIRO and leading universities.

The MinEx CRC aims to deliver more productive, safer and environmentally friendly drilling methods, introduce new technologies for collecting data while drilling and collect new exploration data on never-before-sampled rocks across the continent.

Minister for Resources Don Harwin said he was proud NSW was supporting such a strong collaboration between industry, researchers, government and the community.

“The minerals industry is critical to the future of Australia and it makes a significant contribution to the NSW economy every year,” Minister Harwin said.

“The MinEx CRC will create new opportunities for the industry to thrive, which will deliver prosperity and jobs in our regional areas.

“Western NSW has a long history of metal production but we need new discoveries to replace our existing mines, as many will exhaust their resources over the next 10 to 15 years. Doing this will ensure we have regional jobs and the metals such as copper, gold, scandium and cobalt that we rely on for our high-tech connected lives.”

Through the Geological Survey of NSW, the NSW Government has committed \$4.4 million, \$6.5 million in data and sufficient funding for two full time staff to work the duration of the 10-year program that is set to commence in July 2018.

Dr Chris Yeats, Executive Director of the Geological Survey of NSW, welcomed the new initiative.

“About three quarters of Australia is covered with young rocks, soil and sand, which has historically been an almost impassable barrier for mineral explorers,” he said.

“The MinEx CRC will develop new technologies and importantly acquire new information that will help unlock the mineral potential of Western NSW, leading to new discoveries that will help support the prosperity of these regional communities.”