

President's Address to the AMMA Annual General Meeting

**Delivered by Mr Richard Owen, President of the AMMA Board of Directors,
at the AMMA Annual General Meeting held on 25 May 2018**

Welcome to the 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Australian Resources and Energy Group AMMA.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of AMMA's foundation, meaning for more than a century this group has delivered support, leadership and engagement for the resources and energy industry and all employers within it.

There is no doubt that as we celebrate this significant milestone Australia's resources and energy employers are experiencing a time of transformative change. Even as our industry continues to do a great deal of heavy lifting for our nation's economy, the sector and those companies who operate it are increasingly demonised, are under constant and considerable criticism, and face ongoing business and economic disruption both domestically and globally.

Yet despite such challenges the resources and energy sector continues to forge ahead as a key driver and pillar of Australia's economy. Our industry now contributes more tax to the Australian community than any other industry – over \$12 billion per annum. This contribution is vital to both the economy and the communities in which we live in. It helps deliver essential social services, education and health and will assist large national building government programs such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

A recent Deloitte report found resources and the mining equipment, technology and services (METS) sector contributed a combined \$236.8bn to Australia's GDP in 2015-16, or about 15 per cent. Resources exports also comprise about 60% of Australia's total \$330bn+ annual export revenues. And as our nation reaps the benefits following decades of investment and major project construction, this great contribution will only increase.

Within this backdrop, the consistent themes among the resources, energy and related supply chain companies that make up AMMA's membership have been resilience, transformation and cautious optimism. Uniting communities and ensuring Australians understand the integral contributions resources and energy employers make to the country's wellbeing has been a key focus for AMMA over the past 12 months.

AMMA's support for members' workforce needs has followed suit. Over the past year AMMA's national team of industry services and workplace consulting staff have assisted members from each and every sub-sector to broaden their talent pools, build their skills capacities and develop and deliver best practice human resources strategies. This includes AMMA's work to support VET and apprenticeship reforms, lead the nation's most effective gender diversity initiative – the Australian Women in Resources Alliance – and deliver leadership and culture training at resources and energy sector worksites.

In the workplace relations area AMMA's policy efforts have advocated and achieved practical legislative and regulatory reforms that our members deem necessary to better support employment growth and investment in the industry. This includes targeted improvements to our national workplace laws, strategic involvement in state industry and workplace-related developments and

advising the federal government of our industry's supplementary skills needs ahead of large changes to skilled migration.

AMMA has also spent considerable time engaging with members to understand what drives membership value in 2017-18 and beyond. A national membership survey was undertaken showing that three quarters of AMMA members access AMMA's Workplace Consulting services. This is an outstanding testimony and strong endorsement of the support members receive from AMMA for workplace strategy, advice and on-site needs. We are proud of the team's commitment to remaining the industry's trusted advisers with expert knowledge, experience and excellent service delivery.

In addition to supporting projects and operations, AMMA is making plans for the future state of Australia's employment system. AMMA's Board Reference Group is focused on transformational legislative reform. Articulating what Australians and Australian businesses need from our national employment system will position the resources and energy industry strongly to advocate for change through the Federal Election period and assist in pointing out opportunities to improve workplace and industry policy settings.

Beyond AMMA's expertise and work in key 'people' areas, addressing the threat of activism, business disruption and protecting the right for our industry to operate is at the forefront of AMMA's efforts. Whether it be politicians, policy makers, industry stakeholders or the media, AMMA is and will continue to amplify the message that these threats to our industry are very real and have a direct impact on businesses ability to support all Australians in generating wealth creation and prosperity.

AMMA celebrates its 2018 Centennial Year at a time when some membership organisations are struggling for relevance due to hyper-connectivity, political concerns and cost pressures. However, AMMA is getting on with the job and remains in an exceptionally strong position to continually improve value and service to members in 2018 and beyond. The AMMA team is honoured to provide support to members and be the conduit of the wonderful community of interest we bring together to engage and collaborate.

On behalf of the AMMA Board, I thank each and every AMMA members for your membership, support and engagement in 2018.

AMMA looks forward to continuing to work closely with our members on their individual operating and workplace needs, and supporting the wider resources and energy sector in delivering national prosperity and creating a brighter future for all Australians.