

Policy priorities
for Victoria's mining
and exploration industry



VICTORIAN
DIVISION

RE DIS COV ER *Victoria*



RE DIS COV ER *Victoria*

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Cover image and this page:  
Fosterville Gold Mine, Agnico Eagle



**James Sorahan**  
Executive Director  
MCA Victorian Division

## Victorian mining An opportunity to grow

From the 1850s gold rush to the current 'second rush' of the 2020s, mining is not just about Victoria's past, it is critical to our future.

Supporting the development of Victoria's minerals industry should be a high priority for government to secure more economically diverse and prosperous regional communities.

A growing minerals industry is good for all Victorians. Minerals projects play an important role in regional development by creating high paying jobs, and supporting a supply chain of innovative small and medium sized businesses.

This decade offers Victoria an opportunity to rediscover mining as a major driver of economic growth, particularly in regional Victoria, as demand for minerals grows and knowledge of Victoria's mineral endowment increases due to record high exploration spending – \$218.5 million in 2021.

Victoria's mining sector has two of the world's highest grade gold mines including Australia's third largest gold mine, and Australia's only antimony mine.

Turning Victoria's minerals endowment into new investment and jobs will create more opportunities in regional Victoria.

Victoria should aim to double the number of mines from six to 12 by the end of the decade. This would attract billions of dollars in investment, create thousands of jobs and establish supply chain opportunities for businesses across the state.

There are a number of potential new projects across the state in mineral sands, and copper and zinc. From the Wimmera to Central Victoria, Ballarat to East Gippsland, numerous exploration projects in gold, mineral sands, rare earth elements, base metals and lithium are underway.

Victorians use the commodities beneath our feet every day in modern technology.

Developing Victoria's mineral sands and lithium deposits will embed Victoria into renewable energy supply chains. These minerals are used in solar panels, wind turbines and batteries, as well as in technologies such as smart phones.

Victorian mines develop start up mining services. Victoria's history in mining and manufacturing makes it a natural hub for the mining equipment, technology and services (METS) sector.

Victorian businesses supply mining operations around the world with Australian mining technology and know-how, and Melbourne is a global mining capital with headquarters of a number of multinational and Australian mining houses.

The Victorian minerals industry strives to operate in a safe, respectful and responsible manner. This means working in partnership to protect Indigenous heritage, conserving the environment, being part of communities and delivering social and economic benefits to support regional prosperity.

All MCA member companies commit to *Enduring Value – the Australian minerals industry framework for sustainable development* to improve environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance.

MCA member companies are also preparing to adopt the Towards Sustainable Mining system which will provide greater accountability and transparency on sustainability performance.

It's time for Victoria to rediscover mining. This document outlines the policy priorities for a strong and sustainable minerals sector in Victoria to contribute to regional development.

**James Sorahan**  
Executive Director  
MCA Victorian Division



# Victorian mining *Snapshot*

**\$1 billion**

## ECONOMIC BENEFIT

Total economic contribution to the Victorian economy in 2020-21.

MCA Economic Contribution Survey

**\$510.1m**

## DIRECT SPENDING

Direct mining industry spending to the Victorian economy in 2020-21.

MCA Economic Contribution Survey

**\$151.9m**

## WAGES & SALARIES

Total wages and salaries paid to Victoria's minerals industry workers in 2020-21.

MCA Economic Contribution Survey

**>1700**

## LOCAL BUSINESSES

Supported by \$310 million in industry purchases of goods and services.

MCA Economic Contribution Survey

**\$2.8m**

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mining industry contributions to community groups across regional Victoria.

MCA Economic Contribution Survey

**0.24%**

## MINING LICENSES

Land covered by active or inactive mining licenses in Victoria.

Victorian Government

**\$140m**

## ROYALTIES

Royalties paid by Victoria's minerals sector in 2020-21.

Victorian Government

**\$218.5m**

## EXPLORATION SPENDING

Exploration expenditure in 2021 – a 621 per cent increase since 2016.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

**58%**

## MINING EXPENDITURE

More than half of Victorian mining expenditure stays in Victoria.

MCA Economic Contribution Survey

**\$814.4m**

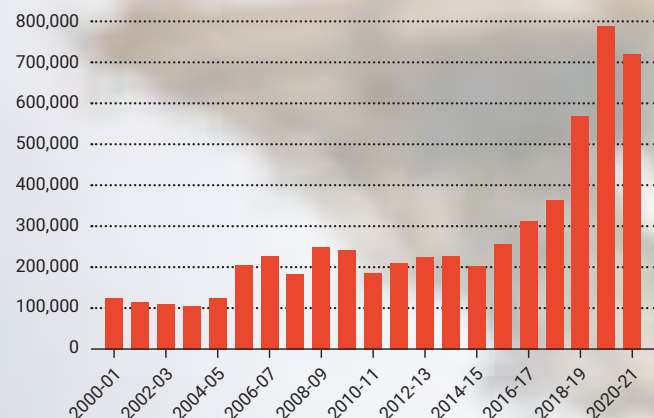
## REHABILITATION BONDS

Value of rehabilitation bonds held by Earth Resources Regulation in 2020-21.

Victorian Government

## Gold production in Victoria

Toz, Financial year



Source: Earth Resources Regulation

Image: Fosterville Gold Mine, Agnico Eagle



\$1.8b**GOLD PRODUCTION**

Total value of gold production from Victoria's gold miners in 2020-21.

Victorian Government

181%

**PRODUCTION ▲**

Increase in gold production in Victoria between 2015-16 and 2020-21.

Victorian Government

Top 10

**HIGH GRADE MINES**

Two of Victoria's gold mines are top 10 highest grade gold mines in the world.

Mining.com

## Policy priorities

### Positioning Victoria for minerals investment

Predictable and competitive policy and regulatory settings are required to ensure Victoria benefits from its diverse range of minerals into the future.

Record exploration investment must be able to be converted into new mines where clear and consistent environmental, social and safety requirements are met.

Investors require clarity on approval processes and timeframes and certainty that meeting or exceeding environmental, safety and social requirements should lead to a project being developed.

As a highly regulated and global industry, efficient government policy and regulation is critical to ensure the minerals industry can maximise its contribution to regional development in Victoria. Mining is heavily regulated from licences to explore or mine through to mine closure. Delays in approvals and additional or changing regulation has a significant impact on jobs and investment.

#### Top policy priorities

1. Strategic minerals project facilitation to support efficient government approvals and see projects through all the stages of assessment and approval
2. Reform the exploration licensing regime to bring Victoria into line with other states with longer licence terms and less early land relinquishments
3. Reform the gold royalty regime to bring the effective rate into line with other states and ensure it is tailored to Victoria's geology
4. Re-introduce a co-funded exploration grant program
5. Support regionally delivered mining-related courses to provide pathways into mining

A clearer focus on mining as a priority industry is required to seize the opportunities Victoria's minerals endowment offers the state.

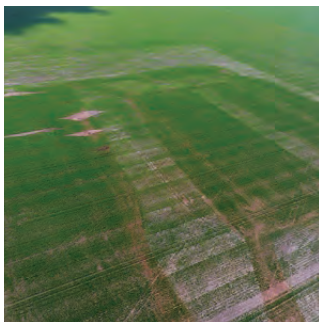
Dedicated facilitation is required within departments to support efficient approvals and see projects through all the stages of assessment and approval. Strategic project facilitation provides certainty of process and reduces project delays. For communities, it supports the creation of new jobs and investment and enables consideration of projects within broader strategic regional development processes.

Project facilitation would also provide opportunities for better coordination across state government departments. This would help bring forward investment and support regional development where projects meet all environmental and social criteria.

In particular, facilitation of more complex projects requires government to implement policies to support the development of downstream processing. Opportunities to accelerate technological innovation in Victoria's large mining and mining equipment, technology and services industry that reduces the environmental footprint of minerals processing through less waste and lower energy use should be encouraged through grants and approvals support.

There are a number of opportunities to enhance and modernise Victoria's legislative and regulatory framework to improve approvals timeframes. Additional grants programs and investment in geoscience are needed to promote exploration for new minerals discoveries.

More support in skills development in regional Victoria through tailored TAFE entry level courses is required to provide pathways into the sector for secondary and tertiary students in regional areas. A well-funded department and regulator is also critical to ensure regional communities benefit from the development of Victoria's resources.



### First harvest for WIM Resource

WIM Resource and local landholders successfully harvested the first crop of barley from its rehabilitated Avonbank test pit site. WIM Resource, advancing its heavy mineral sands project in the Wimmera, managed the rapid rehabilitation within two years of mining, demonstrating that mining can and does co-exist with farming and other industries in regional Victoria.

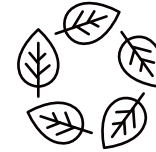
### LANDFORM RESTORATION



### Natural landform restoration in Central Victoria

An inactive open pit at Fosterville Gold Mine has been returned to box-ironbark forest using plant species consistent with the surrounding forest. Agnico Eagle's Rehe's Pit was backfilled and planted with 3 kg of native seed collected from the area by local contractors and Traditional Owners the Dja Dja Wurrung.





# Environmental responsibility

The Victorian minerals industry is committed to upholding high standards of environmental protection and supports efficient and effective risk based environmental regulation.

Government regulation should allow the development of projects that are safe, profitable, technically appropriate and environmentally and socially responsible. Statutory timeframes and clear rules and guidance are required to ensure efficient processes.

Member companies are committed to best practice environmental performance. All MCA members commit to *Enduring Value – The Australian minerals industry framework for sustainable development* to improve ESG performance and MCA member companies are adopting the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) system.



## Towards Sustainable Mining

TSM is the mining industry's commitment to build trust with regional communities, including First Nations communities, through better measurement, transparency and accountability on sustainable performance.

TSM will assist MCA members to improve and demonstrate site level performance and reporting across communities and people, environmental stewardship and climate change.

## Policy priorities

- Victorian Government to enter into bilateral approvals to remove state and federal duplication that imposes costs and delays for no environmental benefit
- Regulators must keep to statutory timeframes for approvals of licences and developments
- Modernise rehabilitation bonds by introducing a wider range of financial instruments to pay for rehabilitation bonds and recognise progressive rehabilitation.

## ENERGY EFFICIENT



## More sustainable gold processing at Fosterville

Fosterville Gold Mine is one of only a handful of mines in the world that use the innovative bacterial oxidation (BIOX) process in gold processing.

The process involves bacteria 'feeding' on sulphide ores to liberate gold particles and uses less energy and chemicals than conventional gold processing.

# Minerals sands



Minerals sands mines produce titanium and monazite. Titanium's density is very similar to human bone making it essential for use in surgical implants, such as hip balls, joint replacements, heart stents and dental implants. Monazite contains rare earth elements that are used in medical technology such as MRI machines.

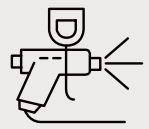
## Common uses



Medical implants



MRI scans



Car paint



### Mine safety the core focus

Every year mine rescue teams come together to train to keep mine sites safe. The MCA Victorian Mine Rescue Competition helps teams hone their skills responding to simulated mine rescues, working alongside emergency services including Victoria Police, Country Fire Authority and Ambulance Victoria.

### Annual Safety Forum

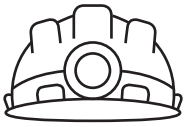
Bendigo · 🌐



### Mine safety representatives share knowledge across sites

MCA Victoria's Safety & Health Working Group is committed to promoting best practice and improving safety in our industry. The Annual Safety Representatives meeting is a critical part of our efforts, along with the annual MCA Victorian Mine Rescue Competition training.





# Health and safety

A safe, healthy and respectful workplace is the industry's most important goal. Everyone who goes to work in the industry should return home safe and healthy.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry mobilised to ensure the highest health and hygiene standards at operations and with host communities.

The industry has also explicitly committed to eliminate sexual harassment in workplaces and has adopted a National Industry Code on eliminating sexual harassment.

Health and safety requires vigilance and continuous improvement where all parties work together to build a culture of safety based on trust and respect, and backed by robust regulation.

## Policy priorities

- Progress uniform national occupational health and safety legislation, supported by industry-specific and risk-based regulation, to bring greater certainty, efficiency and clarity to industry participants
- Support a culture of continuous improvement where all parties work together in support of a safety culture based on trust and respect
- Expand the focus on mental health and wellbeing of workers, families and communities.



## MENTAL HEALTH



### Supporting mental health with MATES in Mining

MATES in Mining is a suicide prevention program that works with employees on mine sites providing general awareness and crisis training. The MCA, as well as member companies including Agnico Eagle, are industry partners.

The mining industry also developed a smartphone app, MineWell, to help miners and their families build better mental health and resilience.

## FIRST AID TRAINING



### First aid courses for local community groups

Stawell Gold Mines funds first aid courses for local community organisations. Community groups have requirements to ensure first aid trained persons are present during events. As well as providing first aid training for community volunteers and employees, the mine runs public courses with registered trainers.

# Copper



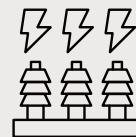
Computers, EVs and energy systems depend on copper to generate and distribute electricity. Copper is also critical for the global transition to a low carbon economy, with demand for refined copper expected to grow by 32 per cent to 2030. Victoria has advanced projects in copper, including the Stockman copper and zinc project in East Gippsland.

Source: MCA Commodity Insights

## Common uses



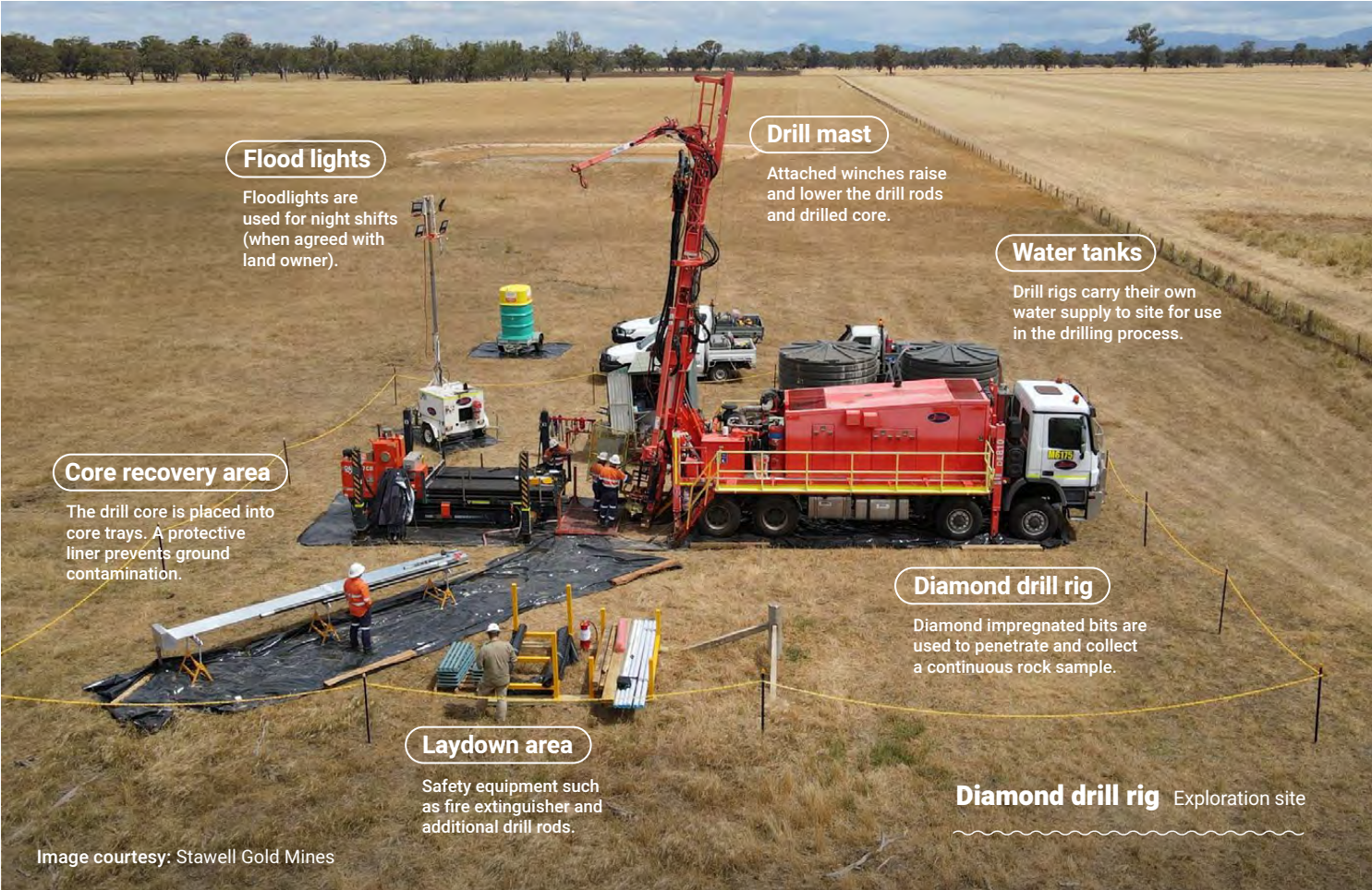
Computers



Electricity grid



Electric vehicles



**Flood lights**

Floodlights are used for night shifts (when agreed with land owner).

**Drill mast**

Attached winches raise and lower the drill rods and drilled core.

**Water tanks**

Drill rigs carry their own water supply to site for use in the drilling process.

**Core recovery area**

The drill core is placed into core trays. A protective liner prevents ground contamination.

**Laydown area**

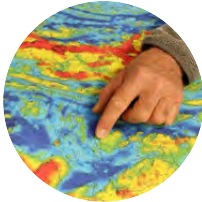
Safety equipment such as fire extinguisher and additional drill rods.

**Diamond drill rig**

Diamond impregnated bits are used to penetrate and collect a continuous rock sample.

**Diamond drill rig** Exploration site

**Stages of exploration** Exploration involves low impact scientific methods and only sometimes leads to drilling.



**STAGE 1**  
**Area selection**

- Review of geological data
- Area visit
- Rock-chip sampling



**STAGE 2**  
**Target identification**

- Geological mapping
- Geophysical surveys
- Geochemical surveys



**STAGE 3**  
**Target testing**

- Drilling
- Further geophysics and/or geochemistry
- 3D modelling



**STAGE 4**  
**Resource delineation**

- Intensive drilling
- Metallurgical testing
- Bench-top processing trials





# Minerals exploration

Maximising opportunities to explore for new mineral discoveries will underpin future success of the Victorian minerals industry.

Government has worked to better understand Victoria's geology and potential mineral resources through the TARGET drilling program but more action is needed.

Geoscience policies are critical to encourage exploration for strategically important minerals such as rare earth elements and copper, and encourage exploration in currently underexplored areas of the state.

Victoria's licencing framework is overdue for reform. The current framework has several issues affecting certainty of tenure including unrealistic timelines for land relinquishment. MCA Victoria is supporting landowners and communities with information on exploration and landowner rights and responsibilities relating to land access.

## Policy priorities

- Reform the licencing regime to introduce longer exploration licences and reduce land relinquishment requirements
- Introduce a co-funded drilling and exploration grant program to support exploration including targeted grants for tech minerals
- Provide certain, timely and transparent rules for exploration activity and licence applications through strong funding of Earth Resources Regulation (ERR).



# 75 MoZ

## ESTIMATED GOLD

There is almost as much gold in Victoria as has been extracted since the gold rush.

Geoscience Victoria

# 621%

## EXPLORATION ▲

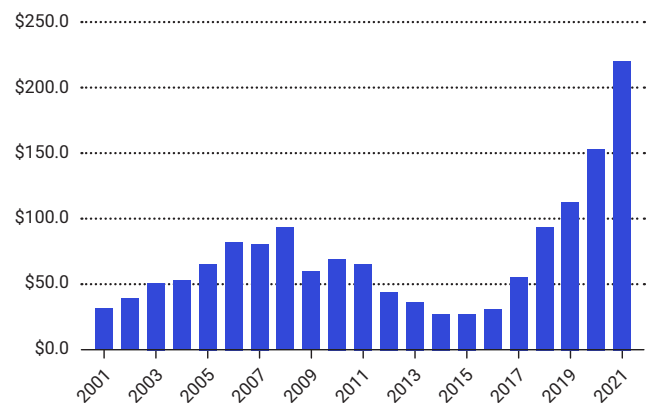
Increase in exploration expenditure between 2016 to 2021.

Australian Bureau of Statistics



## Exploration expenditure in Victoria

\$A, million



Source: Earth Resources Regulation

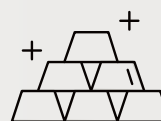
# Gold



Victoria is a world leading gold province, producing 32 per cent of all the gold ever mined in Australia and almost 2 per cent of all gold mined globally. Victorian gold is used in the smart phones and electronic devices that we use everyday, as well as the gold bullion stored and traded by world banks as a critical wealth asset.

Source: Earth Resources Victoria

## Common uses



Investment



Medical devices



Jewellery

# Operating mines and advanced projects



## Operating mines

- Ballarat Mine** ————— ● ————— 1  
Golden Point Group
- Fosterville Gold Mine** ————— ● —●——— 2  
Agnico Eagle Mines
- Costerfield Operations** ————— ● —●——— 3  
Mandalay Resources
- Stawell Gold Mine** ————— ● ————— 4  
Stawell Gold Mines
- A1 Gold Mine** ————— ● ————— 5  
Kaiser Reef
- Woods Point Gold Project** ————— ● ————— 6  
White Rock Minerals

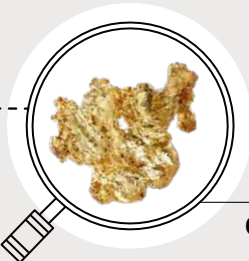


## Advanced projects

- Donald Mineral Sands** ————— ● ————— 7  
Astron Corporation
- Fingerboards** ————— ● ————— 8  
Kalbar Operations
- Avonbank** ————— ● ————— 9  
WIM Resource
- Stockman** ————— ● ● ————— 10
- WIM 150** ————— ● ————— 11  
Murray Zircon
- Goschen** ————— ● ————— 12  
VHM
- Stavely** ————— ● ————— 13  
Stavely Minerals



## Exploration



Gippsland  
Central Victoria  
Western Victoria  
North East Victoria

**Gold exploration**



East Gippsland  
Western Victoria

**Mineral sands exploration**

## Commodities

- Gold
- Silver
- Antimony
- Mineral sands
- Copper
- Zinc



Mining creates two additional jobs in supply chains for every direct job.

Reserve Bank of Australia

Operating mines



**Fosterville Gold Mine**  
Agnico Eagle

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Commodity | Gold |
| Jobs      | 860  |

Fosterville is a high-grade underground gold mine located 20km from Bendigo. It was Australia's third biggest gold mine by ounces produced in 2021.



**Stawell Gold Mine**  
Stawell Gold mines

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Commodity | Gold |
| Jobs      | 275  |

Stawell Gold Mines has operated since 1981. It hosts the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory which is set to be the epicentre of dark matter research in Australia.



**Costerfield Operations**  
Mandalay Resources

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Commodity | Gold, Antimony |
| Jobs      | 230            |

Costerfield is located 10 km northeast of Heathcote. It was in the top 10 highest grade gold mines in the world in 2021 and is Australia's only antimony mine.



**Ballarat Mine**  
Golden Point Group

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Commodity | Gold |
| Jobs      | 210  |

Ballarat Gold Mine is an underground mine operating at depth beneath the regional city of Ballarat. Ballarat is the closest gold mine to Melbourne.



**A1 Gold Mine**  
Kaiser Reef

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Commodity | Gold |
| Jobs      | 79   |

The A1 Gold Mine located 23km from Jamieson has been running since 1861. It has produced a total 620,000 oz of gold at an historic grade of 25 g/t.



**Woods Point Gold Project**  
White Rock Minerals

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Commodity | Gold |
| Jobs      | 24   |

The centrepiece of the Woods Point Gold Project is the high grade Morning Star gold mine 120km east of Melbourne, which historically produced 883,000 oz of gold.



Gippsland  
Western Victoria  
North East Victoria

Base metals  
exploration



North East Victoria  
Lithium

Future projects could see mines and mining jobs double in Victoria.

There's more to  
**Victorian  
Mining**

# RE DIS COVER *Victoria*



Iron



Aluminium



Copper



Flemington Racecourse



Docklands Studio



Copper



Lanthanum



Silicon



280 km West

Macarthur Wind Farm



Iron



Carbon



Copper



Nickel



Aluminium



Zinc



70 km South-West

Carbon Fibre Plant, Geelong



Carbon



Copper



Aluminium



## ➔ The Melbourne Cup

The 2021 Melbourne Cup was made from gold mined at Agnico Eagle's Fosterville Mine. The three handled 18-carat Cup, which contained 1.65 kg of gold, required the collective efforts of gold miners, chemists, refiners, spinners and goldsmiths.

# Mining makes modern life possible.



|                              |                             |                             |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 13<br><b>Al</b><br>Aluminium | 21<br><b>Sc</b><br>Scandium | 22<br><b>Ti</b><br>Titanium | 51<br><b>Sb</b><br>Antimony |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|



**Melbourne Airport**



220 km North



**Numurkah Solar Farm**

|                            |                           |                             |                           |                              |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 14<br><b>Si</b><br>Silicon | 29<br><b>Cu</b><br>Copper | 73<br><b>Ta</b><br>Tantalum | 47<br><b>Ag</b><br>Silver | 13<br><b>Al</b><br>Aluminium |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|



**Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre**

8 km North



**Yarra Bend 'Tesla Town'**

|                           |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3<br><b>Li</b><br>Lithium | 27<br><b>Co</b><br>Cobalt | 28<br><b>Ni</b><br>Nickel |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|



**Flinders Street Station**

|                         |                              |                           |                               |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 26<br><b>Fe</b><br>Iron | 25<br><b>Mn</b><br>Manganese | 28<br><b>Ni</b><br>Nickel | 42<br><b>Mo</b><br>Molybdenum |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|

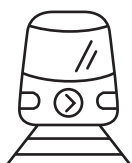


**Melbourne Cricket Ground**

|                            |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 26<br><b>Fe</b><br>Iron    | 30<br><b>Zn</b><br>Zinc    | 29<br><b>Cu</b><br>Copper |
| 14<br><b>Si</b><br>Silicon | 74<br><b>W</b><br>Tungsten |                           |



## ➤ Melbourne's trams



Melbourne's trams and trains require gold for electronics, copper for internal circuits and steel for overhead power cables, as well as other minerals produced across Australia. Melbourne has the world's largest tram network – all powered by green energy.



## ➤ Clean energy future

Victoria's significant rare earth deposits can play an important future role in the energy transition underway globally, powering offshore wind turbines and EVs. Victoria has an opportunity to embed itself into global renewable energy supply chains.



### School mine site tours

MCA Victoria's mining careers immersion program gives secondary school students the chance to visit a mining operation and learn about career pathways. Secondary colleges across regional Victoria have been quick to sign up for the program, visiting mine sites including Stawell, Fosterville and Costerfield.

### SKILLS & TRAINING



### Investing in the future at Stawell Gold Mine

Four VCAL students receive on-the-job practical training, education and guidance from experienced mining professionals through Stawell Gold Mines' apprenticeship program with Stawell Secondary College. The students work at the mine two days each week across fixed plant maintenance, electrical, environmental monitoring and diesel fitting.

**"It was an eye opener for our students as many do not realise what range of careers the gold mine offers, literally at our back door!"**

**TEACHER**  
Stawell Secondary College



# Skills and training



Victoria needs to prepare for the current and future mining workforce. There is a lack of tailored courses in regional areas for young Victorians and other workers looking to reskill into mining and exploration jobs.

MCA Victoria is developing pathways into the sector for secondary and tertiary students including the development of a pathways course in regional Victoria with the Victorian Skills Authority.

Regionally delivered courses in drilling operations, field technician work and pathway courses are the next step to build on the industry's work through the MCA to promote careers awareness through school tours to mines, and support science teachers in earth sciences through the Teacher Earth Science Education Program.

MCA Victoria seeks to work with government on industry-led career awareness and education programs to help ensure young Victorians can benefit from jobs and training in the sector and Victoria's education system aligns to job needs in the regions.

## Policy priorities

- Support the introduction of regionally delivered entry level TAFE courses to provide pathways into the growing exploration and mining industry
- Partner with MCA Victoria to promote and prepare secondary and tertiary students for careers and pathways into the sector
- Encourage STEM in schools including environmental science, to inspire the uptake of tertiary education pathways in science based industries.



**Victorian mining has a high-skill, high-wage workforce that needs quality and responsive education and training in regional areas.**

## INDUSTRY PARTNERS



### Real-world experience for next generation of geologists

Outback Goldfields in Ballarat employs first year Federation University geology students as field assistants. This equips geology students with on-the-ground experience, as well as valuable contacts in the industry. It is one of many partnerships that exist between the mining industry and education providers across Victoria.



## Rare earth elements

The transition to a carbon neutral economy will increase demand for Victoria's rare earths deposits and embed Victoria into global renewable energy supply chains. Rare earth elements are used to make permanent magnets in offshore wind turbines as well as EVs. Lithium, a battery mineral, is also being explored for in Victoria.

### Common uses



5G network



Medical imaging



Speakers



Victorian Minister for Resources the Hon Jaala Pulford MP (centre) with the 2022 Victorian Women in Resources Award winners at the Art Gallery of Ballarat.



## Recognising women in mining

The Victorian Women in Resources Awards recognise and promote diversity across Victoria's minerals industry. The annual awards celebrate women across six categories including Exceptional Woman in Resources, Exceptional Young Woman in Resources, Gender Diversity Champion and a Diversity Program Award.

## Bendigo Careers Expo

📍 Bendigo • 🌐



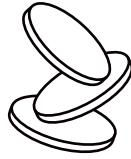
## Career expos showcase diverse mining careers

Victoria's minerals industry attends career expos across regional Victoria to discuss the diverse range of jobs in mining and training pathways for young people to inspire the next generation of geologists, engineers and trades. WIM Resource is the proud major sponsor of the Western Victoria Careers Expo in 2022.

**"I can see a shift in the industry and women becoming more willing to try out jobs in mining. It has been like a second family."**

**CLAUDIA BOWMAN**  
Exploration Geologist  
Agnico Eagle

# Taxes and royalties



Victoria's minerals industry contributed \$137.7 million in minerals specific license fees, land rents and royalties to the Victorian Government in 2020-21 including \$48.2 million in new gold royalties in 2020-21.

Victoria's gold royalty should be designed for Victoria's unique geology of narrow vein gold which is unpredictable and harder to find and estimate reserves. This imposes unique costs and challenges on gold mines that the flat 2.75 per cent gold royalty does not recognise. Victoria's royalty is higher than Western Australia's royalty - the biggest gold mining state.

The combination of user pays charges, special land rents applying to explorers and miners, and royalties need to be taken into account together and not increased in ad hoc fashion with limited analysis of the impacts on investment or marginal mines.

## Policy priorities

- Reform the Victorian gold royalty by introducing an exploration deduction to remove distortions against exploration and investment
- Re-invest revenue raised from mining royalties into infrastructure and community partnerships in regional Victoria
- Recognise that raising taxes and charges without proper consultation and analysis risks investment and jobs.



### GOLD ROYALTY



### Gold royalty out of step with other jurisdictions

The impact of Victoria's gold royalty is more damaging than royalty regimes in other states, according to economists, Evaluate.

New South Wales' 4 per cent headline rate includes deductions that Victoria does not offer, which means the percentage of net revenue paid in royalties is considerably higher in Victorian gold mines relative to those in WA and NSW.



## 2.75%

### ROYALTY RATE

The gold royalty rate in Victoria is higher than in Western Australia.



## Taxes ▲

### NEW TAXES

Since 2015, Victoria has increased coal royalties and imposed a new gold royalty.



## 7<sup>th</sup>

### WORST TAX REGIME

Victoria ranks as the worst state in Australia on taxation regimes for mining.

Fraser Institute

# Antimony

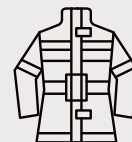


Antimony is used as a flame retardant in protective fire fighting gear, as well as smoke alarms. Victoria is the fourth largest producer of antimony in the world. Mandalay's Costerfield mine in Central Victoria is Australia's only antimony mine. Antimony can also be used in batteries, coverings for cables and in solar panels.

### Common uses



Batteries



Flame retardant



Fireworks

## Community partnerships strengthen ties at Fosterville

Agnico Eagle Australia's Community Partnership Program is supporting diverse community projects in Central Victoria with more than \$15 million allocated in funding.

Support is being provided for the disadvantaged, education and training, social health and wellbeing, diversity and inclusion, environment and biodiversity and economic development. Partnerships include Haven Home Safe; Bendigo Foodshare; Bendigo Tech School – Girls in STEAM; Bendigo Stadium; North Central Local Learning and Employment Network; Bendigo Health; Centre for Non-Violence; North Central CMA; Dja Dja Wurrung; Anglicare Victoria; Red Dust; Be.Bendigo; Impact Recovery; headspace Bendigo and Axedale Camp Getaway.

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“We are proud to support such a breadth of organisations in Bendigo and Central Victoria to assist with post COVID-19 recovery and building a positive legacy for the community.”

ION HANN

Vice President of
Australian Operations
Agnico Eagle



2022 Castlemaine Gift

📍 Castlemaine • 🌐



Supporting leadership and traditions in mining towns

MCA Victoria supports community events in regional Victoria. In 2022, it sponsored the Castlemaine Gift, a goldfields tradition.

MCA Victoria also supports the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program and Wimmera Leadership Programs to develop leadership capability and community partnerships in the regions.





Supporting regional communities

Mining strengthens regional communities by contributing to diverse and resilient local economies. The industry strives to be a safe, responsible and respectful partner, and has a strong track record supporting community groups and activities that enrich cultural and social life.

Aboriginal partnerships are important to the industry. In pursuing relationships, the industry aims to show respect for the cultures, aspirations and histories of each Aboriginal community. This includes working together to support cultural heritage protection.

Mining industry partnerships provide more than financial and in-kind support: they are initiatives that make a real, positive difference to the lives of people, families and communities.

Our commitment

- Proactive and ongoing engagement to build strong relationships based on respect and understanding
- Partnering to support cultural, social, environmental and economic priorities in host communities
- Showing respect for Aboriginal cultures, histories and aspirations
- Working with governments and communities to support long-term outcomes from minerals investment.

MINING REGIONS



Big economic benefits for regional towns

Greater Bendigo enjoyed the most direct expenditure of any local government area as the location of two of Victoria's mines.

Central Victorian businesses benefited from \$50 million in purchases of goods and services and \$2.3 million in community contributions. In Western Victoria, 445 local business benefited from \$89.3 million in purchases of goods and services, with mines located in Ballarat and Stawell.

ACROSS VICTORIA



Mines boost state economy through jobs and spending

Victoria's mines pumped \$510 million into the state economy in 2020-21 by supporting high wage regional jobs and spending at local businesses.

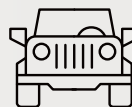
Mining paid \$152 million in wages and salaries and spent \$310 million on goods and services from over 1700 Victorian businesses - sourcing more than half their total supplies locally.

Zinc



Zinc is used primarily to galvanise steel – a process that applies a protective zinc coating to prevent rust. In Victoria, zinc mineralisation exists in most gold-sulphide and lead-silver deposits. Global demand for zinc is estimated to grow by 12 per cent by 2030. New zinc mines are needed to sustain world demand.

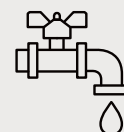
Common uses



Vehicles



Farm machinery



Water pipes



Making vibrant regional communities a priority

Mandalay Resources' Costerfield Mine is a philanthropy partner for the Heathcote Dementia Alliance to facilitate local community projects including contributing to the design and construction of a dementia friendly display unit.

The company has also supported a STEM program for girls from local primary schools to take part in a program at the Discovery Centre Bendigo, and has provided ongoing support to Heathcote Health and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

CONSERVATION



Navarre teams up with Project Platypus

Navarre Minerals has partnered with Project Platypus to protect local flora and fauna and safeguard soil and water around its gold exploration activities.

Navarre's first \$15,000 instalment to the not-for-profit conservation group will support biodiversity and the planting of over 6000 trees in the Great Western and St Arnaud areas. In the future, Navarre and Project Platypus hope to work with local students to demonstrate how exploration and conservation activities can co-exist.

BUSH NURSING



Catalyst Metals supports bush nursing centre

Catalyst Metals understands the importance of supporting health services in the regional communities within which it operates. In 2020, Catalyst donated \$100,000 to Loddon health service, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre, for a remote area nurse.

Catalyst Metals, a minerals exploration company with projects around Bendigo, also provided funding for an upgrade to a vehicle used by Ambulance Victoria's Pyramid Hill and District Community Emergency Response team.

LAND RESTORATION



WIM Resource partners with agribusiness students

WIM Resource is working in partnership with Longerenong Agricultural College's Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness Management students. The program, now in its second year, allows students to conduct a research project involving Avonbank's rehabilitated test pit site.

Students monitor and evaluate the crop and associated soil health, from planting to harvest. WIM provides direct support and resources for the project team, as well as professional guidance and mentoring.

RE DIS COV ER *Victoria*

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VICTORIAN
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