

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2020**

### **ELECTRICS TO DRIVE ZERO EMISSION MINES**

Heightened social pressure and a need for economically efficient mining practices will see Australia's mining industry shift towards a future of automation, electrification and the ultimate goal of zero emissions on site.

According to the *State of Play: Electrification* report, released today, the majority (89%) of the globe's leading mining executives expect mine sites across the world to electrify within the next 20 years.

Electrification is a game changer for the mining industry as it allows the complete removal of diesel from mines and, when combined with renewable energy, results in a decarbonised mine site.

Australia's leading mining companies such as Rio Tinto, BHP, South 32 and Oz Minerals – along with global tech giant Tesla and more – gave input into the report which uncovered that the need to shift to low footprint, electric mines is being driven by economic, environmental and health related opportunities.

More specifically, nearly 79% of mining executives believe there will be a health-related industry class action in the next 15 years and 91% expect the shift to electrics will create new business opportunities.

It's these perceived health risks - if nothing changes - and economic benefits that State of Play co-founder and chairman, Graeme Stanway, says is driving the industry to take a close look at current practices and think how can we do this better?

“Electric equipment will allow for a shift from the typical underground mine sites we see today in Australia with many pieces of heavy equipment, powered by diesel, operating underground in confined spaces alongside teams of people, towards a clean future of mining, not seen before.

“A future where machinery is safe, automated and battery powered. This would effectively cut out two of the biggest issues in mining: carbon impact and particulate exposure and result in zero carbon emission mines.”

Stanway says while the industry as a whole understands these benefits, when it comes to individually implementing them as an organisation, cost becomes a key hurdle.

“Our data shows renewables, all electric systems and batteries will help fuel the change towards a healthier, economically viable future of mining, but uncertainty remains when it comes to to which area to invest in first, and how.”

He says the industry should focus on collaborating to overcome cost barriers and uncertainty in technology choices that may be beyond the capacity of individual companies. And, while the mass adoption of electrification technology has so far been low, key players such as Independence Group, Gold Fields, South32, OZ Minerals and Barmenco are joining forces to accelerate achieving the goal of zero emissions mines.

METS Ignited CEO, Adrian Beer, is part of this collaboration and says Australian mining companies have a huge advantage compared to their global counterparts when it comes to alternative energy sources.

“Here in Australia we have an abundance of renewables that the industry is tapping into, particularly in our most remote operations. Local mine sites have the opportunity to install solar and wind, and battery energy storage systems to power their operations at a much cheaper cost than many global players.”

He added: “For the country to fully realise the opportunity of zero emissions mines we also need to be able to effectively implement these technologies. We need to modernise our regulatory framework, and consider what skills our sector will need, across the entire range of the workforce, from trades and technicians, university graduates, through to our scientists and PhD’s.”

To download the *State of Play: Electrification* report, please follow this [link](#).

For more information, contact Xavier Evans at [xavier@stateofplay.org](mailto:xavier@stateofplay.org)

## ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

### The Future Battery Industries - Cooperative Research Centre

The Future Battery Industries Cooperative Research Centre is enabling the growth of battery industries to power Australia's future. We bring together industry, researchers, governments and the community to ensure Australia plays a leading role in the global battery revolution.

Jacques Eksteen, Chief Operating Officer

[www.fbicrc.com.au](http://www.fbicrc.com.au)

*"The FBICRC offers a unique platform to enable this collaboration with some 60 industry, government and research partners across the whole battery minerals value chain."*

*"It is delivering a research and development portfolio which will help the mining industry transform its use of renewable energy while also supporting the significant opportunity for the manufacture, installation and maintenance of bespoke and niche battery systems in Australia as battery demand grows exponentially in the next decade."*

### METS Ignited

METS Ignited works with Australian suppliers to the mining industry, global miners, research organisations and capital providers to improve the competitiveness and productivity of the Australian METS sector. Its five areas of strategic focus to help strengthen the global competitiveness of the Australian METS sector are: a shared vision; strengthening collaboration in the mining innovation system; addressing gaps in the ecosystem; raising your profile; and promoting world class clusters.

Adrian Beer, CEO

[www.metsignited.org](http://www.metsignited.org)

### Project 412

Project 412 believes technology should be transformative, producing greater productivity, higher levels of safety and better consumer engagement. Their aim is about building a better system than the one it replaces by locating suitable technologies, locations and partners that can come together to deliver world class outcomes.

Paul Lucey, CEO

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