



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation**

Quarterly Newsletter
Apr - June 2018

Meet us at 7th Mining Technology Conference 2018, New Delhi (April 16-17)

7th Annual Conference on
MINING TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA
Emerging Opportunities: Solutions and Strategies
April 16-17, 2018, Shangri-La's The Eros, New Delhi

Organisers:

 

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

Australian delegation visit to Andhra Pradesh Partnership Summit 2018 (Feb 24-26)

As part of Australia's ongoing relationship with Andhra Pradesh, Australia's Deputy Director of JTSI, Mr. Rob Delane along with Australia's Consul General for South India, Ms. Susan Grace led an Australian delegation to Andhra Pradesh for the Partnership Summit with the objective of strengthening economic ties with the state.

The delegation included representatives from the Governments of Western Australia, Woodside Energy, NSL Mining Resources India, Village Energy and Health Careers International.

In a significant step forward, the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Village Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), in the presence of Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri. N. Chandrababu Naidu.



There was a considerable mention of the delegation on the Chief Minister's Twitter as well as Facebook pages.



Andhra Pradesh CM 
@AndhraPradeshCM

The delegation consisted of many partners and potential investors in the field of energy, water, food, nursing, health and agriculture.

[#PartnershipSummit2018](#) [#SunriseAP](#)
[#CIIPS2018](#)



25/02/18, 8:05 PM

52 Retweets 225 Likes



Andhra Pradesh CM 
@AndhraPradeshCM

The CM met with an Australian delegation led by Susan Grace, Australian Consul-General and Peter Baldwin, Commissioner, India, Govt of Western Australia.

[#PartnershipSummit2018](#) [#SunriseAP](#)
[#CIIPS2018](#)



25/02/18, 8:04 PM

First direct Australia-Europe passenger service takes off from Perth to London

The "Kangaroo Route" from Australia to Britain became a shorter hop on Saturday (Mar 24) when the first direct passenger service left Perth for London, with the 17-hour 20-minute flight set to break aviation records.

Qantas' 14,498 kilometre journey from the southwestern city to London is the world's third-longest passenger flight, the Australian carrier said, and the first ever regular service to connect the two continents directly.

Captained by Lisa Norman, it will also be the longest Boeing Dreamliner flight in the world. Read more [here](#)

Uber's Indian ride-sharing rival, Ola, has landed in Perth

One of the world's biggest ride-sharing services, the \$9 billion Indian-based Ola, has begun operating in Australia, launching first in Perth with plans to head east and challenge US giant Uber within weeks.

Ola kicked off in Perth on Valentine's Day and has an aggressive incentive strategy to entice both users and drivers to the service

The company says it's had more than 4,000 registrations from drivers and plans to move into the Sydney and Melbourne markets, and while Ola won't say when, it could be as soon as next month. New Zealand is also on the drawing board. Read more [here](#)

Western Australian government negotiating future non-stop flights from Perth to India

A planned non-stop flight from Perth to India has been described as a future boon for Western Australia.

State Tourism Minister Paul Papalia said India is his next 'non-stop target', revealing Tourism WA is currently negotiating with an Indian airline.

Key McGowan government ministers will fly to India in the coming months to lobby local airlines.

FlightGlobal Asia Finance Editor Ellis Taylor said there's demand for direct flights to India. Western Australia experienced a 30 percent increase in Indian visitors in the year to September 2017. A nine-hour flight to Mumbai would be the most likely route according to Mr Taylor.

WA Economic Profile (February 2018)

Strategic Policy's WA Economic Profile February 2018 has been released, and you can view it via the JTSI website. Read on for the main updates.

Read more [here](#)

Mining

AOG audience hears that government is backing local oil and gas turnaround

Western Australian Premier Mark McGowan told the opening session of the AOG 2018 Collaboration Forum that his government was developing an LNG Jobs Taskforce.

He told AOG delegates that the taskforce will be made up of members from both industry and government and will aim to establish Western Australia as a key regional LNG hub.

The Premier said the taskforce will look to build on the job opportunities the LNG industry can provide in the WA community, including new technology, education and maintenance services.

Meanwhile, Miranda Taylor, CEO of National Energy Resources Australia (NERA), told an AOG Media Breakfast gathering that the organisation was currently involved in a national project pipeline of 32 industry supporting activities carrying a total investment of more than US\$24 million. Read more [here](#)

King River set to power the world with amazing vanadium resource

The owner of what is probably the world's largest in-ground vanadium deposit, King River Copper, has an unlikely ally in former US President Barack Obama. Both Australian technology and Australian in-ground vanadium resources such as King River's enormous deposit in W.A could play a leading role in fulfilling vanadium's massive potential as an emerging global energy game changer for large-scale, renewable battery storage.

Australia is not currently a producer of vanadium with 90% of global supply coming out of Russia, China and South Africa. There are reportedly around 8,000 tonnes of vanadium supply shortfall each year already, placing constant upwards price pressure on the exotic metal. Read more [here](#)

Pilbara Minerals secures \$80m lithium concentrate offtake deal with South Korea's POSCO

Pilbara Minerals has shored up plans for the expansion of its Pilgangoora lithium project by signing an offtake and downstream processing deal with South Korean steel giant POSCO.

Under the terms of the deal, POSCO will invest \$79.6 million in Pilbara by way of a placement priced at 97¢ for a 4.75 per cent stake in the company. Under the joint venture deal, Pilbara will take a 30 per cent stake in a plant capable of producing 30,000tpa of either lithium carbonate or lithium hydroxide in Korea.

POSCO will invest a further \$97.6 million in Pilbara by way of a convertible note issue should the joint venture deal go ahead.

Pilbara plans to begin producing about 300,000t of lithium concentrate in the second half of this year, eventually reaching as much as 800,000t annually. Read more [here](#)

Diamond discovery in WA's remote Kimberley brings renewed hope to Australian diamond industry

A global miner hoping to revive the Kimberley diamond industry has made a significant discovery; only 50km east of the old Ellendale mine that once produced half the world's rare fancy yellow diamonds.

Only a few weeks after Lucapa Diamond Company began drilling for lamproite on its Brooking project, it has uncovered 119 diamonds, including seven macro diamonds.

The diamonds were recovered from an 86.8kg core sample in a 7.5cm drill hole at Little Spring Creek in the West Kimberley.

Chairman Miles Kennedy said after almost three decades in the diamond industry, the discovery was "nothing short of astounding". Read more [here](#)

Lithium Australia's SiLeach on track for patents in 148 countries

Lithium Australia is on its way to patent protection in 148 countries for its breakthrough SiLeach process after being given the thumbs up by the Australian Patent Office. This triggered a rigorous examination by the Australian Patent Office, which almost a year later has reported that SiLeach is indeed "novel, inventive, industry applicable and patentable". These findings will be used to guide the decisions of patent offices in 147 other countries. SiLeach promises to be a game changer in the manufacturing of lithium battery chemicals such as lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate. Read more [here](#).

Agriculture

Margaret River Dairy Company claims cheese tasting world record

More than 560 people gathered in WA's South West to break the world record for the largest cheese tasting event. Margaret River Dairy Company's successful Guinness World Record attempt was held on Sunday, with cheese fans from as far as Perth travelling to participate in the largest cheese tasting event ever held in a single location. Read more [here](#)

WA winemakers reap rewards from booming exports

WA's booming wine sector has delivered its best export earnings in more than a decade.

And the State is also punching above its weight at the premium end of the market, producing wine that is fetching its highest prices in almost 10 years.

Annual figures by the nation's peak body Wine Australia reveal WA bottled wine exports earned \$49.1 million last year — its best result since 2005 and a jump of almost 10 per cent on 2016.

WA winemakers produced 4.9 million litres last year — 300,000 litres more than 2016 — fetching a record price of \$10.04 a litre, up on \$9.63 a litre last year. Read more [here](#)

Wheatbelt bin maker Trufab Global up for Swedish Steel Prize

A small central Wheatbelt machinery manufacturing business is making its mark on the world stage by being short listed for an international award.

Cunderdin's family-owned Trufab Global is Australia's only finalist in the Swedish Steel Prize for 2018, to be announced in Stockholm on May 24.

For this prize, judges look for high-strength steel to be used in a way that challenges traditional design and creates the highest levels of performance.

Trufab's nomination is for its new Nyrex Chaser bin, which features a modular design, using almost no welding. Read more [here](#)

Education

Important information from the Department of Home Affairs on changing courses

The Department of Home Affairs and Department of Education and Training are jointly working on a student course hopping compliance campaign. The campaign will help to educate Student visa holders about condition 8202 and to encourage compliance when they transfer to a lower Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) level course. Read more [here](#)

Q2 2018 Events

April

16th - 17th
Mining Technology Conference 2018, New Delhi
WA rep: Peter Baldwin
<http://www.indiainfrastructure.com/conference/conference-mining-technology-in-india-april2018.html>

May

19th - 26th
ALTA 2018, Perth
WA rep:
www.altamet.com.au/conferences/alta-2018/

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