



24 March 2020

The Hon Keith Pitt MP  
Minister Resources and Northern Australia  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

**RE: RESOURCES SECTOR NATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE PRINCIPLES AND PROTOCOLS**

The Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA); the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) and its divisions in the Northern Territory and Victoria; the Queensland Resources Council; the Chamber of Mines and Energy WA; the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy; the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing & Energy Council; and our respective members request that National Cabinet explicitly deem resources and its critical suppliers as essential services so that it can continue to provide its significant economic and social contribution to communities during this unprecedented COVID-19 national health crisis. We are united as a resource industry in our approach to you.

Attached are the resources industry principles (Attachment 1) and protocols (Attachments 2 and 3) in response to COVID-19 for both the oil and gas and mining sectors as a complete package. This is our national position for consideration by resource ministers and the National Cabinet today as a framework to be initiated nationally.

The resources sector is aligned and working hard to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The health, social and economic implications of the pandemic demand a united and determined industry commitment. APPEA, MCA, QRC and CMEWA in conjunction with the other state chambers and respective member companies have worked together on these principles and protocols.

The health and wellbeing of mining, oil and gas employees and the communities in which they operate is paramount. Protecting health and wellbeing is core to all processes across all operations. Companies seek to go beyond the minimum standards.

The resources sector is an essential service for the health and wellbeing of the communities in which we operate and the revenue supplied to government to deliver the health and economic response.

The starting point for industry is the official advice is the National Guidelines developed in consultation with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia and endorsed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. This information is dynamic and must be consulted continuously to keep up with any changes.

The resources sector commits to continuously monitoring these guidelines and reviewing all company practices in line with any changes.

Importantly to enact these resources principles and protocols, states and territories will need to update their respective health regulations and guidelines to recognise these protocols during the COVID-19 health crisis.

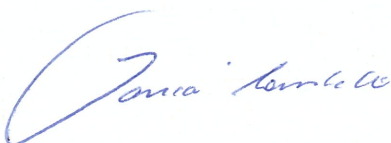
The separate protocols for both the oil and gas and mining industries covers both general protection for fly-in/fly out (FIFO) and essential specialty contractor / vendor personnel interstate travel on an as needed basis (that do not follow regular FIFO patterns) and the specific and additional, critical actions to protect Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners. This will, of course, also include transport and logistics operators that are required to deliver to and from these operations, and that service the community as well.

There are specific concerns pertaining to workers in the resources sector in some states and the Northern Territory and their ability to continue to provide essential services to the communities they support. All operations will undertake to go beyond these protocols dependent of specific circumstances, but as an industry wide response, the attached is what is proposed.

There will still be the requirement for operations to tailor these protocols to individual needs, for example sites that have predominantly live-in workforces will be able to manage this in one manner through testing and quarantine measures on site, while those reliant on FIFO will have other protocols and sub-priorities such as declarations and temperature testing at port of origin, but, ultimately, the protection of workers, families and communities for health and wellbeing is paramount.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact directly. We look forward to hearing from you in this regard at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



**Tania Constable**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Minerals Council of Australia



**Andrew McConville**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration  
Association