

24 January 2020

Mr Stuart Fisher
Principal Policy Officer
Department for Innovation and Skills
GPO Box 320
Adelaide, SA 5001

Dear Mr Fisher

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Department for Innovation and Skills (DIS) review into South Australia's Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMA).

SACOME is the peak industry body representing companies with interests in the South Australian minerals, energy, extractive, oil and gas sectors and associated service providers.

SACOME has consulted with industry members in order to identify possible improvements to DAMAs from a resources sector perspective and provides the following feedback to the DIS specific questions:

1. *Is your industry represented by the DAMA, and if not, are the other industries you would like to see covered under the DAMA?*

The resources sector and associated industries are represented under the DAMAs.

2. *Are there occupations relevant to your industry you would like to see covered under the DAMA?*

In SACOME's 2019-20 South Australia State-Nominated Skilled Migration Program submission, SACOME member companies had identified difficulties in employing skilled engineers (chemical; electrical; mechanical; mining and petroleum) and geologists.

SACOME notes that the Adelaide City Technology and Innovation Advancement DAMA occupation list includes only electrical and mechanical engineers from the above-listed occupations.

The South Australian Regional Workforce DAMA does not include any of the above-listed occupations.

SACOME suggests that DIS consider including skilled engineers (chemical; electrical; mechanical; mining and petroleum) and geologists in the occupation lists for both the Adelaide City Technology and Innovation Advancement DAMA; and the South Australian Regional Workforce DAMA to assist in alleviating the skills shortages the resources sector faces in these disciplines.

3. *Do you have any feedback on the available concessions and suggestions for additional concessions, or application of the available concessions to other occupations?*

Given the recent establishment of the DAMAs, SACOME member companies do not have any feedback or suggestions on the current application of available concessions or additional concessions.

4. *What barriers does your industry face in utilising the DAMAs to address skills shortages?*

Some member companies have raised that migration delays/timelines may be an issue in utilising the DAMAs, to address skills shortages.

SACOME understands that current Immigration South Australia processing times for DAMA endorsement is 5-7 days.

It would be helpful for the Department of Home Affairs process labour agreements, after DAMA endorsement, in an efficient manner to assist in alleviating this potential barrier.

5. *Where are the opportunities to use the DAMAs to encourage migration to regional South Australia?*

The vast majority of resources sector operations are outside the Greater Adelaide region.

SACOME suggests the expansion of the South Australian Regional Workforce DAMA occupation list to include skilled engineers and geologists will assist in encouraging migration to regional South Australia.

The demand for skilled engineers and geologists will continue to increase in regional communities as mining and petroleum projects commence or expand.

Further, direct contact by DIS with resources sector operators to promote a greater understanding of how DAMAs operate, and the opportunities DAMAs provide may be another approach to increase their use and facilitate greater migration to regional South Australia.

SACOME thanks the DIS for the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions to the DAMA review and remains committed to ongoing dialogue with the State Government in relation to these matters.

Kind regards,



Rebecca Knol
Chief Executive Officer