



15 August 2014

Dr Narelle McGlusky  
Inquiry Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021,  
Parliament House ACT 2600

Dear Dr McGlusky

**Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement**

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (CME) is the peak resources sector representative body in Western Australia funded by its member companies, which generate 95 per cent of the value of all mineral and energy production and employ 80 per cent of the resources sector workforce in the state.

The Western Australian resources sector is diverse and complex, covering exploration, processing, downstream value adding and refining of over 50 different types of mineral and energy resources.

In 2013, the value of Western Australia's mineral and petroleum production was \$113.8 billion, accounting for 91 per cent of the state's total merchandise exports and thus representing the majority of Western Australia's 43 per cent contribution to Australian merchandise exports<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, royalty payments to the State Government are forecast to total \$6.1 billion in 2013-14.

CME appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA) and supports the intent and direction of the agreement as signed on 8 July 2014 in Canberra.

Australia and Japan have a long history as trade partners and the agreement will further strengthen this relationship. In 2013, the Western Australian resources sector exported more than \$22 billion worth of commodities into Japan. The elimination of tariffs on Australia's exports of resource, and energy products entering Japan is welcomed.

While there has been long term investment by Japan into the Western Australian resources sector, the JAEPA will further reinforce to Japanese investors that Australia is an attractive investment destination.

CME notes the submission made by the Minerals Council of Australia and endorses and supports the position taken by them.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself on 08 9220 8513.

Yours sincerely

**Nicole Roocke**  
Deputy Chief Executive

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<sup>1</sup> WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, *Mineral and Petroleum Industry 2013 review*, March 2014