

The AGC makes the following submission to the review of the CRC Programme:

The AGC is aware that at least two proposals have been made for the CRC Programme that impact on Australian Geoscience. We are broadly supportive of these which we understand to be:

- “UNCOVER Australia: mineral and energy exploration beneath the surface” (proposed by the Australian Academy of Science – National Committee for Earth Sciences, the AAS-NCES)
- “Mineral and Energy Resources” (proposed by the DET CRC which terminates in 2018)

We consider that the future prosperity of Australia will continue to be underpinned by the development of our natural resources in a responsible and sustainable way. We consider that providing the knowledge to unlock Australia’s great hidden mineral and energy wealth can be facilitated by cooperative research between academia, industry and government organisations. To do this we need new incentives, new research investment and more policy support at all levels of government.

We do not see any conflict between the two proposals noted above. In fact we consider that it is likely that there should be considerably more support of Geoscience in Australia beyond them. Accordingly we propose that consideration should be also given to the AAS-NCES Decadal plan, when it is released in mid 2017, as a blueprint for significantly expanding the reach of Geoscience in Australia.

We consider that this decadal plan should provide a framework to ensure that the above proposed CRCs are all integrated and working cooperatively with Geoscience Australia and the CSIRO, and that other CRCs that are already rolled out for Geoscience should be supported and extended, including:

- AuScope
- CRC ORE based in Brisbane
- CRC Mining3 in cooperation with the CSIRO
- Mineral Processing Technology Innovation being championed by the JKMRC in Queensland

Many experts consider that mining is likely to undergo a radical step-change in the next 25 years, with the advent of robotics, big data and Artificial Intelligence. Australia can reap enormous benefits if we are at the forefront of such innovation. Accordingly we also propose “Mining Technology Innovation” for your consideration.

We will be pleased to provide further information to your enquiry as appropriate. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this advice to you.

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