



Media Release:

New service maximises closure and abandoned mining land values and usage

Adrian Beer, Chief Executive Officer – 10 October 2022

Mining companies in Queensland have a new way of tapping into the collaborative innovation of hundreds of experienced organisations committed to cost-effectively maximising the value and broadening the usability of mining-impacted land for its future custodians.

enviroMETS (Qld) Limited (enviroMETS) evolved to expand upon the 'Tailings & Mine Affected Water' Cluster initiated in 2018 as a collaborative partnership between METS Ignited and the Queensland Government. It has now become an independent, industry-led, not-for-profit company.

METS Ignited and the Queensland Government recognised many of Queensland's operating mines have, or will have, reached the end of their productive life in the coming decades. Approximately 1,200 abandoned mine sites attest that successful mine closure or economic post mining outcomes have traditionally been a challenge for industry. Evidence suggests effective closure and relinquishment is almost a rarity and navigating the regulatory framework can be protracted and complex.

enviroMETS' mission is to devise innovative and sustainable repurposing, recommercialising, and remediation solutions to ensure the land is most valuable and usable to future custodians and to provide a conduit of innovative industry led solutions to government and mining companies.

By adopting a successful collaborative approach to improve outcomes of mine-affected land for industry, communities, and the environment, enviroMETS will develop and deploy a collaboration of skills, research, and experience in:

- mine lifecycle planning;
- geochemical and mine affected water management;
- mine waste reprocessing;
- geotechnical and tailings storage facilities;
- mine closure management; and
- governance/policy/regulatory framework.

enviroMETS opens the door for commercial collaborations to research and deploy new technologies such as reprocessing mine wastes for essential mineral extraction or repurposing the landform for another commercial use.

METS Ignited CEO, Adrian Beer said enviroMETS builds upon the early clustering work of METS Ignited, in partnership with the Queensland Government.

"In reviewing our progress, it was clear multiple groups would benefit from the support of a dedicated organisation engaged in project coordination and lead collaboration management," Mr Beer said.

“SME vendors, research and academia, government and state-owned entities, as well as mining, METS organisations and investors, could all leverage a trusted independent broker representing enviroMETS groups.”

enviroMETS Executive Director, Allan Morton explained that it was important to understand enviroMETS is a completely independent, industry-led, not-for-profit company, forming innovative collaborations to solve industry wide challenges.

“We are initiating several ‘lighthouse’ projects within our innovation ecosystem participants to accelerate this process,” Mr Morton said.

“This authenticates the objective and collaborative nature we offer, which I believe will deliver a unique set of unparalleled benefits to our participant groups, the environment and future custodians of these parcels of land.”

Background

METS Ignited is the Industry Growth Centre (IGC) for the Mining Equipment, Technology and Services sector. In operation for six years, METS Ignited successfully supported the commercialisation of technology addressing the needs of the resources sector:

- \$15 million investment into 30 projects.
- 66 Industry participants, bringing more than 20 new Australian innovations to market.
- Created over 600 local jobs with a combined revenue estimate of \$750 million by 2025.
- METS Ignited has been instrumental in the establishment of CRC’s including the Future Battery Industries (FBI-CRC) and the formation of the Electric Mine Consortium (EMC).

METS Ignited’s future is translating Australia’s research and innovations into products and services, to serve global markets across multiple industries, delivered by Australian technology companies, from within our national economy.

More information about METS Ignited is available at www.metsignited.org

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Accompanying pic - Mount Morgan – Heritage Gold Mine

