

Senate Economic References Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Inquiry into the Australian manufacturing industry
11 November 2021

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: Moving from mining products to making products

REFERENCE: Written

QUESTION No.: 1

Your submission noted that Australia has exceptional natural resources which offer green manufacturing potential. Our clean energy resources are unrivalled in the developed world. We are also a top producer of critical minerals, rare earths, and important base metals, including copper, lithium, and nickel. Your submission argued that this has given Australia a potentially large advantage in making recyclable products, low-emissions technologies, low-emissions steel and aluminium, and batteries. Beyond measures that have already been implemented, is there any additional thinking being undertaken now around how we might further leverage our resources and move up the value chain from mining products to make products?

ANSWER

The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the department) continues to deliver on the Government's agenda for Australia's manufacturing businesses and regularly consults with industry on opportunities that will further leverage and build on Australia's strengths, create new jobs and drive long-term productivity.

The Australian Government's Modern Manufacturing Strategy (MMS) provides the framework and investment to capitalise on the manufacturing opportunities from the new energy economy and our natural resources. Two relevant National Manufacturing Priorities (NMPs) road maps under the MMS and MMI are:

- Recycling and Clean Energy, and
- Resources Technology and Critical Minerals Processing.

These road maps highlight the manufacturing opportunities for Australia in moving up the value chain, from mining to making – capturing more of those higher value activities onshore.

Complementary to the MMS is Australia's Critical Minerals Strategy to develop our critical minerals resources and downstream processing sector. Since the Department made its Submission, further initiatives have been announced to further support critical minerals processing and related manufacturing activities in Australia. This includes the \$2 billion Critical Minerals Facility to help projects get off the ground and secure the vital supplies of resources needed to drive the new energy economy.

The Australian Government has also released Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan (LTERP) and the second Low Emissions Technology Statement (LETS). The MMS complements, and is an important contributor to the LTERP. A core focus of the LTERP is to enable Australian manufacturers to seize economic and employment opportunities in new and traditional markets.