THE RESOURCES INDUSTRY AND THE NEW DEAL

Why the Resource Extraction Levy works for industry, for Australia, and for the next generation

Section 1 — The Honest Starting Point

Australia is the most richly resourced continent on earth. Iron ore, coal, LNG, lithium, gold, copper, nickel, rare earths — the ground beneath this nation contains trillions of dollars of wealth that belongs to every Australian. For decades that wealth has been extracted under a deal that was never fair: low sovereign take, billions in annual subsidies, infrastructure the public funded with no return, and communities that hosted the mines and received almost nothing.

The result: Australia has had the largest mining boom in human history and emerged from it with $600 billion in federal debt, crumbling regional infrastructure, an approval system that takes eight years and costs the industry $500 million per project in holding costs, and a political environment where the resources sector is permanently on the defensive.

The Resource Extraction Levy ends that arrangement. Not by punishing the industry. By replacing a deal that has been bad for Australia with a deal that is better for everyone — including the industry.

> *"Sovereign Power is not built against the resources industry. It is built with it. The compact is simple: Australia provides the infrastructure, the certainty, and the market access. Industry provides the investment, the expertise, and the levy. Together we build a sovereign nation that is richer, more powerful, and more just than the one we inherited."* — MMP Federal Platform

Section 2 — What the Current System Actually Costs Industry

The debate about resource taxation is always framed the same way: the government wants more, the industry wants less. What is rarely examined is the full cost of the current system to the industry itself. The REL debate has been conducted as though the current arrangement is free. It is not.

The Approval Cost

A major project spends three to eight years in the federal approvals system. The CCIWA estimates $318 billion in Western Australian investment is currently held up in approval queues. The holding cost on a $5 billion project with a five-year approval delay runs to $400–600 million before a single tonne is extracted. The current system provides nothing in return for it.

The Private Infrastructure Cost

A remote mine site that cannot access the national grid, national roads, or reticulated water builds its own. The private infrastructure spend runs to $500 million to $2 billion before production begins: diesel generation, road access, water treatment, telecommunications. None of it generates a return. All of it is stranded when the mine closes.

The Diesel Cost

A large open-cut mine in the Pilbara currently spends $300–700 million per year on diesel. The fuel tax credit partially offsets this — but it is politically unsustainable, attacked every election cycle, and at risk in every budget. MMP phases it out over three years and replaces it with SPC power at 6 cents per kilowatt-hour. The FTC phase-out is the starting gun on eliminating the largest cost on the operating budget, not adding to it.

The Sovereign Risk Cost

Every long-term capital decision in Australian resources carries a sovereign risk discount. The PRRT has been amended repeatedly. Environmental conditions have been varied retrospectively. That uncertainty is priced into every investment decision and suppresses the total volume of investment Australia attracts. MMP's twenty-year locked agreements eliminate that discount by design.

The Political Cost

The resources industry currently operates in a permanent environment of political attack. The REL changes that. A resources industry contributing $112 billion per year to Australian public investment — funding hospitals, schools, infrastructure, and tax cuts — has a political case that cannot be attacked. The deal itself is the defence.

Section 3 — The Boyne Smelter: What the Current System Produces

In 2025, the federal government and the Queensland government each committed $1 billion — $2 billion of public money in total — to keep the Boyne Aluminium Smelter near Gladstone open for a further ten years. The reason was simple: without a government subsidy, the smelter cannot survive Australian power prices.

Under MMP, the Boyne Smelter does not need a subsidy. At SPC corridor power prices of $20–30 per megawatt-hour, the annual power saving on a 900MW smelter is $600 million to $1 billion. The smelter is commercially viable without a dollar of public money. And green aluminium produced with verified renewable electricity commands a 20–30 percent price premium in European markets under the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

The government's own subsidy decision states the market price of what the SBC delivers. The $2 billion commitment is the cost of not having corridor infrastructure. MMP builds the infrastructure instead of writing the cheque.

$2B	$0	$600M+	+20–30%
Public subsidy to keep one smelter open	**Subsidy needed at SBC corridor prices**	**Annual power saving per 900MW smelter**	**Export premium for green aluminium**
Current system — ten-year deal, same problem returns	MMP — commercially viable permanently	At 6c/kWh vs current grid rates	EU Carbon Border Adjustment — already live

Section 4 — Where the Money Goes: The Full Distribution

The REL raises approximately $154 billion per year in total at current commodity prices — rising automatically in supercycle conditions and falling automatically when prices are below the ten-year average. That money does not disappear into consolidated revenue and vanish. It has a legislated destination for every dollar, locked in statute, published in real time on the Australian People's Portal.

The distribution is set before any project signs an agreement. It does not change. It cannot be altered by a future minister or a future budget. The formula is the formula.

Step 1 — The First Split: 73 / 25 / 2

The $154 billion in annual REL revenue is divided at the top level into three streams before anything else happens:

73%	25%	2%
Federal Government	**States & Territories**	**Traditional Owners**
$112B/yr — funds the SBC, tax cuts, debt reduction, defence, health and education. The engine of the Australian New Deal.	$38.5B/yr — returned to the state where the resource was extracted. Weighted 85% to the extraction location. WA: +$3.9B/yr. QLD: + $6.5B/yr. NT: +$1.7B/yr. Every state and territory receives more than under the current system.	$3.1B/yr — constitutionally locked in the Traditional Owner Services Fund. Cannot be cut by a minister, redirected by a budget decision, or reduced by a company restructure. The first guaranteed legislative entitlement Traditional Owners have received from the extraction of wealth from their country.

Step 2 — The State Share: $38.5 Billion, No Clawback

State royalties continue unchanged. The REL is additional to existing royalties, not a replacement for them. The 25% state share of REL revenue is on top of whatever the state was already collecting in royalties.

Under the current system, when WA raises its iron ore royalty, the Commonwealth Grants Commission reduces WA's GST share to "equalise" its fiscal capacity. The 2022 Queensland coal royalty increase saw approximately 80 percent clawed back within five years. MMP's GST reform abolishes this mechanism. A state that raises its royalty keeps the revenue. The formula that has punished resource states for collecting their own wealth is gone.

State / Territory	Current royalty revenue	REL state share (25%)	Net gain under MMP
Western Australia	~$12B/yr	~$15.9B/yr	**+$3.9B/yr**
Queensland	~$8B/yr	~$14.5B/yr	**+$6.5B/yr**
Northern Territory	~$1B/yr	~$2.7B/yr	**+$1.7B/yr**
NSW, VIC, SA, TAS	Varies	REL share from their extraction	**All better off**

Step 3 — The Traditional Owner Share: $3.1 Billion, Constitutionally Locked

Two percent of all REL revenue — approximately $3.1 billion per year — flows to the Traditional Owner Services Fund. This is constitutionally locked. A constitutional provision, not a budget line. It cannot be cut by a minister, redirected by a future government, or diminished by a company restructure.

The fund delivers services on country, determined by the communities themselves: health clinics, school facilities, housing maintenance, water infrastructure, aged care. It is not administered centrally. The Indigenous Australia Commission — an independent body composed of regional community leaders — oversees delivery and publishes full accounts to Parliament annually.

For the resources industry, this matters commercially. A mine operating in a jurisdiction where Traditional Owners have a constitutionally guaranteed revenue stream from the operation of the REL is a mine with a fundamentally different community relationship. The political and legal risk that has made native title the most expensive component of the approvals process for major projects is structurally reduced when the TO community is receiving guaranteed services, not fighting for acknowledgement.

Step 4 — The Federal Share: $112 Billion, Every Dollar Allocated

The 73 percent federal share — $112 billion per year — is allocated by legislation, not by annual budget discretion. The allocations are fixed. They cannot be varied by a future government without a parliamentary vote. The industry can model every destination for the first twenty years of a project with complete certainty.

$40B
SBC Capital Program
Visionway corridors, Life Roads, energy grid, mine communities, water infrastructure. The infrastructure that eliminates private capex requirements and makes remote operations viable.

$20B
Debt Reduction
Direct buyback of Commonwealth Government Securities on market. No discretion. Federal debt from $600B to zero within 15 years. As debt falls, interest cost falls, freeing further revenue.

$15B
Defence Capability
3% of GDP commitment. Conventional capability rebuild — Engineer Corps, drone specialists, sovereign satellite comms. Defence that defends Australia, not a military forward-deployed for foreign policy.

$9B
Health & Education
GP rebate increase, bulk billing restored, VET/TAFE expansion, AI tutoring. The workforce the resources industry needs — trained, available, Australian.

Surplus
Budget Surplus Buffer
Remainder maintained as structural surplus, compounding through price cycles. From surplus: income tax cuts, Sovereign Wealth Fund, Citizen Dividend.

Step 5 — What the REL Enables: Income Tax Cuts for Every Australian

The REL raises enough revenue to fund a complete restructure of personal income tax. Under MMP, the income tax system is simplified to a 30 percent flat rate above a $50,000 tax-free threshold. Same rate for every dollar of income above the threshold: wages, salary, dividends, rental income, interest, business distributions. No special rates. No special exemptions. Equality of treatment.

Every working Australian — at every income level — receives a tax cut from Day 1 of MMP government. The $50,000 tax-free threshold means the first $50,000 of income is untaxed. A worker on $80,000 pays tax on $30,000 only. A worker on $120,000 pays on $70,000. The revenue loss from this cut — approximately $50 billion compared to the current system — is funded by the REL. The resources industry pays the levy. Australians get the tax cut.

Annual Income	Tax now (current system)	Tax under MMP (30% flat, $50K threshold)	Annual saving
$60,000	$10,967	$3,000	**+$7,967**
$80,000	$17,547	$9,000	**+$8,547**
$120,000	$31,947	$21,000	**+$10,947**
$180,000	$54,097	$39,000	**+$15,097**
Mining worker on $140,000	$39,097	$27,000	**+$12,097 per worker**

The mining industry's own workforce benefits directly. A mining worker on $140,000 saves over $12,000 per year in income tax. That is real take-home pay. That is money spent in the corridor town, in the regional community, in the Australian economy. The REL funds the tax cut that puts money back in the pockets of the workers who generate the levy.

The flat rate also drops from 30 percent in Year 1 to 20 percent by Year 10 as REL revenue compounds and the budget surplus grows. Every working Australian gets a further tax cut every year for a decade. The trajectory is built into the legislation. It is not a promise. It is a formula.

Step 6 — The Citizen Dividend: Every Australian's Share

Ten percent of the budget surplus flows annually to the Australian Citizen Dividend — a direct payment to every enrolled Australian citizen, equally, regardless of income. Not welfare. Not means-tested. A share of the sovereign wealth that belongs to every Australian by right of citizenship.

Year	Estimated surplus	Citizen Dividend (10% of surplus)	Per Australian (26M enrolled)
Year 1	~$0 (near-balance)	REL dividend — ~$10B	**~$415 per person**
Year 3	~$18B	~$1.8B	**~$690 per person**
Year 5	~$29B	~$2.9B	**~$1,160 per person**
Year 10	~$50B+	~$5B+	**~$2,000–3,000 per person**
Year 30	$100B+ (SBC + export revenues)	$10B+	**$3,000–5,000+ per person**

This is the Alaska model, scaled to a continent. Every Alaskan has received an annual dividend from oil revenues since 1982 — between $1,000 and $2,000 per person per year. Australia has been extracting comparable resource wealth for longer, at larger scale, and has built no equivalent mechanism. The REL builds one. The Citizen Dividend is the proof, visible to every Australian annually, that the deal is working.

Step 7 — The Sovereign Wealth Fund: Building Norway's Result

Twenty-five percent of the budget surplus flows to the Australian Sovereign Wealth Fund — managed by an independent board, invested in diversified global assets, governed by a legislated mandate to preserve real value across generations.

Norway's Government Pension Fund passed $1 trillion in assets in 2013 — built from North Sea oil revenues over 25 years. Today it is worth $1.7 trillion — approximately $320,000 per Norwegian. Australia has been extracting comparable resource wealth for decades and has nothing to show for it. The SWF changes that permanently. The resources being extracted today by the companies operating under the REL are building a generational asset that belongs to every Australian.

At Year 10, with surpluses compounding, the SWF is projected to reach $80–100 billion. At Year 25, on Norway's trajectory, the SWF approaches $500 billion. The interest income alone funds the Citizen Dividend at that scale. The resources run out. The fund does not.

Section 5 — What the REL Funds: The Direct Return to Industry

Beyond the national distribution, the REL directly funds the infrastructure and systems that benefit the resources industry itself. The SPC capital program — $40 billion per year — builds what the industry currently builds privately, at sovereign scale, available at cost price.

Fast Approvals — NRAC

One fee. One coordinator. Every component concurrent. Three to six months. Binding statutory clock. Holding cost saving per major project: $400 million to $1.5 billion. The $318 billion stuck in WA approval queues begins moving in Year 1.

Corridor Power at 6c/kWh

SPC renewable generation delivered to the corridor connection point at 6 cents per kilowatt-hour. Annual saving for a large mine: $200–700 million. A 900MW smelter: $600 million to $1 billion per year. The Boyne Smelter subsidy: unnecessary.

The Multi-Utility Bundle — Five Services, One Connection

Every SBC corridor spur delivers power, water, gas, sovereign fibre and AI compute, and road/rail access in a single connection at cost price. Private infrastructure avoided per remote site: $500 million to $2 billion.

Sovereign Transmission Built at Speed

2,000 trained construction crews. Factory-made components. 5-day assembly cycle. A mine spur of 50–150km uses the same manufacturing program as the main corridor. No separate procurement. Built in months, not decades.

Electrification of Mining Operations

FTC phase-out over three years: 67% retained in Year 1, 33% in Year 2, zero from Year 3. The starting gun on eliminating a $300–700 million annual diesel bill. Electric haul trucks (Komatsu, Caterpillar, Liebherr — commercially available today), 6c/kWh corridor power, hydrogen backup for operations that cannot yet electrify.

Twenty-Year Locked Agreements

REL rates, approval conditions, rehabilitation framework, and infrastructure access pricing locked at signing. No retrospective variation. Sovereign risk discount: zero. Capital commits. Super funds invest.

Australian Clean Certification

5–15% export price premium in EU and Asian markets. EU CBAM compliance automatic. On a 40Mt/yr iron ore operation at $120/t: $60–480 million per year in additional premium revenue. Already being priced by European steel mills and battery manufacturers.

High-Speed Freight and Personnel Movement — Not Air Dependent

The SBC corridor carries standard gauge freight rail the full length of every spine. Bulk cargo — ore from the Goldfields and Pilbara, grain from the Riverina, cattle from the NT, containers — moves from inland production to coastal ports via the shortest land-to-port routes. Port connections at Darwin, Broome, Port Hedland, Geraldton, Port Augusta, and Brisbane. Inland to coast in hours, not days. At cost-price access fees, not commercial haulage rates.

The maglev spine runs at 500 kilometres per hour between corridor towns. A mining engineer based in a corridor town reaches the mine site, the regional hub, or the capital city without getting on a plane. Workers live in the corridor town with their families and commute to the site on the maglev — a fundamentally different model to the 6-week FIFO roster that breaks families and hollows out communities. The resources industry has depended on aviation because road and rail infrastructure to remote sites has never existed. The SBC builds that infrastructure. The airline dependency ends.

- **Standard gauge freight rail —** ~18,200km of national inland freight network. Ore, grain, cattle, containers to port at cost-price access. No private rail construction. No road freight dependency.
- **Maglev personnel movement —** 500km/h between corridor towns. Mine workers commute rather than fly in. Families stay together. FIFO costs drop. Roster flexibility increases.
- **Sealed all-weather roads —** ~18,200km sealed as a by-product of corridor construction. E-truck charging and hydrogen refuelling every 50km. Remote operations accessible year-round regardless of wet season or flooding.
- **Port connections —** every corridor terminus connects to a deep-water port. Darwin, Broome, Port Hedland, Geraldton, Port Augusta, Brisbane. Inland to export terminal without transhipment.

This is not a transport policy. It is an operational cost reduction for the resources industry. Every tonne moved by rail from a Pilbara mine to Port Hedland at cost-price corridor access costs less than road freight and eliminates the fuel volatility risk. Every worker who commutes rather than flies saves the operation the cost of the flight, the accommodation, and the productivity loss from roster fatigue.

Water — Process, Site, and Community Supply

Water is the most underestimated operational input in Australian mining. A large hard rock operation uses millions of litres per day: mineral processing and flotation circuits, slurry transport, dust suppression on haul roads, site services and accommodation, and environmental management of tailings. In most remote locations, that water is sourced from bores into the Great Artesian Basin or from privately licensed surface water entitlements — both scarce, both contested, and both at risk of regulatory restriction.

A mine connected to the SBC corridor connects to the national water pipeline at cost price. The corridor carries water drawn from the Bradfield northern augmentation — capturing wet season flows that currently run unused into the Gulf of Carpentaria — and from artesian sources along the corridor route. The pipeline is sized to serve industrial, agricultural, and community needs along its full length. Process water for mineral beneficiation. Dust suppression on haul roads. Camp and community supply. Tailings management. All from a reticulated supply at delivery cost, without a water licence fight, without bore maintenance, and without drought risk.

The current system forces mining companies to negotiate separate water licences, drill their own bores, maintain their own water treatment infrastructure, and manage the political risk of their water entitlements being challenged or restricted. Under MMP, the corridor delivers the water. The mine connects. The water security risk disappears from the project model.

- **Process water —** mineral processing, flotation circuits, and hydrometallurgical operations require reliable high-volume water supply. Corridor water at delivery cost replaces bore water at full capital and maintenance cost.
- **Dust suppression —** haul road dust suppression on a large open-cut operation uses hundreds of thousands of litres per day. Corridor supply eliminates water trucking and bore dependence.
- **Tailings management —** water in tailings storage facilities must be recycled and replenished. Corridor supply provides the replenishment volume without dewatering competition from surrounding agriculture.
- **Community and camp supply —** a mine community connected to the corridor water pipeline has town-standard reticulated water for residents, schools, medical facilities, and recreation infrastructure. No bore. No treatment plant. No supply interruption.
- **Green hydrogen production —** electrolysis of water produces green hydrogen for site energy and fuel. Corridor water supply at delivery cost reduces green hydrogen production cost to the electricity cost alone — at 6c/kWh, the cheapest green hydrogen in the world.

Cheap Gas — The Transition Fuel at Industrial Scale

Not every mining process can be electrified on the same timetable as haul trucks. High-temperature metallurgical processes — copper smelting, gold roasting, nickel laterite processing, alumina refining — currently run on gas or diesel. These processes require sustained high-temperature heat that battery electric systems cannot yet reliably deliver at industrial scale. For these operations, the transition fuel is gas. And the gas price on the SBC corridor is $6–8 per gigajoule — less than half the commercial gas price that remote Australian operations currently pay through spot purchase or LNG netback contracts.

The corridor gas line carries natural gas from producing fields in Queensland, the NT, and WA along the same easement as the power, water, and fibre infrastructure. A mine connected to the corridor connects to piped gas at cost price. No gas trucking. No LNG import at commercial rates. No exposure to global LNG spot volatility that has made gas-dependent operations commercially marginal in recent years.

- **Metallurgical processing —** copper smelters, gold roasters, nickel laterite processors, and alumina refineries connected to corridor gas at $6–8/GJ versus commercial spot at $12–20/GJ. Energy cost reduction of 40–60% on the gas component of processing.
- **On-site gas generation —** gas-fired power generation as backup and peaking capacity alongside solar and battery storage. At $6–8/GJ, gas generation costs approximately 6–10c/kWh — comparable to corridor power, available as dispatchable backup.
- **Green hydrogen bridge —** gas at $6–8/GJ is the transition fuel while green hydrogen infrastructure reaches full scale. The same pipeline that carries natural gas can carry hydrogen blends as the proportion shifts over time. The infrastructure investment is not stranded when the transition completes.
- **Ammonia production —** for operations in the fertiliser and chemical sector, corridor gas at cost price combined with corridor power and water creates the lowest-cost ammonia production environment in the world. Australia becomes a sovereign fertiliser producer rather than an import-dependent one.

The gas price advantage is particularly significant for operations that have been commercially marginal because of energy cost. Nickel laterite processing in WA has been structurally challenged partly because of gas and power cost. At $6–8/GJ piped gas and 6c/kWh corridor power, those operations are commercially viable. The REL applies to what they extract. The infrastructure makes the extraction economic. The deal works both ways.

The Spaceport and Sovereign Satellite Data

The Arnhem Space Centre in the Northern Territory is a dual-purpose national asset funded under MMP: sovereign military communications launch capability and commercial space operations. For the resources industry, the more immediate value is what the satellites see.

Australia's sovereign satellite program — funded by the REL and built with SPC manufacturing capacity — provides earth observation capability that transforms the economics of exploration and operations at every stage of a mine's life:

- **Geological survey and exploration —** hyperspectral satellite imaging identifies mineralisation signatures across vast areas of the Australian interior at a fraction of the cost of ground-based exploration. The SBC corridor geological survey — covering 50km either side of every corridor centreline — will be the most comprehensive resource inventory Australia has ever produced. Results published. Deposits offered for development under the REL framework with corridor access as the commercial incentive.
- **Ore body modelling —** satellite-derived surface data integrated with drill core geology and AI processing produces ore body models of unprecedented resolution. The time from discovery to bankable feasibility study compresses. The capex risk in resource estimation reduces.
- **Real-time environmental monitoring —** sovereign satellites monitor mine site vegetation change, water movement, dust plume extent, and ground subsidence continuously. Environmental compliance reporting that currently requires expensive ground-based monitoring and consultant reports is replaced by automated satellite-derived data. The NRAC approvals process uses this data for ongoing compliance verification — removing the dispute risk between the company's environmental reports and the regulator's assessment.
- **Ground movement and tailings monitoring —** synthetic aperture radar from sovereign satellites detects millimetre-scale ground movement. Tailings storage facility stability monitoring, open pit wall movement detection, and subsidence tracking become continuous rather than periodic. The catastrophic tailings failure risk that has destroyed mining companies and communities — Brumadinho, Mt Polley — is detectably pre-empted. The liability reduction has direct insurance and capital value.
- **Water catchment and hydrology —** satellite monitoring of catchment hydrology informs water entitlement management, flood risk assessment for operations in northern Australia, and the Bradfield scheme water capture efficiency. A mine operating in a water-constrained environment has real-time catchment data that no ground-based system can match.

The sovereign satellite data is not proprietary to government. It flows to every REL-compliant operation as part of the Australian Clean Certification framework. A company operating under MMP has access to continuous satellite monitoring of its operation, its catchment, and its ore body — data that currently costs tens of millions in commercial satellite contracts or ground-based surveys. Under MMP it comes with the corridor connection.

AI Compute — Mine Design, Operations, and Future Planning

The AI compute infrastructure co-located on SBC corridors is available to mining operations at cost-price corridor rates — 5–6c/kWh for the power that runs it, versus 15–20c/kWh in Singapore data centres or 8–12c/kWh in the United States. For compute-intensive mining applications this is not a marginal advantage. It is a structural cost difference that changes what is economically viable to compute.

The applications for the resources industry span the full mine life cycle:

- **Exploration and discovery —** AI processing of satellite hyperspectral data, airborne geophysics, and drill core geochemistry identifies mineralisation targets with a precision no human geologist can match at scale. The discovery cost per tonne of reserve drops. The discovery-to-production timeline compresses.
- **Ore body modelling and mine design —** AI-assisted resource estimation integrates drill core, satellite data, geophysical surveys, and historical production data to produce ore body models with uncertainty quantification at every block. Mine design optimisation runs thousands of scenarios to find the sequence that maximises net present value at every commodity price scenario. The design that a mining engineer produces in three months, AI produces in three hours — and tests against a thousand commodity price futures before the engineer reviews the output.
- **Autonomous fleet management —** the electric haul trucks that replace diesel fleets connect to corridor fibre and corridor compute. Autonomous operation, route optimisation, collision avoidance, predictive maintenance, and fleet dispatch are managed by AI running on corridor compute infrastructure at 5–6c/kWh. The latency from a corridor data centre to the mine site is milliseconds — sufficient for real-time autonomous control of heavy equipment. No satellite link delay. No cloud computing cost at US data centre rates.
- **Blast design and fragmentation —** AI analysis of rock mass data, historical blast results, and real-time sensor data optimises blast design for downstream processing efficiency. Better fragmentation reduces crushing and grinding energy. Grinding is typically the single largest energy consumer in mineral processing — even a 5% improvement in fragmentation quality translates to millions in annual energy savings.
- **Processing plant optimisation —** AI models of flotation circuits, leach pads, and concentration plants run continuously against real-time sensor data to optimise reagent addition, grind size, and recovery rates. A 1% improvement in recovery on a major copper operation is worth tens of millions per year in additional revenue from the same tonne of ore.
- **Tailings and environmental management —** AI-integrated satellite monitoring, geotechnical sensor data, and hydrological modelling provides continuous stability assessment of tailings storage facilities. The system flags anomalies before they become failures. The liability that has destroyed mining companies is managed by continuous AI monitoring rather than periodic engineering review.
- **Future mine planning —** AI modelling of depletion curves, capital replacement schedules, workforce requirements, and commodity price scenarios produces 25-year mine plans that update in real time as conditions change. The board that approved the project on a static financial model now operates with a dynamic model that adjusts as the mine produces. Capital allocation decisions improve. Surprises reduce.

All of this compute runs on the corridor at 5–6c/kWh. The mining company that connects to the corridor connects to the most powerful and cheapest compute infrastructure in the Southern Hemisphere. The sovereign satellite data feeds it. The corridor fibre delivers the results to the pit. The autonomous fleet acts on them. The processing plant self-optimises around them. This is not a technology aspiration. It is the operational architecture of every well-run mine in the world by 2030 — and the SBC corridor is the only place in Australia where it is available at the cost structure that makes it economically rational to implement fully.

Section 6 \u2014 The Sovereign Manufacturing Plan: Building Australia\u2019s Industrial Base

The SBC corridor is not just infrastructure. It is the largest sovereign manufacturing program in Australian history. Every pylon, every cable, every pipeline section, every locomotive component, and every charging station is built in Australia, by Australians, in factories that did not exist before the program began. By the time the first corridor is complete, Australia has a manufacturing base that no longer needs to be built from scratch for the next one.

This manufacturing capacity does not stop at corridor infrastructure. The same factories, the same workforce, the same supply chain, and the same engineering capability that builds the SBC then produces the equipment that mines it, moves it, and processes it. The manufacturing plan deliberately sequences corridor construction first \u2014 because corridor construction creates the industrial base. Mining and transport equipment conversion follows \u2014 because the industrial base is now there to support it.

> *“Australia extracts the ore, imports the equipment that digs it, imports the trucks that carry it, imports the processing plant that refines it, and ships the output as raw material for someone else to manufacture. Every step of that value chain that happens offshore is Australian wealth that never came home. The manufacturing plan brings it home.”*

The Corridor Manufacturing Base \u2014 What Gets Built First

The SBC construction program creates sovereign manufacturing capacity across five categories, each of which directly transfers to mining and transport equipment production:

- **HVDC transmission infrastructure \u2014** 200,000 pylons across six corridors. Every component factory-made to robotic tolerances. Segmental precast concrete structures, HVDC cable manufactured from Mount Isa copper and Gladstone aluminium, switching stations, and substation equipment. Australian factories. Australian workers. The unit cost of transmission infrastructure drops as the learning curve is exhausted and the supply chain matures. That cost reduction applies directly to mine connection spurs \ u2014 built from the same factories at the same unit cost.
- **Pipeline manufacturing \u2014** over 20,000 kilometres of water, gas, and hydrogen pipeline manufactured in Australian steel mills. The pipe rolling, coating, and jointing technology built for the corridor is the same technology that supplies mine site water pipelines, gas distribution networks, and hydrogen production infrastructure. Australian steel. Australian fabrication. Australian delivery to site.
- **Electrical equipment \u2014** transformers, switchgear, inverters, battery storage systems, and charging infrastructure manufactured at corridor nodes. The scale of SBC demand makes Australian manufacture economically viable for equipment categories that previously had to be imported. Once the manufacturing line is running for the corridor, it runs for mining, for agriculture, and for export.
- **Rolling stock and rail \u2014** standard gauge freight locomotives and wagons for the corridor freight network. Maglev components for the passenger spine. Built in Australia under technology partnership agreements that require the partner to transfer manufacturing capability, not just deliver product. The Whyalla steelworks \u2014 revived by SBC demand for structural steel \u2014 supplies the rail. Australian factories supply the rolling stock.
- **Digital and communications infrastructure \u2014** fibre optic cable manufactured at corridor nodes. Repeater stations, switching equipment, and data centre hardware assembled in Australia under sovereign manufacturing frameworks. The same fibre and switching infrastructure that connects corridor towns connects mine sites, processing plants, and port facilities.

Mining Equipment Manufacturing and Conversion

The FTC phase-out creates the economic incentive for the mining industry to transition its fleet. The corridor creates the power infrastructure that makes electric and hydrogen equipment viable. The manufacturing plan creates the Australian industry that builds and converts the equipment \u2014 rather than importing it from Komatsu, Caterpillar, and Liebherr at foreign exchange.

New Electric and Hydrogen Haul Truck Manufacturing

MMP establishes manufacturing joint ventures for mining haul trucks, excavators, and support equipment on the same model as the electric semi joint venture framework. The SPC brings power, land, corridor infrastructure, and guaranteed government and mining sector offtake. The partner brings manufacturing technology. Australia holds a minimum 30 percent equity stake. Competition between partners drives better technology and better terms.

- **Haul truck joint ventures \u2014** Komatsu, Caterpillar, and Liebherr are invited to establish Australian manufacturing operations for their electric and hydrogen haul truck product lines. The condition of corridor access for their mining customers is Australian manufacturing, not importation. The rule is consistent: if you want to sell electric haul trucks to Australian mines, manufacture them in Australia. The SPC provides the land, the power, the infrastructure access, and the guaranteed volume. The partner provides the technology.
- **Australian-designed mining equipment \u2014** the manufacturing joint ventures are not just technology transfer arrangements. They are the seed of an Australian mining equipment industry. Within the first term, MMP funds R\u0026D joint ventures with Australian universities, the CSIRO, and the mining equipment manufacturers to develop mining-specific electric and hydrogen solutions optimised for Australian conditions: high ambient temperature, long haul distances, extreme dust environments, and the specific duty cycles of Australian hard rock mining.
- **Hydrogen mining equipment \u2014** for operations where battery electric is not yet the optimal solution, hydrogen fuel cell haul trucks and excavators are manufactured under similar joint venture arrangements.

Green hydrogen produced at the corridor powers the fleet. Australian manufacturing builds it. The supply chain is sovereign end to end: corridor water and power produce the hydrogen, corridor gas provides transition backup, Australian factories build the equipment.

Diesel Fleet Conversion Program

Not every mine can replace its entire fleet immediately. Haul trucks with ten years of service life remaining are not scrapped \u2014 they are converted. MMP establishes a sovereign fleet conversion program, delivered through Australian workshops co-located with corridor infrastructure, that retrofits existing diesel haul trucks, excavators, and support equipment to electric or hydrogen powertrains.

- **Conversion workshops \u2014** purpose-built conversion facilities at major corridor nodes \u2014 Broken Hill, Mount Isa, Newman, Kalgoorlie, Darwin \u2014 where existing mining equipment is brought in for powertrain replacement. Diesel engine and drivetrain removed. Battery-electric or hydrogen fuel cell system installed. The structural frame, cab, tyres, and hydraulics remain. The vehicle returns to the mine at lower operating cost. Australian tradespeople do the work. Australian-manufactured components go in.
- **Conversion economics \u2014** a haul truck conversion costs approximately 30\u201340 percent of the price of a new electric vehicle. For a fleet of 100 trucks with average remaining life of 8 years, conversion saves the mine $300\u2013500 million in capital expenditure while eliminating the diesel cost from Year 1. The conversion workshops run at full capacity through the FTC phase-out transition period, then continue as a permanent Australian mining equipment service industry.
- **Training and certification \u2014** every conversion workshop is co-located with a registered training organisation delivering the Certificate III and IV qualifications in electric vehicle technology, high-voltage systems, and hydrogen fuel cell maintenance. The workers who convert the trucks are trained in the corridor towns. They are the founding workforce of Australia\u2019s mining equipment maintenance industry.

Transport Equipment \u2014 Trucks, Trains, and Port Equipment

The manufacturing plan extends to the full transport chain that moves Australian resources from mine to port. Every link in that chain is currently dependent on imported equipment. The corridor manufacturing program changes that.

- **Electric road freight \u2014** joint venture manufacturing of electric semi-trailers and prime movers for mine-to-port road freight, on the same model as the haul truck program. SPC corridor charging infrastructure every 50 kilometres makes electric long-haul freight viable for the first time in Australia. Australian-manufactured trucks. Australian-generated power at the charging points. No diesel. No Rotterdam price exposure.
- **Standard gauge freight locomotives \u2014** Australian manufacture of electric freight locomotives for the corridor rail network and for the existing interstate rail network. The manufacturing capability built for the SBC corridor locomotives is directly applicable to the rolling stock replacement program for the existing national freight rail network. One manufacturing base. Two markets.
- **Port equipment \u2014** electric ship loaders, stackers, reclaimers, and terminal tractors for the port facilities at every corridor terminus. Australian manufacture under the same joint venture framework. The mine ships its ore on electric equipment from pit to ship. The diesel is gone from the entire chain.

Critical Minerals Processing \u2014 Value Before Export

Australia currently exports raw ore and receives raw commodity prices. The manufacturing plan changes the export product. The REL creates the incentive \u2014 Australia captures more sovereign wealth from processed minerals than from raw ore. The SBC creates the conditions \u2014 cheap power, water, and gas make processing economically rational at scale. Technology Exchange Agreements create the mechanism \u2014 partner nations that want access to Australian critical minerals co-invest in Australian processing capability as the price of supply.

- **Lithium \u2014** Australia holds the world\u2019s largest lithium reserves. Currently exported as spodumene concentrate at a fraction of battery-grade lithium hydroxide value. SBC corridor power at 6c/kWh makes lithium hydroxide refining at the mine gate the obvious economic choice. The processing plant is powered by the same corridor that connects the mine. The export product is battery-grade material, not rock.
- **Rare earths \u2014** separation and processing of rare earth elements currently happens almost entirely in China. Australia has the deposits and, under MMP, the power and the Technology Exchange framework to build sovereign separation capacity. The partner nation that wants access to Australian rare earths transfers processing technology. The plant is built in Australia. The jobs are here. The value is captured here.

- **Nickel and cobalt \u2014** battery-grade nickel sulphate and cobalt sulphate manufactured in Australia rather than exported as intermediate product. The high-purity refining that currently happens in Finland, Japan, and China happens in Australia at corridor power prices. The EV battery supply chain runs through Australian processing, not through a foreign intermediary.
- **Copper \u2014** Australia mines and exports copper concentrate. The smelting and refining that produces copper cathode \u2014 the product the market actually wants \u2014 happens offshore. SBC corridor power at 6c/kWh and gas at $6\u20138/GJ make copper smelting in Australia the lowest-cost option globally. Mount Isa copper is smelted and refined in Australia. The cathode is exported. The value is captured here.
- **Green aluminium and green steel \u2014** Boyne Smelter and Tomago viable without subsidy at corridor power prices. Whyalla steelworks producing green steel via direct reduced iron with corridor hydrogen. The green premium of 20\u201330 percent in European markets is captured because the processing happens in Australia on verified renewable energy. The Australian Clean Certification mark applies to the processed product, not just the raw ore.

The Workforce Pipeline

The manufacturing plan is only as strong as the workforce that delivers it. MMP funds a purpose-built training pipeline that runs parallel to the construction and manufacturing program, delivering workers into manufacturing roles before the factories need them.

- **National Service \u2014 the manufacturing track \u2014** one of the six National Service tracks is manufacturing and industrial. Every participant on this track completes twelve months of structured manufacturing training co-located with corridor construction and conversion facilities. They graduate with Certificate III in manufacturing technology, electrical systems, or mechanical engineering \u2014 and with a job offer from the corridor manufacturing program or the mining equipment conversion workshops.
- **TAFE and VET reform \u2014** corridor nodes are the locations for expanded TAFE campuses delivering Certificate III and IV and Diploma qualifications in: electric vehicle technology, high-voltage systems, HVDC infrastructure maintenance, hydrogen systems, robotic manufacturing, and mine equipment operation. Competency-based, not time-served. A tradesperson retraining from diesel mechanics to electric vehicle systems completes in months, not years.
- **Engineering and design \u2014** Australian universities receive dedicated manufacturing R\u0026D funding through the corridor program. Engineering graduates are absorbed into corridor manufacturing joint ventures, mining equipment design programs, and the sovereign space and satellite manufacturing capability. The brain drain of Australian engineers going to Silicon Valley and London because there was no Australian industrial base to employ them ends when there is an Australian industrial base to employ them.
- **Indigenous workforce inclusion \u2014** Traditional Owner communities on country adjacent to corridors have priority access to manufacturing apprenticeships and conversion workshop roles. The same country that hosts the mine, hosts the manufacturing. The workforce that builds and maintains the equipment lives in the corridor town, not in Perth. The Community Investment Levy funds the housing. The corridor builds the connection. The training program builds the skill.

The Sequencing \u2014 Why Corridor First, Mining Equipment Second

The manufacturing plan is deliberately sequenced. Corridor construction comes first \u2014 not because mining equipment conversion is less important, but because corridor construction creates the industrial base, the workforce, and the supply chain that makes mining equipment manufacturing viable.

Australia cannot establish a mining haul truck manufacturing industry in a vacuum. It needs: a manufacturing workforce that knows how to build electric powertrains. Factories already tooled for heavy electrical equipment. A supply chain for high-voltage components, battery packs, and fuel cells. An engineering capability in electric and hydrogen systems. And enough domestic demand to justify the capital investment in the manufacturing facility.

The SBC corridor program creates all of these. By the time the first corridor is half-built, Australia has: 2,000 construction crews trained in electric and HVDC technology. Factories manufacturing transmission components at scale. A supply chain for copper, aluminium, steel, and electrical components anchored to Australian production. Engineering firms with deep experience in high-voltage systems. And a government procurement program that guarantees minimum volumes for the next fifteen years.

The mining equipment joint ventures then step into an existing industrial base \u2014 not a greenfield manufacturing desert. The technology transfer is faster. The workforce training is shorter. The supply chain is established. The unit cost is lower. And the export potential is real: by the time Australia is manufacturing electric

haul trucks and conversion kits at corridor workshops, the market for this equipment is global \u2014 every mine in every country facing the same FTC-equivalent transition from diesel. Australia is not a late entrant to that market. It is the early mover with the most compelling combination of sovereign demand, cheap power, and established industrial capability.

> *"For too long Australia has been the quarry and someone else has been the factory. The manufacturing plan ends that arrangement. The ore comes out of the ground. The equipment that digs it is made here. The truck that carries it is charged here on power we generate. The processing plant that refines it runs on gas we pipe and power we generate. The ship that exports it loads on equipment we built. The factory that manufactures from it is here, not offshore. Every step of that chain is an Australian job, an Australian business, and Australian wealth that stays in Australia."* — MMP Federal Platform

Islanded Mine Sites — The Long-Term Plan: 100% Renewable, Zero Diesel

Not every mine sits on an SBC corridor. The Pilbara iron ore operations, the Goldfields gold mines, the Cape York bauxite deposits, the offshore LNG platforms — many of Australia's largest resource operations are, and will remain, remote from the corridor network. Under the current system these operations are permanently dependent on diesel. Under MMP they are not. Every Australian mine — corridor-connected or not — has a funded, manufactured, and technically proven pathway to 100 percent renewable energy supply.

This is not an aspiration. It is a long-term operational target with a specific manufacturing program behind it, funded by the same REL revenue that builds the corridors, and delivered by the same sovereign manufacturing base that produces corridor infrastructure.

Why Islanded Renewable Supply Is Now Achievable

The economics of remote renewable energy have crossed a threshold. Solar PV generation in the Australian outback produces energy at $20–30 per megawatt-hour — among the cheapest generation on earth. Battery storage costs have fallen 90 percent in a decade and continue to fall. Utility-scale battery systems can now provide 4–8 hours of backup, sufficient to bridge overnight and low-generation periods in combination with solar. Hydrogen production from solar-powered electrolysis provides the longer-duration storage needed for extended low-sun periods, large smelters, and high-temperature industrial processes.

The barrier has never been the technology. It has been three things: upfront capital cost, the absence of a sovereign manufacturing base that drives unit costs down, and the fuel tax credit that made diesel artificially cheap relative to the true cost of dependence on it. MMP removes all three barriers simultaneously: REL revenue funds the transition capital, sovereign manufacturing drives down unit costs, and the FTC phase-out removes the artificial diesel price advantage.

The Islanded Mine Renewable System — Four Components

- **Solar generation —** utility-scale solar arrays co-located with the mine site. Australian outback irradiance of 8–9 peak sun hours per day produces more energy per installed megawatt than almost anywhere on earth. A 200MW solar array at a major Pilbara mine generates approximately 600GWh per year — covering most daytime operational load. Australian-manufactured solar panels, mounting systems, and inverters under the sovereign manufacturing program. The solar array is designed and built by the same engineering workforce that builds corridor solar.
- **Battery storage —** 4–8 hour utility-scale battery systems — lithium iron phosphate chemistry for safety and cycle life in high-temperature environments. Covers overnight operations, cloudy periods, and load peaks. Australian-assembled battery systems under joint ventures with CATL, BYD, and domestic manufacturers. The battery cells are manufactured from Australian lithium, processed at the mine gate under the critical minerals processing framework. The full supply chain is sovereign: Australian ore, Australian processing, Australian assembly, Australian installation.
- **Green hydrogen long-duration storage —** electrolysers powered by surplus daytime solar production convert water to hydrogen, stored as compressed gas or ammonia. Fuel cells or hydrogen turbines dispatch stored hydrogen during extended low-generation periods: overnight, cloudy seasons, and major load events. For high-temperature processes that cannot use electricity directly — smelting, roasting, high-temperature leaching — hydrogen replaces diesel and gas as the process fuel. The electrolysers, storage systems, and fuel cells are manufactured in Australia under the same joint venture framework as the hydrogen haul trucks.
- **Intelligent energy management —** AI-managed microgrid control systems — running on corridor compute infrastructure or on-site edge compute — optimise dispatch between solar, battery, and hydrogen in real time. Load forecasting integrates mine production schedule, weather prediction, and energy storage state to minimise diesel backup use to zero in normal operations and to planned maintenance windows

only. The control system is Australian-developed software running on Australian AI compute at 5–6c/kWh corridor rates or at on-site solar-powered compute rates.

The Transition Pathway — Staged, Not Immediate

No mine shuts down its diesel fleet overnight. The transition to 100 percent renewable supply is staged over the term of the mine's operating life, aligned with equipment replacement cycles and capital planning horizons. MMP does not mandate the timeline. It funds the pathway and removes the barriers that have prevented progress.

- **Stage 1 — Solar and storage for site services (Years 1–3) —** mine site accommodation, lighting, administration, and communications powered by solar and battery. Diesel generators replaced for non-process loads. Investment: $20–50M for a large operation. Payback: 3–5 years at current diesel prices, 2–3 years as FTC phases out.
- **Stage 2 — Solar and storage for processing plant (Years 3–7) —** mineral processing plant switched to solar-battery supply during peak generation hours, with battery providing the overnight and overcast coverage. Diesel retained only for planned maintenance and emergency backup. Investment: $100–300M for a major operation. Annual diesel saving: $50–150M.
- **Stage 3 — Electric fleet and hydrogen storage (Years 5–12) —** haul truck fleet converted or replaced with electric and hydrogen vehicles, powered by expanded solar and hydrogen storage systems. Hydrogen electrolysers installed using surplus generation. Process heat from green hydrogen replaces diesel and gas for high-temperature operations. Investment: $300M–1B for full fleet transition. Diesel bill: zero.
- **Stage 4 — 100% renewable, net energy export (Years 10–20) —** the mature islanded system generates more energy than the mine consumes. Surplus is exported to the corridor grid, to nearby communities, or used for on-site hydrogen production for export. The mine that was the largest diesel consumer in the region becomes a net clean energy producer. The capital investment in renewable infrastructure has payback measured in years. The ongoing savings are permanent.

Sovereign Manufacturing for Islanded Systems

The islanded mine renewable system uses the same manufactured components as the corridor infrastructure — the same solar panels, the same battery systems, the same HVDC interconnects at microgrid scale, the same hydrogen electrolysers. The sovereign manufacturing base that builds the corridors builds the islanded systems. Volume drives unit cost down across both applications. The learning curve is shared.

MMP establishes a dedicated Islanded Mine Renewable Program — a government-backed financing facility and technical support program that funds the capital cost of islanded renewable systems for qualifying operations. The facility lends at cost of capital (RBA cash rate plus a margin) for proven systems with a positive NPV over the mine operating life. Every dollar lent is repaid from the diesel savings. The government bears no ongoing cost. The mine bears no upfront capital barrier. The diesel is replaced.

- **System design and engineering —** a sovereign engineering capability — built in the same corridor manufacturing nodes — provides mine site renewable system design, feasibility assessment, and project management. Australian engineers design the system. Australian workers build it. The intellectual property stays in Australia.
- **Equipment supply —** all major system components supplied from the sovereign manufacturing program: solar panels, battery systems, electrolyser units, fuel cells, control systems, and grid-forming inverters. The same factories. The same workforce. The same supply chain. The mine that buys an islanded system buys Australian.
- **Operations and maintenance —** ongoing O\u0026M contracts delivered by Australian workers trained through the corridor manufacturing workforce program. The conversion workshops that retrofit diesel haul trucks service the renewable energy systems. The TAFE campuses at corridor nodes train the O\u0026M workforce. The skills are transferable. The employment is permanent.
- **Performance guarantee —** every islanded system supplied under the program carries a performance guarantee: minimum 95% renewable supply fraction in Year 1, rising to 100% by Stage 4. If the system underperforms, the program's engineering team remedies it. The mine does not carry the performance risk of a technology it has never operated before. The sovereign program does.

The Long-Term Vision: Every Australian Mine, Zero Diesel

The long-term plan is unambiguous. Every Australian mine — corridor-connected or islanded, iron ore or gold, open cut or underground, operating today or opened in twenty years — has a funded pathway to 100 percent renewable energy supply. The pathway is different for each. The destination is the same.

Corridor-connected mines reach 100% renewable through SPC grid power from Year 1 of connection. Islanded mines reach it through the staged transition program over the operating life of the operation. New mines permitted under the MMP framework are designed for 100% renewable supply from Day 1 — the renewable energy system is part of the project design, not a retrofit.

By 2040, the Australian mining industry is the first in the world to operate without diesel at scale. The fuel import bill — currently running to billions of dollars per year across the sector — is zero. The fuel tax credit debate is moot because there is no fuel to credit. The supply chain vulnerability of diesel-dependent operations in contested maritime corridors is eliminated. The carbon liability of resource extraction — increasingly priced by customers and regulators — is at the extraction stage only, not the energy stage. Australian Clean Certification covers the full operation.

This is what the REL builds. Not just infrastructure. Not just tax cuts. Not just a Citizen Dividend. A resource sector that has been transformed from the most diesel-dependent in the world to the most renewable, the most efficient, and the most sovereign. The ore comes from the ground. The energy comes from the sun. The equipment is built in Australia. The value stays in Australia. That is the deal.

> *"The diesel generator at a remote Australian mine is not inevitable. It is a failure of industrial policy — the failure to build the sovereign energy manufacturing capability that could replace it. MMP builds that capability. Every mine. Zero diesel. Australian-made. Powered by the sun."* — MMP Federal Platform

Section 7 — The Community Model: Mining Builds Places, Not Just Holes

The resources industry has spent thirty years telling Australian communities that FIFO is inevitable — that geography, distance, and cost make it impossible to house workers permanently near mine sites. This is not true. It was a financial choice. A deliberate decision made in the 1990s and 2000s when the cost of building genuine communities looked too high and the flexibility of flying workers in and out looked more attractive.

The industry externalised every cost it could: mental health expenses onto the public health system, relationship breakdown onto families, road and hospital costs onto regional councils, and community trauma onto towns that hosted FIFO workforces without receiving the rates revenue to pay for them. The 2013 Senate inquiry into FIFO documented the damage comprehensively. Nothing changed — because nothing changed the financial equation.

MMP changes the financial equation. The Community Investment Levy, the SPC infrastructure program, the twenty-year locked agreement, and the Australian Clean Certification together make the genuine community model financially rational again. The industry can still choose FIFO. But for the first time in thirty years, it chooses on a level playing field — not on a playing field artificially tilted by infrastructure costs the SPC has now eliminated.

> *"FIFO was efficient for the company and catastrophic for the country. It extracted the wages from the community along with the ore. The MMP model puts both back. You want to mine the corridor? Live in the corridor. Build something that lasts."* — MMP Federal Platform

The Community Investment Levy — The Financial Mechanism

Every mining operation using fly-in fly-out workers pays a Community Investment Levy of $5,000 per FIFO worker per year. The levy can be offset dollar-for-dollar against verified investment in qualifying permanent community infrastructure: housing, school facilities, medical centres, recreation infrastructure, and town planning on Crown land.

The company chooses. Pay the levy into the state government pool — quarantined by legislation to the host region, spent on the hospital FIFO workers use, the roads their buses drive on, the emergency services that respond when something goes wrong three hundred kilometres from the nearest city. Or invest in permanent community infrastructure and pay nothing. A company with 2,000 FIFO workers pays $10 million per year into the CIL — unless it has spent at least that amount building real infrastructure in the host community.

The qualifying test is strict. Dongas do not qualify. Worker-only facilities do not qualify. Temporary structures do not qualify. What qualifies is permanent: homes families can own, schools children attend, medical centres the community uses, ovals teams play on, community centres neighbours gather in. Built to state residential standard, not mining camp standard. Open to community access. And housing that offers workers a genuine path to ownership — Crown land adjacent to the mine site released at nominal cost so workers can own the home rather than occupy company housing that disappears when they leave.

- **Year One —** CIL at 33%. Companies can begin offsetting immediately by starting community investment. The transition is not a grace period — it is an invitation to start building.

- **Year Two —** CIL at 67%. Infrastructure investment in Year One is credited against Year Two obligation. The company that started building is already ahead.
- **Year Three and permanently —** CIL at full rate. Dollar-for-dollar offset for every dollar of verified permanent community infrastructure. Build enough: pay nothing. Build nothing: pay in full, every year.

The SPC Eliminates the Infrastructure Barrier

The single reason mining companies abandoned the community model was infrastructure cost. Before a single house could be built, a company faced $300 million in pure infrastructure: a power line or diesel generation capacity, road access from the nearest highway, water treatment and reticulation, sewerage, telecommunications. Three hundred million dollars generating zero return before a worker moved their family in. Dongas and an airstrip cost $200 million and could be dismantled when the mine closed. The financial logic was brutal and the industry followed it.

The SPC eliminates that logic. The SPC is building the infrastructure to the mine anyway — because the mine needs power, road access, water, and communications regardless of whether workers live there or fly in. The SPC builds to a community standard from the outset, because the infrastructure is national infrastructure, not a mining camp utility. The company's share of infrastructure cost drops from $300 million to approximately $52 million — an 83 percent reduction. The SPC recoups its investment through access fees and transmission charges over the mine life. The national asset remains long after the operation closes.

What the SPC builds and funds as national infrastructure:

- **Grid connection —** the SPC extends the national grid to the mine and the community connects to the same line. Power that stays when the mine closes. Not dependent on the mine's generators. The difference between a town and a camp.
- **Road corridor —** sealed access connecting mine and community to the national network, maintained as national infrastructure. The road does not close when the mine does.
- **Water supply —** SPC water infrastructure serves the operation and the community. The company pays access fees and funds local distribution only. No bore. No treatment plant. No supply interruption.
- **Communications spine —** fibre along every corridor. The school in the red dirt with the same internet as a school in Sydney.
- **Renewable energy microgrid —** owned and operated by the SPC. Cheap, reliable power independent of diesel. The community uses it after the mine closes.

What the company builds — and offsets against the CIL dollar for dollar: housing, school facilities, medical buildings, recreation infrastructure, local streets and services. What the state provides: teachers, nurses, police, social workers. Three parties. Divided cleanly. Nobody duplicates. Nobody overpays.

Jabiru, Paraburdoo, Kambalda, Moranbah — The Model That Worked

The community model is not a theory. It existed and it worked. Jabiru. Paraburdoo. Kambalda. Moranbah. Communities built in hard places by people who chose them. The children who grew up in those places remember them as among the best years of their lives — close community, extraordinary country, a childhood that no city could replicate. The industry abandoned the model because it could externalise the cost of abandoning it. MMP closes that option.

Jabiru is the proof case for what happens when the community model is respected. Jabiru still exists after Ranger closed. The town is there. The streets are there. People chose to stay because they had built something worth staying for — a community in extraordinary country with a quality of life that no suburb in Perth or Darwin could replicate. With MMP's legacy community fund carved from the rehabilitation bond, and the SPC corridor maintaining the connection, that choice is supported rather than abandoned.

When the lithium runs out, the town is not a camp that closes. It is a community that decides what comes next.

MMP's legacy community fund is carved from the rehabilitation bond. A percentage of the bond — calculated at project approval — is quarantined for community legacy: the school that remains, the medical centre that serves the region, the oval that the next generation plays on. The mine ends. The investment in community does not.

The Town That Grows Beyond the Mine

The SBC builds the spine. The mine builds the first community. The community attracts more people — teachers, doctors, tradespeople, small businesses — who come for the mine and stay for the life. The town grows past the

mine. New industries find it because the infrastructure is already there: the road, the power, the water, the fibre. A second enterprise arrives. Then a third. The community diversifies.

This is not decentralisation policy. It is infrastructure policy that produces decentralisation as a consequence. Australia is the most urbanised country on earth relative to its land mass. Eighty percent of Australians live on two percent of the land. Not because the rest is uninhabitable — because the infrastructure was never built. The roads stop. The power stops. The water stops. The opportunity stops.

Every mine community built under MMP's framework is a new node on the national network. A permanent settlement in country that has never had one. A footy oval, a school, a pub, a medical centre — and a fibre connection to everything else Australia offers. The mine is the reason it starts. It does not have to be the reason it continues.

Each corridor township develops an economic identity anchored to its location and its resources. A mining and resources town near a significant deposit. An agricultural hub where the water pipeline and growing conditions support food production at scale. An energy precinct co-located with major solar and hydrogen facilities. A data centre hub. The space launch township at the geographic heart of the continent with a launch pad as its defining landmark. Every township distinct. Every township connected. The inland is not remote — at 500km/h maglev, Alice Springs is three hours from Adelaide. Broken Hill is two hours from Sydney.

What makes a corridor town self-sustaining	What the SPC provides	What happens after the mine
Power at city standard	Grid connection or sovereign microgrid — stays when mine closes	Town powers itself. Surplus energy sold to corridor grid.
Water security	SPC water pipeline — national infrastructure, not mine infrastructure	Community retains water access. Agriculture and tourism viable.
Digital connectivity	Corridor fibre spine — same bandwidth as capital city	Remote work, digital business, AI economy — geography irrelevant.
Transport to markets	Maglev spine + standard gauge freight rail + sealed road	Produce reaches markets. People travel affordably. Town is connected permanently.
Housing that workers own	Crown land released at nominal cost. Workers own homes, not rent from company.	Families stay. Community has equity. Town is not a camp.
Schools and health services	State provides teachers, nurses, police. Company funds buildings via CIL offset.	Services remain. Children grow up in the town. New families arrive.
Legacy community fund	Carved from rehabilitation bond at project approval. Cannot be reduced.	Fund maintained after mine closes. Community chooses its future.

Think of it as a linear city — a concept urban planners have theorised for decades but no nation has had the geography or the political will to build. Australia has both. The corridor is not a string of isolated towns connected by a road. It is an integrated urban system: each township distinct, each with its own character and economic specialisation, but all connected by maglev that puts every other town and every capital city within hours. The townships are not remote. They are central — in every sense.

Over fifty years Australia stops being a coastline with a vast empty interior and becomes a genuinely populated continent — with opportunity distributed across it rather than concentrated in four coastal cities where housing costs have made ordinary life unaffordable. The mine starts the town. The infrastructure makes it permanent. The community makes it worth staying for.

> *"Every mine community built under MMP's framework is a new node on the national network. A permanent settlement in country that has never had one. The mine is the reason it starts. It does not have to be the reason it continues."* — MMP Federal Platform

Section 8 — The REL Rate Structure: What You Pay at Every Price

The REL is not a fixed rate. It is a five-zone structure that rises and falls automatically with commodity prices, measured against the ten-year rolling average for each commodity. You never negotiate the rate. You never apply for a review. The quarterly average benchmark price moves between zones automatically and the rate changes with it. No ministerial discretion. No political negotiation. No retrospective adjustment.

This automatic structure provides something the current system has never offered: a complete, calculable financial model for a 25-year mine life. Every scenario — commodity boom, downturn, supercycle — has a known REL rate. You know what you pay before you commit a dollar of capital.

Zone	Condition	Rate	What it means in practice
ZONE 1 CRISIS	Quarterly average below 75% of 10-year rolling average	30%	Commodity prices have crashed. The industry is under genuine stress. The rate drops automatically — no application, no ministerial discretion. Operations remain viable. Workers stay employed.
ZONE 2 LOW	75%–100% of 10-year rolling average	40%	Prices below the long-run average. Healthy margins. Normal operations. The nation receives a fair share of a sustainable resource price.
ZONE 3 NORMAL	100%–125% of 10-year rolling average	50%	The central operating zone. Iron ore at ~$110/t. LNG at current spot. Thermal coal at current export prices. A large iron ore operation generating $15B gross revenue pays $7.5B REL and retains $1.85B in profit after costs — 12% margin. Still highly profitable.
ZONE 4 HIGH	125%–175% of 10-year rolling average	60%	Exceptional margins. The nation captures an exceptional share. Automatic — no negotiation, no ministerial discretion, no political deal. The company is still highly profitable at this price.
ZONE 5 SUPER-CYCLE	Above 175% of 10-year rolling average	80%	Iron ore at $220/t (2021). LNG post-Ukraine. Coal at $400. When a company makes $1 of profit for every 20c of cost, Australia captures 80%. Minimum margin floor applies in all zones: a company always retains at least production cost plus 15%. In practice this floor only engages for high-cost LNG operations at extreme supercycle prices. No operation is pushed to a loss under any zone.

Indicative REL Revenue by Commodity at Zone 3 (Normal) Pricing

Commodity	Total REL (Zone 3)	Federal share (73%)	State share (25%)
Iron ore	$55–80B/yr	$40–58B/yr	$14–20B/yr
LNG and gas	$25–35B/yr	$18–26B/yr	$6–9B/yr
Coal (thermal and metallurgical)	$15–25B/yr	$11–18B/yr	$4–6B/yr
Gold, copper, nickel, lithium	$12–18B/yr	$9–13B/yr	$3–5B/yr
Other minerals and resources	$5–10B/yr	$4–7B/yr	$1–2B/yr
	~$154B/yr	**~$112B/yr**	**~$38.5B/yr**
TOTAL (Zone 5 — Supercycle)	**~$240B/yr**	**~$175B/yr**	**~$60B/yr**

Twenty-Year Rate Lock — The Planning Certainty Advantage

The rate structure described above is locked for twenty years from the date of signing. Not the Zone 3 rate in isolation — the entire zone structure. A company modelling a 25-year mine life knows, with complete certainty, the REL rate it will pay at every commodity price for the first twenty years of operation. Zone 1 Crisis: 30%. Zone 2 Low: 40%. Zone 3 Normal: 50%. Zone 4 High: 60%. Zone 5 Supercycle: 80%. The trigger prices are locked. The rates are locked. No government can vary them without the company's consent during the agreement period.

This is something the current system has never provided and cannot provide. Under the current system, a company modelling a 25-year iron ore project cannot tell its board, its lenders, or its shareholders what royalty rate it will pay in Year 10. State royalties are set by state parliament and can be changed at any election. The PRRT has been amended seven times since 1987. The political environment around resource taxation shifts with every electoral cycle. Every major capital decision carries a sovereign risk premium that reflects this uncertainty.

Under MMP, that premium disappears. A board approving a $10 billion project can present lenders with a financial model that shows the exact REL rate — and exact net revenue — at every commodity price scenario for twenty years. The lender underwrites against a known number, not a range with political risk embedded. The cost of capital falls. Projects that were marginal on sovereign risk become viable on certainty. Capital that was going to Chile, Canada, and West Africa because Australian political uncertainty made it uncompetitive comes back.

The rate lock also protects against political shock in the other direction. A future government that wanted to increase the REL cannot do so for any signed project during the agreement period. The company has a contractual guarantee, not a political promise. For mining operations that take five years to build and twenty years to recover capital, that contractual guarantee is worth more than any headline rate reduction.

Simpler Income Determination — Gross Revenue, Not Profit

The REL is calculated on gross revenue — not profit. This is the single most important administrative simplification in the framework, and it benefits industry as much as it benefits Australia.

Under the current system, resource companies pay royalties on revenue and income tax on profit. The profit calculation involves: operating cost deductions (legitimate), depreciation and amortisation schedules (complex), related-party management fees (disputed), intercompany loans at commercial interest rates (disputed), PRRT uplift allowances accumulated over decades (worth over $300 billion across the sector), transfer pricing on LNG and other commodities sold to related-party traders (the subject of ongoing ATO litigation), and R&D offsets applied against the resource income. The ATO has been in protracted litigation with LNG majors over PRRT deduction balances for years. The outcome is uncertain. The cost — to both the ATO and to the companies — runs to hundreds of millions in legal and advisory fees.

The REL eliminates every one of these disputes. Gross revenue is the shipment value at the point of export, calculated against the published quarterly benchmark price for the commodity. There is no profit calculation. There is no related-party deduction. There is no uplift allowance. There is no ATO audit of the corporate structure. You ship the ore. The spot price is published. The REL rate is known. The payment is calculated in two minutes. Done.

Current system complexity	REL simplicity
Royalties on revenue + income tax on profit = two parallel calculations	One calculation. Gross revenue × zone rate. Calculated quarterly.
PRRT uplift allowances: $300B+ accumulated across sector, subject to ATO challenge	No uplift allowances. No accumulated balances. No ATO challenge.
Transfer pricing on related-party commodity sales: ongoing litigation, uncertain outcome	Published benchmark price. No related-party transactions. No transfer pricing dispute.
Related-party management fees and intercompany loans: subject to Part IVA review	No deductions for related-party transactions. No Part IVA exposure on resource income.
Depreciation schedules: negotiated, disputed, and adjusted over 25-year project life	No depreciation deductions. No schedules to maintain, adjust, or dispute.
ATO litigation cost: hundreds of millions per major LNG operation over project life	ATO audit cost on REL: near-zero. The calculation is public, automatic, and auditable in minutes.

Tax counsel cost per major operation: $20–50M per year	Tax counsel cost on REL: minimal. The formula requires no legal interpretation.

The gross revenue basis is not a disadvantage for industry. It is a simplification that eliminates the single largest source of uncertainty, litigation risk, and administrative cost in the current resource taxation system. The savings in tax counsel, ATO audit defence, and transfer pricing litigation over a 25-year project life run to hundreds of millions for a major LNG or iron ore operation. Those savings partially offset the REL cost. And unlike the current system, where the effective rate is unknowable until the ATO completes its audit, the REL rate is known before the first shipment leaves port.

Section 9 — The Arithmetic: Representative Project Comparison

Two representative projects modelled over a 25-year mine life under both the current framework and the MMP REL framework. The net present value position of the mining company is better under MMP in both cases.

Project A — Mid-Tier Iron Ore ($3B capex, 20Mtpa)

Category	Current System	Under MMP
Approval holding cost	$250–400M	$15–25M
Private infrastructure (power/water/road/comms)	$400–700M upfront	~$40–80M connection fee
Annual power cost	$80–150M/yr	$12–22M/yr at 6c/kWh
Annual diesel and fuel	$120–200M/yr	Near-zero — electric fleet
Sovereign risk / uncertainty	High — priced as capital discount	Zero — 20-year locked
Resource taxation	~28–35% effective + royalties	50% REL — one formula, locked
Clean Certification export premium	Not available	+$60–120M/yr at 10%
	Base case	**+$800M–1.4B better under MMP**

Project B — Major Iron Ore ($12B capex, 80Mtpa)

Category	Current System	Under MMP
Approval holding cost	$800M–1.5B	$50–80M
Private infrastructure	$1.2–2B upfront	~$120–200M connection fee
Annual power cost	$300–500M/yr	$45–75M/yr at 6c/kWh
Annual diesel and fuel	$400–700M/yr	Near-zero — electric fleet
Sovereign risk / uncertainty	High — major discount on $12B	Zero — 20-year locked
Resource taxation	~28–35% effective + royalties	50% REL — one formula, locked
Clean Certification export premium	Not available	+$480–960M/yr at $120/t

	Base case	+$4B–7B better under MMP

Section 10 — The International Comparison

Country	Rate	Outcome
Norway	**78%**	$1.7 trillion sovereign wealth fund. Industry remains active. Investment continues. High resource taxation and economic success are not incompatible.
Qatar	**85%**	Transformed from minor regional state to one of the wealthiest nations on earth. Shell, ExxonMobil, TotalEnergies continue to invest. A high sovereign take and active international investment are compatible.
Australia (current)	**~25–30%**	$600B in federal debt. Crumbling regional infrastructure. Communities that hosted the mines and received almost nothing. The Boyne Smelter requiring a $2 billion public subsidy to stay open.
Australia (MMP REL)	**50%**	Below Norway and Qatar. But with something no other jurisdiction offers: fastest approvals, cheapest sovereign power, sovereign transmission at manufacturing speed, five-service bundle at cost, and twenty years of locked certainty in return. Industry NPV is better. Australia is built. Everyone wins.

Section 11 — The Twenty-Year Deal: Certainty as the Product

The single greatest drag on long-term resource investment in Australia is sovereign risk. MMP legislates twenty-year resource agreements for major projects. Every element locked at signing: REL rate zone boundaries, approval conditions, rehabilitation framework, infrastructure access pricing. Both sides bound. No government — including an MMP government — can vary the terms without the company's consent.

The twenty-year agreement eliminates the sovereign risk discount entirely. Capital commits. Superannuation funds invest domestically. International sovereign wealth funds engage. You know what you pay. You know what you get. You know it lasts for twenty years. Build accordingly.

Section 12 — If You Don't

Some companies will refuse. They will threaten to withdraw. They will fund campaigns and commission modelling that says Australia will be ruined. They did it in 2010. They will do it again. MMP's answer is simple and will be stated plainly before the election:

> *"The minerals in the ground belong to the Australian people. The licence to extract them belongs to the Australian people. If a company holding that licence decides the terms are unacceptable and ceases operations, the licence is revoked and the Sovereign Build Corporation steps in. We will run the mine. The ground does not leave with you when you go."*

This is not a threat. It is a statement of legal and constitutional fact. But it is not what anyone wants. The deal is better. The companies that engage with the MMP framework early come out with faster approvals, cheaper power, cheaper infrastructure, a clean certification premium, twenty years of certainty, and a net present value position that is materially better than the current system. The companies that flourish under MMP are the ones that recognise this before the election.

Section 13 — The Deal in Plain Terms

WHAT YOU PAY	WHAT YOU GET
Resource Extraction Levy 50% of gross revenue at Zone 3. Rises automatically in supercycles. Falls automatically in downturns. Replaces royalties, PRRT, and income tax on resource revenue. One formula. No negotiation. No exemptions.	**Fast Approvals — NRAC** 3–6 months. One fee, one coordinator, every component concurrent. Saving per major project: $400M–1.5B.
Rehabilitation Bond Posted before ground is broken. Independent assessment. Commonwealth trust. Insolvency-proof. Returns land to equivalent native state. Next generation inherits the land, not the liability.	**Corridor Power — 6c/kWh** Annual saving: $200–700M for a large mine. Boyne Smelter saving: $600M–1B/yr. No subsidy needed. Commercially viable permanently.
Community Investment Levy $5,000 per FIFO worker per year. Offset dollar-for-dollar against permanent community infrastructure. Build a town: pay nothing, create a lasting asset.	**Multi-Utility Bundle** Power + water + gas + sovereign fibre/AI compute + road/rail. One connection. Cost price. Avoided private infrastructure: $500M–2B per site.
FTC Phase-Out 67% Year 1 → 33% Year 2 → Zero Year 3. The starting gun on retiring a $300–700M annual diesel bill.	**Electrification — Diesel Bill Gone** Electric haul fleet + 6c/kWh power. $300–700M/yr diesel eliminated. Move in Year 1: no fuel cost, no excise, lower maintenance.
Indigenous Equity 5–15% TO equity in projects on country. Native title resolved concurrently. Community support, resolved title, sixty thousand years of land knowledge.	**Twenty-Year Locked Agreement** REL rates, approval conditions, rehab framework, infrastructure pricing — locked. Sovereign risk: zero. Capital commits.
In exchange for all of the above, Australia's resources sector gains the fastest approvals, cheapest power, most certain regulatory environment, and cleanest certification in the world. The Boyne $2B public subsidy cycle ends. Industry NPV improves. Australia is built.	**Australian Clean Certification** +5–15% export price premium in EU and Asian markets. EU CBAM compliance automatic. $60–480M/yr additional revenue on a major iron ore operation.
AND WHAT AUSTRALIANS GET	**$112B/yr federal revenue • $38.5B/yr to states • $3.1B/yr to Traditional Owners • Income tax cut (30% flat, $50K threshold) • Citizen Dividend ($415 Year 1 → $3,000+ Year 10) • $600B debt eliminated in 15 years • Sovereign Wealth Fund • SBC corridors built**

Section 14 — The Complete Picture: Every Charge, Every Saving

The table below consolidates every cost the MMP framework imposes on a mining operation and every saving it delivers. The left column is what the industry pays under MMP that it does not pay now, or pays more of. The right column is what the industry saves under MMP that it currently spends. The net position is clear.

Figures are shown for two representative iron ore operations: Project A (mid-tier, $3B capex, 20Mtpa) and Project B (major, $12B capex, 80Mtpa). Ranges reflect commodity price, mine configuration, and distance from corridor.

All Charges Under MMP

Charge	Mechanism	Project A (20Mtpa, $3B capex)	Project B (80Mtpa, $12B capex)
Resource Extraction Levy	50% of gross revenue at Zone 3 (normal) pricing. Rises automatically in supercycles, falls in downturns. Replaces royalties, PRRT, and income tax on resource revenue. One formula, locked for 20 years.	**~$1.2B/yr at $120/t**	**~$4.8B/yr at $120/t**
Rehabilitation Bond	100% of independently assessed rehabilitation cost, held in Commonwealth trust before ground is broken. Released progressively as rehabilitation milestones are met. Insolvency-proof.	$80–200M (held in trust, not lost)	$300–700M (held in trust, not lost)
Rehabilitation Levy	Fixed percentage of annual revenue flowing into a dedicated rehabilitation fund throughout the life of the operation. Not a tax — funds actual remediation work, released to company as milestones are met.	**~$15–30M/yr**	**~$60–120M/yr**
Community Investment Levy	$5,000 per FIFO worker per year. Fully offset dollar-for-dollar against verified permanent community infrastructure. A company that builds permanent housing, medical, and school facilities pays zero CIL.	$0–10M/yr (zero if building community)	$0–25M/yr (zero if building community)
FTC Phase-Out	Fuel Tax Credit removed over 3 years: 67% retained Year 1, 33% Year 2, zero Year 3. Applies sector-wide ($5.5B/yr total). Offset by elimination of diesel cost through electrification and corridor power.	$8–15M/yr lost (by Year 3, diesel cost is zero)	$30–60M/yr lost (by Year 3, diesel cost is zero)
Transition Capital Cost (diesel → renewable)	One-off capital outlay over 3–10 years to transition diesel fleet and site power to renewable. Includes: electric haul truck procurement or diesel conversion ($1.5–4M per truck new, $400K–1.2M per conversion), solar array ($0.8–1.2M/MW installed), battery storage ($300–500K/MWh), electrolyser and hydrogen storage (where applicable). Partially offset by government Islanded Mine Renewable Program financing at cost of capital. Payback from diesel saving alone: 3–7 years. **Fleet:** *100-truck fleet transition → $150–400M (new) or $40–120M (conversion). Solar + storage for site services → $20–80M. Full processing plant renewable supply → $100–300M additional.*	**$270–780M (over 3–10 years, payback 3–7 yrs)**	**$720M–1.8B (over 3–10 years, payback 3–7 yrs)**
TOTAL CHARGES (annual, ongoing + transition capex)	REL + Rehab Levy + CIL + FTC loss. Rehabilitation bond is held in trust and returned. Transition capital is one-off and self-funded from diesel savings within 3–7 years. The Islanded Mine Renewable Program provides government financing at cost of capital for qualifying operations.	**~$1.24B/yr ongoing + $270–780M transition (one-off, self-funded)**	**~$4.96B/yr ongoing + $720M–1.8B transition (one-off, self-funded)**

All Savings Under MMP

Saving	Mechanism	Project A (20Mtpa, $3B capex)	Project B (80Mtpa, $12B capex)
Approval Cost Saving	NRAC: 3–6 months vs 3–8 years. Holding cost saving on debt servicing, lease holding, and team maintenance during approval period. One-off capex saving, recovered at financial close.	**$250–400M (one-off at approval)**	**$800M–1.5B (one-off at approval)**
Private Infrastructure Avoided	SBC corridor connection replaces $500M–2B in private power, water, road, and comms infrastructure. Connection fee: $40–200M depending on distance. Infrastructure remains a national asset after mine closes. 83% cost reduction.	**$400–700M saved (one-off at construction)**	**$1.0–1.8B saved (one-off at construction)**
Power Cost Saving	6c/kWh SPC corridor power vs $100–150/MWh commercial grid or 25–40c/kWh diesel generation. Processing plant, site services, accommodation all powered at corridor rates. Annual operational saving from Day 1 of connection.	**$70–130M/yr**	**$250–430M/yr**
Diesel Bill Eliminated	Electric haul fleet + corridor power eliminates diesel spend entirely. FTC loss in transition is ~10–15% of the diesel saving. Net: the mine that moves first is significantly better off from Year 3. The diesel bill does not fall — it disappears.	**$120–200M/yr saved from Year 3**	**$400–700M/yr saved from Year 3**
Water and Gas Cost Saving	Corridor water at delivery cost vs private bore and treatment. Corridor gas at $6–8/GJ vs commercial spot $12–20/GJ. Eliminates private water licence cost, bore maintenance, and gas supply volatility risk.	**$15–40M/yr**	**$50–130M/yr**
Tax / Legal Complexity Saving	REL on gross revenue eliminates: PRRT accumulated deduction disputes, transfer pricing litigation, related-party loan challenges, depreciation schedule complexity, and ATO audit cost. Tax counsel and litigation savings over 25-year mine life.	**$5–15M/yr ($150–400M over mine life)**	**$15–50M/yr ($400M–1.2B over mine life)**
Sovereign Risk / Capital Cost Saving	20-year locked agreement eliminates sovereign risk premium from cost of capital. On a $3B project, a 50bp reduction in the risk-adjusted discount rate is worth $150–300M in NPV. On a $12B project: $600M–1.2B in NPV.	**$150–300M NPV (one-off at financing)**	**$600M–1.2B NPV (one-off at financing)**
Australian Clean Certification Premium	5–15% export price premium in EU and Asian markets for certified operations. EU CBAM compliance automatic. Already being priced by European steel mills and battery manufacturers. Premium grows as CBAM expands and Asian frameworks follow.	**+$60–180M/yr at 5–10% on $120/t**	**+$480–960M/yr at 5–10% on $120/t**
TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS (from Year 3 onwards)	Power + diesel eliminated + water/gas + tax/legal + Clean Cert premium. Excludes one-off approval and infrastructure savings and sovereign risk NPV uplift.	**$270–565M/yr**	**$1.20–2.22B/yr**

Net Position: Charges vs Savings

	Project A — Mid-Tier (20Mtpa iron ore, $3B capex)	Project B — Major (80Mtpa iron ore, $12B capex)
Total annual charges under MMP (ongoing)	**~$1.24B/yr**	**~$4.96B/yr**
Transition capital (diesel → RE, one-off over 3–10 yrs)	**$270–780M (self-funded from diesel saving in 3–7 yrs)**	**$720M–1.8B (self-funded from diesel saving in 3–7 yrs)**
Total annual savings under MMP (from Yr 3)	**$270–565M/yr**	**$1.20–2.22B/yr**
One-off capex savings (approval + infrastructure)	**$650M–1.1B at project start**	**$1.8–3.3B at project start**
Sovereign risk NPV uplift (50bp discount rate reduction)	**+$150–300M NPV**	**+$600M–1.2B NPV**
NET annual savings offset against REL charge (Yr 3+)	**Savings cover 22–46% of annual REL charge**	**Savings cover 24–45% of annual REL charge**
NET 25-YEAR MINE LIFE NPV POSITION vs CURRENT SYSTEM	**+$800M to +$1.4B better under MMP**	**+$4B to +$7B better under MMP**

The transition capital cost is real and should be stated plainly. Transitioning a 100-truck fleet from diesel to electric, combined with on-site solar, battery, and where needed hydrogen storage, costs $270 million to $780 million for a mid-tier operation and $720 million to $1.8 billion for a major one. This is a significant one-off outlay. It is not, however, a net cost over the mine's operating life. The diesel saving alone — $120–200 million per year for a mid-tier operation, $400–700 million for a major one — repays the full transition capital in 3 to 7 years. Every year after payback the saving is pure operating profit improvement. Over a 25-year mine life, the transition capital is the best investment a mining company makes.

The Islanded Mine Renewable Program provides government-backed financing at cost of capital for qualifying operations. The mine does not need to fund the full transition from its own balance sheet in Year 1. It draws down on the facility as each stage is deployed, and repays from the diesel saving as it flows. The government bears the financing cost. The mine captures the full operational saving.

The REL is the largest single charge. It is also the mechanism that funds every saving. The SBC infrastructure that eliminates the $300–700M diesel bill exists because the REL funds it. The NRAC that saves $250M–1.5B in approval holding costs exists because the REL funds it. The Clean Certification premium that adds $60–960M per year in export revenue exists because the REL funds the sovereign framework that makes it credible. The charges and the savings are not independent. They are one system.

A company that pays the REL and does not connect to the corridor captures the charge without capturing the savings. A company that engages with the full MMP framework — corridor connection, fleet electrification, Clean Certification, 20-year agreement — captures both sides of the ledger. The net position over 25 years is materially better than the current system for every qualifying operation modelled. The REL is not a cost. It is the entry price to the best-governed, cheapest-to-operate, most certain resource jurisdiction on earth.

> *"The ground beneath Australia belongs to every Australian. The wealth that comes out of it has been going to the few for too long. Not through malice. Through a deal that was never fair. MMP makes it fair. One levy. One formula. Automatic. Transparent. And in return: the infrastructure, the certainty, and the market access that make Australian resource operations the best in the world to run, the fastest to approve, and the most premium to sell. That is the deal."* — MMP Federal Platform