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Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Growing Confidence in Tasmanian Mining

Under a majority Liberal Government, confidence is growing in our mining industry.

Mining and mineral processing accounts for 50 per cent of the value of the State's exports, contributes significantly to our revenue and – most importantly – provides employment for a great many Tasmanians.

A raft of good news for the industry recently includes last week's sale of the Avebury nickel mine, the granting of a mining lease to Stellar Resources for its Heemskirk tin project, and the reopening of the Henty gold mine.

We have also seen the beginning of work on a number of projects at the Mt Lyell mine funded through a \$9.5 million investment by the Government aimed at helping to bring forward its potential restart.

Today, I can also reveal as a further sign of growing confidence in the industry that \$39.4 million was collected in mining royalties in 2016-17, an impressive increase on the \$15 million received in 2015-16.

The mining industry is rebounding strongly from low global commodity prices and the Liberal Government is building on our support with the new \$1 million Mining Sector Innovation Program.

Funded in the State Budget, this program aims to help keep this increasingly high-tech industry at the cutting edge of innovation and best practice.

The program will support innovation-focussed projects in partnership with the Tasmanian Minerals and Energy Council and the University of Tasmania's Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits.

The Liberal Government is the strongest and most consistent supporter of our mining industry because we know its importance to our economy and to jobs, particularly in regional Tasmania.