

The Hidden Path to Sustainable Mining: An Incentive for Transforming Scope 3 Emissions Across Industries

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ABSTRACT

Scope 3 emissions are a set of often overlooked indirect greenhouse gas emissions within a company's value chain, representing the majority of emissions for many sectors. Scope 3 emissions are a significant aspect of a sustainable future, and as the journey towards a world committed to achieving Net Zero Emissions has started, the time to spark a transformative conversation in the mining industry has arrived. Better knowledge of scope 3 footprints allows organisations to assess their emission mitigation projects against the total carbon impact of their operations and products.

The presentation outlines two primary objectives. Firstly, uncover the true extent of scope 3 emissions on the mining sector and develop a roadmap for reducing these emissions. Secondly, demonstrate that mining's carbon footprint is felt across every industry's scope 3 emissions, highlighting the importance of an accurate understanding of mining product total emissions, including upstream scope 3. For this purpose, case studies were used to understand the issues for calculating scope 3, and the areas in need of improvement were identified to ensure the total footprint of a mining product is transparent.

The objectives reach far beyond the mining industry, targeting the ESG landscape for all other sectors. It can open doors for future projects that prepare the mining sector to increase transparency for their own ESG requirements of the impending Australian Treasury's Climate-related financial disclosure legislation.