

Getting it right from the beginning – ESG in Mineral Exploration

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Keywords: ESG, exploration, mining, environment, governance, social, community

ABSTRACT

Consideration of environmental, social and governance (or ESG) issues is not a new concept for the minerals industry and is now recognised as one of our most important opportunities and risks. Getting it right from the beginning has never been more important for our industry, and that starts with exploration.

Most exploration programs are low impact and short-term. Exploration operations can vary in size and scale, move location and priority relatively quickly. Australia is a highly regulated jurisdiction with different regulatory systems and requirements in every state and territory. Exploration companies often have limited resources and generally minimise administrative investment. All of these variables mean that implementation of ESG frameworks for an exploration company can be complex.

Current initiatives and industry leading practise in ESG with case studies in mineral exploration, as well as why ESG is so important for mineral is examined.