



Your ref:

Our ref: S0186/201301

The Commissioner  
Australian Services Exports  
Australian Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Commissioner

## **SUBMISSION TO THE BARRIERS TO GROWTH IN SERVICE EXPORTS DRAFT REPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the 'Barriers to Growth in Service Exports' draft report. The Department recognises the contribution of service exports to the Western Australian and national economies, and supports the reduction or elimination of unnecessary barriers to service exports.

The Department believes that the discussion on professional services in the draft report would benefit from a greater focus on mining equipment, technology and services and oil and gas services. Perth is now recognised as an international centre for mining services and research, and an emerging centre for oil and gas. Over 800 international and local companies have a presence in Perth, either solely, or predominantly, servicing the resources sector.

Australia's mining services exports increased fourfold from \$65 million in 2006-07 to \$250 million in 2012-13. ITS Global stated in a report prepared for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that specialist-mining services have the "greatest potential for expanding services trade".

While mining services exports have been growing at a national level, Western Australia's national share is decreasing, meaning that mining services are becoming more significant in other Australian jurisdictions as well. Given the potential growth in mining equipment, technology and services and oil and gas services, we recommend the Inquiry also consider barriers to growth in the export of these services.

I look forward to receiving a copy of the final report.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Wood  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

17 September 2015