



Emigration Migration Agreements

The National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce (NRSET), chaired by the then Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Western and Northern Australia, Gary Gray, convened in late 2009 to help address the need for more than 70,000 skilled workers on major resources projects over the next five years. The taskforce released its final report in July 2010 and listed a range of recommendations across workforce planning and workforce participation, education and training, and community infrastructure. The government agreed to all 31 recommendations of the report. With the construction phases of a number of major projects converging in coming years, the NRSET recognised that skill shortages are likely to emerge across a range of occupations—including in engineering and trades.

The NRSET noted that migration is one tool for meeting Australia's future skills needs and recommended the introduction of Emigration Migration Agreements (EMAs). Access to overseas labour would help to ensure that the peak workforce needs of these projects—easing capacity constraints and ensuring economic and employment benefits could be realised.

Recognising the need to work with the mining industry to overcome labour shortages as big projects got off the ground the Australian government has announced the introduction of Enterprise Migration Agreements (EMAs)— a new

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temporary migration initiative to help address the skill needs of the resource sector. EMAs will be a custom-designed, project-wide migration arrangement suited to the resource sector. It will ensure that skill shortages do not create constraints on major projects and jeopardise Australian jobs. Through EMAs, major resource projects will be able to access overseas labour for genuine skill vacancies that cannot be filled from the Australian labour market. The government intends to monitor the offering of jobs first to Australian workers by establishing a Jobs Board and expects that foreign workers are only recruited after genuine efforts to first employ Australians.

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen on 31st May 2012 announced the approval of the first EMA for the Roy Hill project under which the Roy Hill project management will be allowed to sponsor up to 1715 foreign workers to [work in Australia](#) for the three-year construction phase through the 457 [Australia skilled visa](#) program, where they cannot find Australians to fill the positions which is said to require more than 8000 workers during the construction phase.

EMAs will be available to resources projects with capital expenditure of more than two billion dollars and a peak workforce of more than 1500 workers. The EMA also sets out protections to ensure that foreign workers are only recruited after genuine efforts to first employ Australians, and that visa holders engaged on the project receive the same wages and conditions as their Australian counterparts.

The government maintains that workers brought in on the program will be given a specific induction program that will make them aware of their workplace rights, as well as having information available in writing, online and through video presentations. This aspect is in response to union concerns that migrant workers will be offered lower wages and conditions than local workers and may open the door to similar arrangements in other industries. According to the government, there are a small number of further EMAs under discussion, with 'between 10 and 30 projects which might meet EMA standards over the medium term.

For those occupations eligible for the standard 457 program, (most of which are highly skilled) no cap will apply to the number of people that can be sponsored through the EMA. This is consistent with the standard 457 program. The requirement to pay market salary rates and the cost of overseas recruitment, means that employers only seek overseas labour where there is a genuine skill need.

For semi-skilled, or 'sub-trade' occupations, a cap will be set as part of EMA negotiations. Project owners will need to provide evidence as to why Australian workers are not available to fill these vacancies.

Training places

Other aspects of the EMA include:

- over \$20 million allocated to training via programs including traineeships, apprenticeships, up-skilling and leadership training
- up to 2000 training places for Australian workers, including over 200 apprentices and trainees, as well as 100 Indigenous Australians
- two-thirds of the apprenticeships on offer are for mature Australians.

Reaction to the Government move

Reaction to the announcement of the first EMA was favourable from key interest industry groups, including the Minerals Council of Australia, while the Opposition and the Unions were concerned. The reaction has created dissensions within the ruling Labor Party on the issue and this has led to the formation of a sub-committee of backbenchers to over-see the monitoring of the EMA projects. Meanwhile, Indian company GVK has indicated that it might need to use Enterprise Migration Agreements for its Alpha Coal Project, with reference to the construction phase when about 3600 jobs would be available. Rio Tinto is looking for fresh recruitment of 6000 persons for its iron ore operations in Western Australia. Skills Australia estimates mining operations would need an additional 89,000 workers in five years to 2016 to meet expected demand. The number of short-term resources construction jobs is expected to peak at 49,000 alone in 2014. Foreign workers are set to fill the shortage of workforce in mining sector.

Business Opportunities

- The State Government of Queensland granted limited approval for the 6.4 billion Alpha Coal project being developed by Hancock Coal and India company GVK to build a railway to carry coal from the Alpha coalmine in the Galilee basin to the coal port of Abbot Point. The capacity of the mine is 30 million tonnes a year. The approval signals the start of the development of the Galilee basin but the limited approval only covers one of three mines being proposed by Hancock-GVK. According to a spokesman of GVK, the railway approved had the capacity to carry 60 million tonnes of coal a year that could be increased to 120 million tonnes a year and if another railway line was built in the same corridor, that could increase to 250 million tonnes a year.
- India's largest stock exchange has approached local brokers to test the appetite for establishing an alternative exchange in Australia, hot on the heels of Chi-X. The National Stock Exchange of India, in partnership with a consortium, has met brokers understood to include Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Commonwealth Bank of Australia Institutional Equities. The talks are in "early stages", according to a National Stock Exchange spokesperson. However, it could represent further competition for the Australian Securities Exchange, which is already facing potential competition for its clearing services from the London-based LCH Clearent. The National Stock Exchange and its local rival the Bombay Stock Exchange have been early adopters of super-fast trading technologies. Both exchanges began offering high-frequency trading (HFT) facilities in 2009, before many other major world markets. The Indian exchange has been working to expand its international presence, signing a deal with the London Stock Exchange last month to list derivatives based on the FTSE 100 index. Australia at present has only one alternative exchange, Chi-X, apart from the ASX, permitted to trade ASX-listed securities. Chi-X is backed by Japanese investment house Nomura and announced it had achieved 3 per cent market share for the first time on May 4 after its launch here.
- Australian Agricultural Company plans to recruit workforce from India to fill 260 positions at an \$80 million abattoir in Darwin. The company has reportedly been working for last 18 months on securing visas for workers from India.
- WA Government has announced on 15 May 2012 the availability of petroleum acreage in the Amadeus Basin, Northern Carnarvon Basin, Officer Basin and Perth Basin of Western Australia seeking applications for petroleum exploration permits. This acreage is a mixture of more mature areas with known geological setting, and greenfield frontier areas. The closing date is 1st November 2012. These include one release area of 6,576 km² in WA portion of the Amadeus Basin adjoining the Northern Territory border; one release area of size 878 km² in the offshore Northern Carnarvon Basin; three release areas within the central WA Officer Basin covering 18,306 km², 22,476 km² and 22,694 km² respectively and two release areas of 559 km² and 297 km² in the onshore northern Perth Basin.

Business related events in Australia

- According to the latest report by Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics (BREE), total investment committed in resources sector has reached \$260.8 billion in 6 months to end April. The total accounts for 98 projects at the advanced stage, including 39 minerals projects, 38 energy projects, 19 infrastructure projects and two mineral processing projects. Oil and gas, iron ore and coal and related infrastructure accounted for around 95% of committed capital expenditure. Of the \$260.8 billion, more than 60% was linked to just seven LNG projects. 25 resource projects completed, include the Pluto LNG project near Karratha at a capital cost of \$14 billion along with \$3.4 billion expansion to the Worsley Alumina refinery in WA.
- SA Treasurer Jack Snelling announced a A\$2 million commitment from SA government to support an expansion of pre-competitive mineral exploration data within the highly prospective region of Gawler Craton, an area of 44,000 sq.km. in Central SA. Minerals that have been found in the region include gold, diamonds, copper, nickel, iron ore, lead-zinc, uranium, and coal. The huge Olympic Dam copper-gold operation is located at the region's eastern edge.

Dell Women's Entrepreneur Network Annual Conference

Participation of 15 Australian women entrepreneurs along with 160 others from more than 10 countries at the Dell Women's Entrepreneur Network (DWEN) Annual Conference in New Delhi from June 17-19 2012. DWEN is designed to bring together female business entrepreneurs from a range of industries to share best practice, network and drive business agreements that will have a serious impact on local and global economies. The Conference themed "Innovation Through Collaboration", will include specific modules such as doing business in India, collaboration for business success, and scaling your IT with Business growth.

Investment Promotion by Western Australia

At a meeting with the authorities of Chamber of Commerce & Industry Western Australia (CCIWA) on 31 May discussions were held on ways to promote trade and investment between India and WA. Mr. Nick Paterniti, International Trade Development, explained the role of CCIWA and opportunities for economic and commercial cooperation. They identified mining, gas & oil, IT, skilled workforce, construction, shipbuilding, marine (new opportunities emerging from Indian Ocean Rim cooperation), solar energy, agriculture as potential areas for bilateral cooperation. CCIWA would be mounting a business delegation to India later this year (dates are to be finalized). They also welcome business delegations from India and CCIWA would be happy to be associated with any incoming Indian business delegation.

Study visit by delegation from Coromandel International Limited

A delegation from Coromandel International Limited comprising Dr G. Ravi Prasad, President Marketing Fertilisers & SND and Mr. Narayanan Vellayan, Head, Organic Fertiliser & Waste Management was on a study visit to Australia to understand the technology and experience of Australian side in the areas of organic fertilizer and waste management, especially urban waste management. As part of its visit to Western Australia, the delegation visited the Consulate General of India on 28 May. They discussed waste management technology in Perth and surrounding areas. The delegation also included Mr. Amit Gupta from Natural Resources Exploration from Queensland, Mr. Graeme Maus, Director of Research Development, Australian Premium Water Pty Limited and Mr. Bruce Hutchinson from Getax Australia.

“Doing Business with India” Seminar

CGI Sydney made a presentation on “Doing Business with India” at a seminar organized by the NSW Trade & Investment on 1 May. The audience comprised owners of about 25 small and medium businesses interesting in trade and investment with India. Another presentation on “India: The Big Picture” at an event organized by CPA Australia on 2 May. The audience comprised of about 25 CPAs working in various corporate sector entities interested in starting some form of economic engagement with India.

Upcoming Events in Australia:

The Good Food & Wine Show (22 – 24 June 2012)

The Event is being organized for the food, wine, hospitality or lifestyle industries or in any of the areas below. Gourmet Food, Cheeses/Dairy, Oils, Alcohol, Coffee, Appliances, Kitchenware, Confectionery, Regional Food Areas, Tourism/Travel.

Venue: Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

Website: <http://www.goodfoodshow.com.au>

Organizer: Diversified Exhibitions Australia

International Building & Design Expo 'DesignBUILD AUSTRALASIA' (27–29 June 2012)

Australian International Building Materials & Equipment Exhibition – Architectural hardware, lighting, sanitary ware, furniture, flooring, tile stone, granite, marble, decorative accessories, wall finishes, Finishes & Surfaces – dedicated flooring, wall covering and laminating products exhibition. The exhibition will bring together a vast collection of surfacing products that range from the functional to the beautiful. Architectural surfacing products including flooring, wall covering, cladding and work space surfaces. The National Plumbing Show will run in partnership with DesignBUILD Australian Exhibition Services PIL.

Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

Website: <http://www.designbuildexpo.com.au>

To view the list of all Australian Government Tenders, visit <https://www.tenders.gov.au/>