IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ON SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS **IN THE CONTEXT OF MINERAL EXPLORATION**

MINEX CRC PROGRAM 3

National Drilling Initiative

PHD PROJECT

University of South Australia

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RESEARCH PROJECT

Social license to operate (SLO) is a challenge to all mineral exploration and mining activities. Development of disruptive technologies will impact on SLO in that the way these technologies will be used and the impact they may have on the environment and/or community differs from that of better known traditional technologies. Such variables require communication within the field in which they will be applied and with the public to build confidence and acceptance in purpose and application.

KEY QUESTION

How may MinEx CRC mineral exploration technologies impact or be impacted by SLO and regulatory policy/ governance approaches?

OBJECTIVES

The project will have three broad objectives:

1. Environmental and physical: consider the impact utilization of MinEx C:RC technologies intended to have a smaller environmental and physical ground surface footprint will lhave towards acceptance of mineral exploration activities in the context of current social, political and legal issues.

2. People and communities: investigate impact of new technologies on employment within the exploration industry and opportunities for low skilled labour and people living in regional/remote areas, including indigenous communities.

3. Regulatory frameworks: identify pinch points between regulatory policy/governance approaches, for new mineral exploration technologies and SLO that may be reconciled to improve approaches to mineral exploration.

OUTCOMES

- An understanding of how new mineral exploration technologies may impact on the landscape of social license to operate in the context of mineral exploration
- Mapping of the bounds of current regulatory frameworks on utilisation of MinEx CRC technologies