Research & industry collaboration

The Western Australian School of Mines (WASM) has a long history of involvement with the mining industry, particularly through its Kalgoorlie campus and facilities. This includes state-of-the-art research laboratory facilities and experienced research academics in both mining and metallurgical engineering.

The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) is a statutory body that supports and encourages research for the Western Australian minerals industry. It is actively supporting a number of research projects via CRC ORE and other direct channels.

CRC ORE, a government and mining industry funded collaborative research centre, has a number of technologies it would seed into the hub, including Grade Engineering® technical capability. It also has a strong engagement model with the Mining and METS companies that would be embedded in the hub.

METS Ignited, an Industry Growth Centre funded by the Australian Government, supports the hub concept, which aligns closely with its Living Labs initiative to foster innovation and collaboration.

Value to industry

The hub provides an environment for focused collaboration between Researchers, METS and Miners. Possibilities exist to unlock significant additional value through technology to improve current operations, extend mine life and re-evaluate mothballed or undeveloped deposits. Projects can capitalise on opportunities identified in recent Grade Engineering® studies on mining operations across the world by CRC ORE. This work has identified significant economic benefits (∆NPV) in existing operations and greenfield projects.

Why Kalgoorlie?

- Well positioned to several operating mines, allowing linkage of technologies to operating sites.
- Proximity to a diverse range of geological and mineralisation styles for technology development and application.
- Existing WASM campus with close industry links.
- Strong SME capability and a culture of regional innovation.
- Opportunity to train industry professionals to further grow capability and capacity within Western Australia and Australia as a whole.

Future vision

- A solid pipeline of technology development that delivers real value to current operations.
- A recognised centre for METS and Researchers to embed their technologies with a clear pathway for utilisation in region, in Australia, and internationally.
- A centre of excellence for technical knowledge transfer.