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Lithium miners' royalty relief

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STUART MCKINNON

Lithium miners and industry groups have welcomed a 12month, 50 per cent royalty break from the State Government.

The \$20m relief package aims to ease pressure on the sector, which has been battling soft demand and weak prices for the past two years.

The royalty cut will amount to a roughly \$US15/t temporary saving for Pilbara Minerals, Galaxy Resources and the collapsed Altura Mining. The Government agreed to relief from the 5 per cent State royalty after lobbying by the WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.

AMEC chief executive Warren Pearce said the assistance was welcome relief for lithium miners and would help stop further job losses and mine closures.

CME chief executive Paul Everingham said the package

would help WA remain a global player in the lithiumion battery supply chain.

"Local lithium producers have come under significant price pressure in recent times, despite strong optimism for market demand in the medium term driven largely by EV batteries," he said.

Pilbara Minerals managing director Ken Brinsden said the royalty break sent a strong signal the State Government was supporting a nascent industry that was expected to grow.