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By Marian **SAMPSON**

**BATT** Mobile Equipment Pty Ltd has landed a \$4.5M manufacturers grant to help charge Australia's future.

The Morrison Government is supporting an innovative local manufacturing company based in Tomago to grow, expand and employ more Australians.

Batt Mobile Equipment Pty Ltd, based in Tomago, is one of eight companies to have a project funded in the Resources Technology and Critical Minerals Processing sector, as part of the first round of the Government's \$1.3 billion Modern Manufacturing Initiative (MMI).

The Modern Manufacturing Initiative is the centrepiece of the Morrison Government's \$1.5 billion Modern Manufacturing Strategy, designed to position Australia as a globally recognised, high-quality and sustainable manufacturing nation.

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Christian Porter said, "Australia's resource sector is world-class.

"Through our \$1.3 billion Modern Manufacturing Initiative, we are helping to unlock the enormous

potential by providing targeted support for projects that will deliver big rewards for our local economy, generate more export earnings and create new jobs," Minister Porter said.

Liberal Patron Senator for the Hunter Region Hollie Hughes said, "We are supporting our manufacturers in the Hunter Region to grow their business and provide more jobs for locals, because not only is it good for our local economy as we recover from the pandemic, but also for generations to come."

Batt Mobile Equipment will use the \$4,553,601 grant to build heavy-battery electric vehicles for underground hard rock mines, delivering Australia's first commercially and operationally viable alternative to a diesel fleet.

This would catalyse the electrification of global hard rock mines, and deliver

emission reduction, safety, and productivity outcomes.

This funding supports projects within the Government's six National Manufacturing Priorities: Medical Products; Food and Beverage; Resources Technology and Critical Minerals Processing; Recycling and Clean Energy; Defence; and Space.

Grants are between \$100,000 and \$1 million, with funding to make up no more than 50% of the total project costs.