

# CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

## DECEMBER 2023

- Australia's mineral exploration spending soars to new heights
- Australia creates 'strategic' critical minerals list
- EU's critical minerals act welcome but falling short, say green groups and industry

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Newsletter



DECEMBER 2023

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Critical Minerals Association Australia monthly newsletter & updates on the critical minerals space.

## CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

- Spotlight on the CMA in 2023

## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- Australia's mineral exploration spending soars to new heights
- Critical Minerals homes in on Lindfield vanadium
- WA vanadium hub completes construction
- Australia's Lionele in talks with US Defense Dept on tantalum supply
- Novo Resources forms JV with SQM on lithium-nickel exploration in Australia

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

- Updates to Australia's Critical Minerals List
- CSIRO reveals pathways to sustainable mine closures
- International Graphite gets funding to fuel graphite play
- New Queensland Minister for Critical Minerals announced
- Australia wants to compete with China on critical minerals, Minister King says
- Strategic Minerals List shines a light on Tasmanian mining sector

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- More minerals needed for the 'renewables revolution': COP28
- Quad should lead region forward in securing mineral supply chains
- S. Korea, Vietnam agree to boost cooperation on critical minerals
- Arras Minerals allies with Teck Resources to focus on critical minerals in Kazakhstan
- EU's critical minerals act welcome but falling short, say green groups and industry
- US looks to exclude Chinese entities from the Inflation Reduction Act
- US clarifies foreign entities of concern, widening the door for Australian critical minerals
- Chile wrestles with the opportunity of high lithium demand while still capturing value from its resources
- Aussie nickel miners receive major boost

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023 - 2024



Critical Minerals Association Australia



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www.cmaaustralia.org



# SPOTLIGHT ON THE CMA IN 2023

05

In wrapping up 2023, the CMA team would like to recap the highlights of our first full year of operation and extend a sincere and huge thanks to all our members, partners, supporters, the Federal and State Governments and friends for their invaluable support, encouragement and contributions!

During 2023 we have:

## Supported and worked with members

We were delighted to provide member-specific support and guidance, collaborated and worked closely with our [membership base](#) throughout the year. We also held an inaugural [Foundation Advisory Board](#) meeting this year where our members set goals for the future of the organisation.

## Delivered Working Groups and Webinars

In addition to [industry focused webinars](#) This year the CMA focused on ESG as a theme and held an [ESG webinar](#), followed by the launch of its ESG working Group and subsequent meetings. We were also proud to form a partnership with our indigenous colleagues at [i2i Global](#) under our ESG banner.

## Queensland's Critical Minerals

The CMA and Critical Productions were proud to be associated with an [inaugural series of videos focussed on Queensland Critical Minerals](#) and aimed at global investors. Queensland's critical mineral endowment, new critical minerals strategy and wider ecosystem were featured in the initial editions of the series.

## Consulted with and supported the Federal and State Governments

The CMA engaged closely with the Federal and State Governments both privately and publicly throughout the year. Formal input was provided to a number consultations including:

Federal:

- [Critical Minerals Strategy 2023 Consultation Submission](#)
- [CMAA Submission to National Reconstruction Fund](#)
- [CMAA Submission to National Battery Strategy Consultation](#)
- [Critical Minerals List Update: CMAA Submission](#)

## State Critical Minerals Strategies

The CMA made submissions to the [NSW Critical Minerals Strategy Refresh](#) as well as the [WA Battery and Critical Minerals Strategy](#) refresh this month, where we advocated for action oriented plans that include critical minerals zones or hubs. Please get in touch with the CMA team if you would like a copy of either submission.

## Extended our International reach:

- In February 2023, our sister association [Critical Minerals Association United States of America](#) (CMA USA) was launched to
- In July 2023, we were proud to announce the launch of the Critical Minerals International Alliance ([CMIA](#)). The CMIA is a mechanism that brings together the [CMA Australia](#), [CMA USA](#) and [CMA UK](#), and partner association [C2M2A](#), at an international level to address challenges facing the global critical minerals industry.

## Participated in and hosted critical minerals discussions and events:

- [Paydirt's Battery Minerals Conference](#), Perth, March 2023
- [CMA Members and Friends Reception](#), Perth, March 2023
- [Responsible Raw Materials 4th Annual Conference](#), London (via video link), May 2023
- [World Mining Congress](#), Brisbane, June 2023
- [CMA Members and Friends Reception](#), Brisbane, June 2023
- [Qld Government Regional Tour of North Queensland](#), June 2023
- [Australian Institute of International Affairs](#): Brisbane, July 2023
- [Project Blue Critical Minerals Forum](#), Perth, August 2023
- [Future of Mining](#), Perth, September 2023
- [In conversation with Madeleine King](#), London, September 2023
- [16th annual UQ Latin-American Colloquium](#), Brisbane, September 2023
- [Australia Japan Business Cooperation Committee](#), Melbourne, October 2023
- [ANU Rare Earths Conference](#), Canberra, November 2023
- [IMARC Annual Conference](#), Sydney, November, 2023
- [CMA Annual Conference](#), London, November, 2023
- [Resourcing Tomorrow at Mines and Money](#), London, December 2023

# AUSTRALIAN NEWS

## Australia's mineral exploration spending soars to new heights

Mineral exploration spending in Australia continues to be on an upward trajectory, with companies investing more than A\$1-billion in the search for riches in minerals and petroleum in the September quarter...

[Read More](#)

Creamer Media's Mining Weekly | 04 Dec 2023

## Critical Minerals homes in on Lindfield vanadium

Critical Minerals Group has become more laser-focused in on its 100 per cent-owned Lindfield vanadium project in north-west Queensland after agreeing to shed 75 per cent of its share in two non-core assets...

[Read More](#)

The West Australian | 07 Dec 2023

## Novo Resources forms JV with SQM on lithium-nickel exploration in Australia

INovo Resources (ASX: NVO) (TSX: NVO) announced on Monday it has entered a strategic joint venture with Chile's SQM, the world's second-largest lithium miner, for the advancement of critical minerals exploration in Australia...

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 18 Dec 2023

## WA vanadium hub completes construction

Australian Vanadium (AVL) has announced its vanadium electrolyte facility in the northern suburbs of Perth has completed construction. The facility is set to produce up to 33 megawatt hours of high purity electrolyte for vanadium flow batteries (VFBs) per year...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 18 Dec 2024

## Australia's Liontown in talks with US Defense Dept on tantalum supply

Miner Liontown Resources is speaking with the United States Department of Defense about supplying tantalum from its Australian operations if the U.S. passes a new regulation by year end as expected, its chief executive told Reuters on Thursday. Lining up a tantalum deal with the U.S. defense department would provide the company a crucial endorsement and potentially future funding as it develops its Kathleen Valley lithium mine, seen as one of the most promising deposits of the metal...

[Read More](#)

Reuters | 13 Dec 2023



Photo source: Getty Images

# AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS



Photo source: [Industry.gov.au](https://www.industry.gov.au)

## Updates to Australia's Critical Minerals List

Australia has updated its list of critical minerals and created a new list of strategic materials...

[Read More](#)

Australian Government - Department of Industry, Science and Resources | 16 Dec 2023

## CSIRO reveals pathways to sustainable mine closures

A new report from Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has identified new opportunities for more sustainable mine closures. The report *Enabling Mine Closure and Transitions: Opportunities for Australian Industry*, outlines Australia's billion-dollar opportunity to create a new industry in support of mine closures and transitions...

[Read More](#)

The West Australian | 07 Dec 2023

## New Queensland Minister for Critical Minerals announced

The new Queensland Government has been sworn in, with a new Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals announced.

Scott Stewart has held the position of Minister for Resources since November 2020 and will now take over the critical minerals portfolio.

The new Government structure comes as Queensland Premier Steven Miles takes the reins from Annastacia Palaszczuk...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 19 Dec 2023

## International Graphite gets funding to fuel graphite play

International Graphite will use a second-tranche \$1.25 million Critical Minerals Development Grant payment to continue feasibility work on its Springdale graphite project and downstream processing facilities.

The latest payment is part of a \$4.7 million funding agreement with the Federal Government as part of the national Critical Minerals Development Program that also delivered \$1.7 million to the company in June this year...

[Read More](#)

The West Australian | 11 Dec 2023

## Australia wants to compete with China on critical minerals, Minister King says

Australia wants to compete with China in producing and refining resources vital to the next phase of high-tech manufacturing around the world, according to Minister Madeleine King, backing the country's bid to build its critical minerals capability...

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 19 Dec 2023

## Tasmania welcomes new strategic minerals list

Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff has welcomed the Australian Government's new strategic minerals list released this week. Rockliff said that of the six minerals on the list, Tasmania had abundant supplies of four...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 20 Dec 2024

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

## More minerals needed for the 'renewables revolution': COP28

The latest UN climate conference, COP28, has confirmed what many have already suspected: the world needs more critical minerals to successfully decarbonise and transition to renewable energy.

Speaking at the summit in Dubai, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that the availability and accessibility of critical minerals is crucial if the world is to reach the goals set by the 2015 Paris Agreement...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 07 Dec 2024

## S. Korea, Vietnam agree to boost cooperation on critical minerals

South Korea and Vietnam agreed Thursday to enhance bilateral cooperation on key minerals by setting up a research center for their supply chains and jointly developing related technologies, Seoul's industry ministry said...

[Read More](#)

Yonhap News Agency | 07 Dec 2023

## Quad should lead region forward in securing mineral supply chains

Earlier this month, China abruptly introduced controls on the export of graphite, a key element of EV batteries. In recent months, Beijing has also tightened restrictions on overseas shipments of gallium, germanium and rare earth elements, materials also used as inputs for the making of EVs or computer chips...

[Read More](#)

Nikkei Asia | 11 Dec 2023

## Arras Minerals allies with Teck Resources to focus on critical minerals in Kazakhstan

Arras Minerals Corp. has entered into an agreement with Teck Resources Ltd to form a strategic alliance focusing on exploration for critical minerals on Arras' strategically located license package in the Bozshakol-Chingiz Magmatic Arc in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan...

[Read More](#)

Global Mining Review | 11 Dec 2023



## EU's critical minerals act welcome but falling short, say green groups and industry

The EU's Critical Raw Materials Act, adopted on Thursday (7 December), aims to reduce permitting times for domestic mining and recycling projects but fails to create the broader conditions necessary for companies to make those investments, the industry says – a warning echoed by green activists...

[Read More](#)

Euractiv | 07 Dec 2023

Photo source: European Union



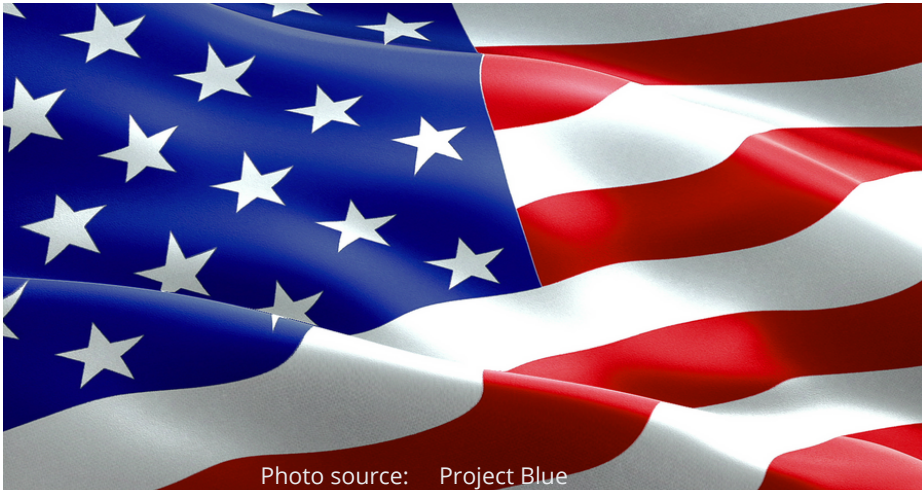


Photo source: Project Blue

## US looks to exclude Chinese entities from the Inflation Reduction Act

Lithium producers are particularly exposed as the US looks to limit the ability of "Foreign Entities of Concern" to benefit from the IRA.

The United States has introduced a new amendment to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) which has added clarity to the term "Foreign Entity of Concern" (FEOC). A FEOC is any foreign entity "owned by, controlled by or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a covered nation". The countries for which this applies are China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran. A company can be considered a FEOC if 25% or more of its board seats, voting rights, or equity are held by a company based in China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran...

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 12 Dec 2024

## Chile wrestles with the opportunity of high lithium demand while still capturing value from its resources

As the race for lithium continues to heat up, Chile will need to find a way to maintain its position as a major lithium producer while its neighbours continue to receive significant investment.

Looking to develop its Atacama and Ollagüe lithium licenses in Chile, Wealth Minerals is having to wait on the Chilean government to outline rules for drilling and testing on potential new resources of lithium projects. In recent years, the Chilean government has become increasingly nationalistic when it comes to its lithium sector...

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 14 Dec 2024

## US clarifies foreign entities of concern, widening the door for Australian critical minerals

The recent announcement clarifying the US Government position on Foreign Entities of Concern (FEOC) has been received as positive news by Cobalt Blue Holdings Limited, an Australian-owned critical minerals exploration and project development company. COB's 'Mine to Battery Markets Strategy' is being built on three pillars, including a Cobalt Nickel Refinery in Western Australia, the Broken Hill Cobalt Project in NSW, and the global opportunity of Cobalt in Waste Streams Projects...

[Read More](#)

ABN Newswire | 07 Dec 2023

## Aussie nickel miners receive major boost

The US Government has blocked Indonesia's bid to become a nickel free-trade partner in a move that has been applauded by Australian nickel miners.

While Indonesian President Joko Widodo lobbied for access to the US Government's \$US500 billion Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), The Australian Financial Review (AFR) has reported Widodo and US President Joe Biden have not been able to come to an agreement...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 01 Dec 2024

# Calendar of events 2023

Do you know of an upcoming event that's not listed?  
Email: [admin@cmaustralia.org](mailto:admin@cmaustralia.org)

JANUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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FEBRUARY 2024

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MARCH 2024

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APRIL 2024

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MAY 2024

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JUNE 2024

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JULY 2024

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AUGUST 2024

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SEPTEMBER 2024

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OCTOBER 2024

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NOVEMBER 2024

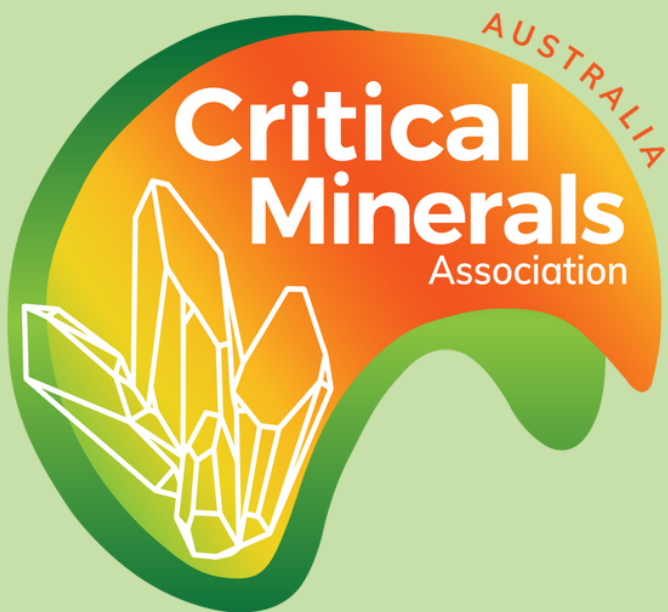
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DECEMBER 2024

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	DATE(S)	EVENT	HOSTS/PARTNERS	LOCATION
JAN	10 JAN - 11 JAN	<a href="#">Future Minerals Forum</a>	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh, KSA
FEB	5 FEB - 8 FEB	<a href="#">Mining Indaba</a>	Investing in African Mining Indaba	Cape Town, SA
	6 FEB - 7 FEB	<a href="#">Mine Waste Symposium</a>	UQ, SMI	Brisbane, AU
MAR	3 MAR - 6 MAR	<a href="#">PDAC</a>	Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada	Toronto, CA
	13 MAR - 14 MAR	<a href="#">Battery &amp; Supply Chains 2024</a>	IQ Hub	Perth, AU
APR	16 APR - 17 APR	<a href="#">2024 Paydirt Battery Minerals Conference</a>	Paydirt	Perth, AU
MAY	28 MAY - 30 MAY	<a href="#">Critical Minerals Conference</a>	Quest	Brisbane, AU
JUN	17 JUN - 18 JUN	<a href="#">Future of Mining, Perth</a>	Future of Mining	Perth, AU
AUG	5 AUG - 7 AUG	<a href="#">Diggers and Dealers</a>	Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum	Kalgoorlie, AU
	26 AUG - 28 AUG	<a href="#">Aust CM Conference 2024</a>	AusIMM	Brisbane, AU
OCT	29 OCT - 31 OCT	<a href="#">IMARC</a>	International Mining and Resources Conference	Sydney, AU
DEC	3 DEC - 5 DEC	<a href="#">Resourcing Tomorrow 2024</a>	Mines and Money	London, UK





This Newsletter has been compiled by QUT researchers:

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