



# CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

APRIL 2026  
EDITION

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# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS



### AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT NEWS

- Perth Mint flagged for rare earth processing push
- Critical minerals laggard Europe looks to Australian miners
- ARENA backs low emissions lithium refining in WA
- US Australia offer \$600M backing for rare earth refinery project
- Crisafulli Government helping power the future with Australia-first facility in Townsville

## CRITICAL MINERALS EVENTS



### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Bessent urges World Bank to shift funding towards critical minerals
- Brazil to pursue rare earths policy this year
- EU, US near critical minerals pact to counter China's grip
- Chile & US to sign mining and security agreements
- Chinese, Vietnamese leaders hold talks on advancing wide-range cooperation
- G7 steps up efforts to break China's grip on critical mineral



### BIG PICTURE THINKING

- Rich groundwork for Australia's critical minerals future
- EU-funded agency working with Metalshub on European critical minerals trading platform
- Sulfuric Acid crunch hits rare earth world

To open articles in a new tab:



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Command+Click on link



Critical Minerals Association Australia



@CMA\_AUS



www.cmaaustralia.org

## CMAA at the PayDirt Battery Minerals Conference in Perth

Perth | 21-22 April

CMAA's WA Representative, Simon Salter spoke at the Paydirt Battery Minerals Conference on Ambition vs. Reality in Australia's critical minerals midstream. Simon also joined panels to discuss the midstream in Australia and European critical minerals interests.

Watch full presentation [here](#).



PAYDIRT'S  
**CRITICAL**  
BATTERY  
**MINERALS**  
CONFERENCE  
2026  
PERTH

## Australian Net Zero Institute launches Critical Minerals White Paper

Sydney | 28 April

On 28 April, the CMAA attended the University of Sydney's Net Zero Institute (NZI) at the launch of its Critical Minerals and Materials White Paper. This paper highlights new research projects and expertise across the NZI at the University of Sydney, demonstrating the importance of end-to-end innovation across critical minerals and materials value chains, and the role of collaboration in translating research capability into resilient, investable outcomes.

Read full paper [here](#)

### Critical Minerals and Materials



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

*The sustainable supply of materials  
for the clean energy transition.*

## CMAA Industry Voices

*Industry Voices is a CMAA series giving our members a direct platform to share the perspectives shaping Australia's critical minerals sector.*

We opened the series with **Sedgman**, who made the case that early flowsheet decisions are where most critical minerals projects secure their future. Their analysis points to three themes that materially derisk flowsheet development: targeting test work at variables with first-order NPV impact, treating impurities and radionuclides as core design inputs from the outset, and closing the gap between benchscale chemistry and operational reality through pilot-scale testing. The broader question they put to the industry is one worth sitting with: are we investing enough in early studies to generate decision-grade data, or simply deferring risk to the next phase?

Read full post [here](#).



Critical Minerals

CMA Australia | Industry Voices Series

**“EARLY FLOWSHEET DECISIONS ARE WHERE MOST CRITICAL MINERALS PROJECTS SECURE THEIR FUTURE”**

This week's insight by: **SEDGMAN**



Critical Minerals

CMA Australia | Industry Voices Series

**“COMMON USER FACILITIES CAN DELIVER REAL VALUE WHEN THEY'RE PURPOSE-BUILT, MODULAR, AND TIGHTLY ALIGNED TO INDUSTRY NEEDS”**

This week's insight by: **mining3**

**Mining3** tackled one of the sector's most discussed and most misunderstood infrastructure concepts, the Common User Facility. Their contribution cuts through the ambiguity with a pointed argument: CUFs only deliver value when they are carefully scoped. Facilities that try to serve all commodities risk becoming too broad to be useful, while those positioned around shared challenges within defined commodity groups: rare earths and battery minerals, at the right stage of project development hold genuine potential. The sweet spot is the transition from lab-scale to pilot-scale, where integrated flowsheet validation and representative product sampling are needed most. Modularity and phased procurement, rather than comprehensive build-out from the start, are what separate the game changers from the white elephants.

Read full post [here](#).



## Jeff Townsend addresses UK Government Business & Trade Committee

On 22 April, Jeff Townsend, Co-founder of the **Critical Minerals Association (UK)**, gave oral evidence to the UK Government's **Business and Trade Sub-Committee on Economic Security, Arms and Export Controls** for their inquiry on critical minerals.

A standout quote from Jeff: "One of the things that gets overlooked is the difference between strategic value and commercial value... filling that gap comes down to government intervention".

Read the full recap [here](#).

## CMA USA Chairman, Dennis Gibson attends EXIM 2026

Dennis Gibson, Chairman of CMA USA, attended the 2026 Export-Import Bank of the United States Annual Conference held in Washington DC on 29–30 April 2026, where there was an emphasis on the growing strategic importance of allied critical minerals partnerships.

See his overview [here](#).



## Future Of Mining Conference

Perth | 16 - 17 June

**The Future of Mining Australia 2026** is set to bring together industry leaders, innovators and policymakers to explore the key forces shaping the future of mining, from energy transition and sustainability to critical minerals and next-generation workforce development. As an official partner, **CMAA** will be leading high-impact roundtables and contributing to thought leadership across the programme, including a dedicated session on the evolving global critical minerals landscape.

Register with 10% discount code **CMAAUS10**



## CMAA Member Spotlight

# Multicom Resources & the Saint Elmo Project: Powering the Energy Transition

The energy transition and the next generation of advanced manufacturing depend on minerals whose supply chains remain narrowly concentrated. Multicom Resources is a 100% Australian-owned developer working to change that, advancing the Saint Elmo Project at Julia Creek, Queensland. Founded in 2015, the company today employs 65 people, including 50 residents of Julia Creek.

Saint Elmo is a dual-commodity vanadium and high-purity alumina project hosting a 714Mt JORC resource - 2.2Mt of  $V_2O_5$  for vanadium redox flow batteries and steel, and 36.6Mt of HPA for semiconductors, LEDs, and lithium-ion battery separators. Few projects globally offer exposure to both at this scale.

The project has completed its Definitive Feasibility Study, holds its Mining Lease and Environmental Authority, and is in Stage 1 commissioning - placing it among Australia's most advanced critical minerals developments and the only vanadium-producing operation in Australia.

Multicom's contribution to the sector is to deliver a credible, allied-aligned source of two strategically important minerals, working alongside government, ECAs, and downstream partners to strengthen the supply chains underpinning energy security and advanced industry.



## MULTICOM RESOURCES



# AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY NEWS

## Perth Mint flagged for rare earths processing push

The Perth Mint has emerged as a potential rare earths processor, according to reports, with Western Australian Premier Roger Cook indicating the State Government would support the mint diversifying its skills base into new areas.

### Read More

Australian Mining | 14 April 2026



## Critical minerals laggard Europe looks to Australian miners

As the US engages allies such as Australia to help it break China's near-monopoly on the metals and elements vital to everything from construction and defence to electric vehicles and artificial intelligence computing, the continent, too, is looking to shore up supplies for its manufacturers.

### Read More

AFR | 29 April 2026

## ARENA backs low emissions lithium refining in WA

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is providing up to \$38.1 million to PLS Group Limited (PLS) to support an innovative, lower-emission lithium processing demonstration plant in Western Australia.

### Read More

AFR | 24 April 2026

## Copper's rising star may bypass Mt Isa smelter

Australia's next copper mine may bypass Glencore's struggling Mt Isa smelter as it rides high on alternative funding and refining options. A shortage of viable feedstock is one of several factors threatening the survival of the smelter and KGL Resources was supposed to soothe that problem by trucking copper, gold and silver ores to Mt Isa from the Jervois project 488 kilometres away.

### Read More

AFR | 6 April 2026

# AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

## US, Australia offer \$600M backing for rare earth refinery project

Australia and the US have offered potential financing of up to about A\$849 million (\$600 million) for a rare earths refinery project by Tronox Holdings, one of the clearest concrete commitments so far under their critical minerals partnership.

### Read More

Mining.com | 12 April 2026



## New laws boost critical minerals and fuel security

The Federal Government has advanced its critical minerals agenda after Parliament passed new legislation to establish a national strategic reserve, aimed at strengthening supply chains and supporting domestic processing.

### Read More

Australian Mining | 1 April 2026

## Western Australian nickel scores multi-million boost

The Western Australia Government has announced that it will allocate \$15 million for interest-free loans to help the state's nickel miners in operation, supporting the potential restart of idled mines and the ramp-up of new projects.

### Read More

Australian Mining | 7 April 2026



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. Image: [United States Mission Geneva | Flickr](#), under licence CC BY-ND 2.0. (Mining.com, 2026)

## Bessent urges World Bank to shift funding towards critical minerals

The US government is pressing the world’s top development lenders to pivot towards funding critical minerals projects in an effort to bolster a supply chain that’s currently dominated by China.

### Read More

Mining.com | 16 April 2026

## USCM, Columbia University eye defence-critical metals in red mud

US Critical Materials Corp. and Columbia University have [signed a two-year research agreement](#) to develop methods for extracting defence-critical metals from red mud, a byproduct of aluminum refining.

### Read More

Mining.com | 16 April 2026

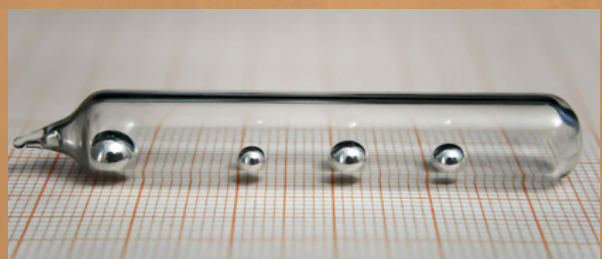


## US Department of Energy backs five tech firms to secure gallium supply chain

The US Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) is providing approximately \$5.4 million for five technology companies to help establish a secure, domestic supply chain for gallium — a critical material for the defense and semiconductor sectors.

### Read More

Mining.com | 15 April 2026





## EU launches operations of critical minerals procurement platform

The European Union on Monday launched the critical minerals section of its energy and materials procurement platform, which aims to give more power to regional buyers and cut dependence on dominant producer China by aggregating their purchases.

### Read More

Mining.com | 13 April 2026

## Brazil to pursue rare earths policy this year, not state-owned firm

Brazil's mining regulator chief said on Tuesday he expected a national policy for critical minerals to be unveiled within the next two to three months, adding that a proposal to create a state-owned company for rare earths was not a government initiative.

### Read More

Mining.com | 14 April 2026



## EU, US near critical minerals pact to counter China's grip

The proposed agreement, reported by Bloomberg News on Friday, would introduce incentives such as minimum pricing mechanisms to support non-Chinese suppliers, according to a draft action plan seen by the news outlet.

### Read More

Mining.com | 10 April 2026



## US International Development Finance Corporation to invest in antimony

On 7 April 2026, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) signed a US\$5M project development agreement with Pela Global to revive the Krstov Dol antimony mine in North Macedonia.

### Read More

Project Blue | 10 April 2026

## Norway's government takes over planning for Europe's largest rare earth deposit

Norway will take over planning for the Fen rare earth deposit – Europe's largest – to speed up development after a resource upgrade nearly doubled its estimated size.

### Read More

Mining.com | 22 April 2026

## Chile, US to sign mining and security agreements

Chile and the United States are to sign mining and security agreements, with the security deal including \$1 million in funds from the U.S. The security agreement will add to an existing cooperation deal on both countries' narcotics control policies, Chile's Public Security Ministry said in a statement.

### Read More

Reuters.com | 20 April 2026

## Chinese, Vietnamese top leaders hold talks on advancing wide-ranging cooperation

China will advance high-quality comprehensive strategic cooperation with Vietnam, and accelerate the building of a higher-level China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance.

### Read More

News.ctgn.com | 15 April 2026

## G-7 steps up efforts to break China's grip on critical minerals

Finance chiefs of the Group of Seven countries agreed on April 17 to step up cooperation with resource-rich countries and multilateral development banks, with the aim of becoming less dependent on China for critical minerals.

### Read More

The Strait Times | 18 April 2026

## Magnets Are A Critical National Demand. Developing Rare Earths Is Key

The U.S. government is offering companies \$24 million to prototype and test projects that retrieve rare earth critical minerals from scrap materials to make into advanced magnets.

### Read More

Forbes | 26 April 2026

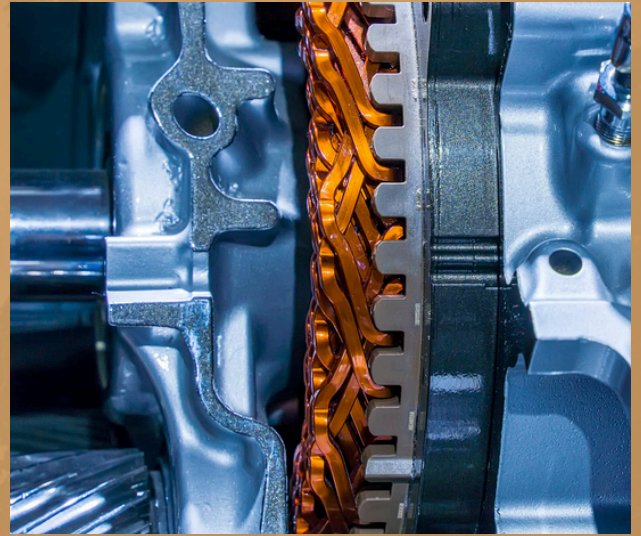
# BIG PICTURE THINKING

## New projects, partnerships and policies are needed to address supply chain risks for RE elements

New IEA report highlights growing mismatch between accelerating use of rare earths across a wide range of technologies and slow pace of supply diversification globally

### Read More

iea.com | 8 April 2026



## Rich groundwork for Australia's critical minerals future

As part of the RAP initiative, Geoscience Australia is continuing to collect new datasets, in partnership and collaboration with state and territory geological surveys, to provide new insights into the nation's geology and resource potential and unlock new frontiers for discovery

### Read More

Australian Mining | April 2026

## Sulfuric Acid Crunch

Related to the semi-closure of the Strait of Hormuz, China suspends exports of sulfuric acid exports. This also hits the rare earth world.

In rare earth processing Sulfuric Acid is used to break down phosphate and carbonate minerals such as rare earth ores in a rotary kiln, the so-called "cracking".

### Read More

Substack.com | April 2026

## EXCLUSIVE: EU Funded agency working with Metalshub on European critical minerals trading platform

### Read More

Reuters | 22 April 2026



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

## 01 | January

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## 08 | August

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## 10 | October

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## 11 | November

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## 12 | December

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# EVENTS AT A GLANCE

**21 – 22**  
APR

**Paydirt's Critical Battery Minerals Conference | Perth**

PREMIER FORUM FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

The future of the critical minerals sector has never been more contested with the industry exposed to price swings, geopolitical strains and sudden disruptions.

**16 – 17**  
JUN

**Future of Mining Conference | Perth**

MINING SMARTER. MINING BETTER.

Geopolitical tensions, shifting trade policies, and emerging tariffs are creating uncertainty for miners and investors. Meanwhile, miners must adopt cleaner, smarter technologies to meet net-zero demands.

**21 – 23**  
SEP

**AusIMM Critical Minerals Conference | Brisbane**

LEADING THE CRITICAL MINERALS CONVERSATION

As global demand for critical minerals continues to grow and the world transitions to clean energy, the mining community must engage in open and ongoing dialogue around how it can meet this demand

**27 – 29**  
OCT

**International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC) | Sydney**

COLLABORATING ON TRENDS IN MINING

Where the most influential people in the mining industry come together, delivering ideas, inspiration, and serving as a global meeting ground for industry leaders.

DEC

**Critical Minerals Association UK Annual Conference | London**



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