



CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

JUNE 2026
EDITION

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Newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS



CRITICAL MINERALS EVENTS



AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT NEWS

- Iluka secures \$1,2bn loan for rare earths refinery
- Sunday Creek fired first underground decline in 20 years
- Greenland block Australia rare earths project
- Core Lithium lock in second Glencore deal
- Tivan lines up \$50m financing to revive Malysil
- Arafura eyes Indian rare earths offtake deal
- Nyrstar support extended
- Australia endorses G7 critical minerals declaration
- Queensland Critical Minerals Fund

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- US tariff revisions to aluminium, steel & copper imports
- China strengthens strategic mineral export controls
- US invests \$143m to strengthen rare earth supply chain
- US passes Dominance Act to counter China's RE monopoly
- Japan's Shin-Etsu plans new rare earth refinery
- G7 steps up critical minerals alliance
- US firms struggle to source critical minerals
- US Army to lease land for critical minerals production

BIG PICTURE THINKING

- US rare earth funding shifts downstream
- Could South Africa become a major African lithium producer?

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Critical Minerals Association Australia



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www.cmaaustralia.org

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.

This month, **Southern Cross Gold** makes the case for why sovereign supply needs more than ambition.

Australia has rediscovered antimony. After China tightened export controls, the conversations in Canberra, Washington and across allied capitals have shifted from polite interest to genuine urgency. Antimony is a defence and energy-critical mineral and the West has spent two decades letting its supply concentrate in one place.

There is a gap between recognising the problem and fixing it.

Read full post [here](#)



CMA Australia at the Future of Mining Indigenous Roundtable

What does meaningful Indigenous partnership look like in Australia's critical minerals sector?

That question sat at the heart of another packed and highly engaged roundtable at **Future of Mining** Conference in Perth this week, facilitated by **Critical Minerals Association Australia** Managing Director **Namali Mackay**. One particularly thought-provoking area of discussion centred on **Indigenous equity participation**. Looking to Canada - widely regarded as a leader in Indigenous equity partnerships in the resources sector - participants explored what lessons Australia might draw from models that enable First Nations communities to participate not only as stakeholders, but as long-term project partners.

Read full recap [here](#).



INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES: Climate reporting

Read the Full Article [HERE](#)

Climate reporting is no longer just about compliance. It's becoming a licence to compete.

As Australia's first year of mandatory climate reporting wraps up, some uncomfortable lessons are emerging for the mining sector:

- ⚠ Greenwashing risks are real — and directors are signing off on the disclosures.
- ⚠ Climate risk is increasingly being treated as a financial risk.
- ⚠ Scope 3 expectations are putting pressure across entire supply chains.
- ⚠ Investors, customers and auditors are demanding more than qualitative statements. Quantification is coming.

Ahead of Future of Mining Perth, **Stuart Wilson** from **Decarbonate** will share what mining companies are learning from the first reporting cycle — and why organisations treating climate reporting as a strategic business issue, rather than a compliance exercise, are likely to be best positioned going forward.

CMA Australia at the Future of Mining | Critical Minerals Roundtable

A full room, a waiting list, and a timely discussion on Australia's place in an increasingly complex critical minerals landscape was a highlight at Day 1 of **Future of Mining Perth**.

Our MD, **Namali Mackay** facilitated this deep dive - alongside **Critical Minerals Association Australia** members **Sam Taylor (GHD)**, **Alannah McTiernan (Victory Metals Limited)** and **David Parker (Empire Metals Ltd)**.

Read full recap [here](#).



Victory Metals launches rare earths pilot plant

Today Australia has taken another step forward in the development of our critical minerals industry and I would like to congratulate **Victory Metals Limited** on this major milestone.

The Victory Metals Rare Earths Pilot Plant in Western Australia, that we launched today, is one of only a few companies across Australia attempting to mine clay deposits.

Australia has the only supply chain outside of China capable of supplying both light and heavy rare earth elements that have applications in renewable energy technologies, consumer electronics, and are vital for defence industry and national security.

There is no Future Made in Australia without a critical minerals and rare earths industry and no Government has done more to support our resources sector than the **Albanese** Labor Government.

Read the full recap [here](#).



AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY NEWS

Iluka secures \$1.2bn loan for rare earths refinery

Iluka has secured a major Australian Government loan to support construction of the Eneabba rare earths refinery in WA.

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Mining Weekly | 23 June 2026



Image Source: Eneabba mine, Mining Weekly



Image Source: Australian Mining

Sunday Creek fires first underground decline in 20 years

Southern Cross Gold Consolidated has marked a major milestone at its Sunday Creek gold-antimony project in Victoria, with mining contractor PYBAR Mining Services firing the first cut in the project's exploration decline. The decline portal, located at the Sunday Creek project about 60 km north of Melbourne, is the first new underground decline to be developed in Victoria in approximately 20 years.

Read More

Australian Mining | 30 June 2026

Greenland blocks Australian rare earths project

A Perth-based miner's plans to set up a mine in Greenland has been rejected by the territory's government because of uranium at the site. Energy Transition Minerals announced its setback to the Australian sharemarket on Monday, along with scathing commentary which alludes to China's dominance of rare earth minerals.

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News.com | 29 June 2026



Image Source: News.com

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY NEWS

Core Lithium locks in second Glencore deal as Finniss restart nears

Core Lithium has taken another step towards restarting its Finniss operation, securing a second deal with Glencore to sell lithium fines from stockpiled material at the Northern Territory project.

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Australian Mining | 10 June 2026

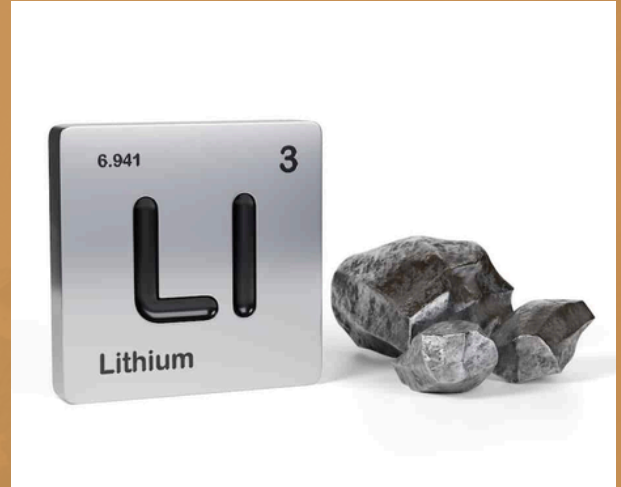


Image Source: Australian Mining



Image Source: Australian Mining

Tivan lines up \$50m financing to revive Molyhil

Tivan has lined up financing, secured a potential long-term customer and strengthened its community partnerships as it works to bring the long-dormant Molyhil Tungsten project back into production in the Northern Territory.

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Australian Mining | 25 June 2026

Arafura eyes Indian rare earths offtake deal

Arafura Rare Earths has signed a binding term sheet for a five-year, 500 tonne per annum offtake deal with an unnamed Indian industrial group as it finalises the funding process for its major Nolans venture...

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Mining News | 30 June 2026



Image Source: Mining News

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

Nyrstar support extended

The Federal Government has extended support for Nyrstar's smelters, including discussion of critical minerals production capability. This fantastic zinc smelter, which I have to say is one of the most beautiful industrial workplaces in Australia, and the Port Pirie lead smelter are foundational Australian industrial facilities.

Read More

Australian Government | 10 June 2026



Image Source: Australian Government

Australia endorses G7 critical minerals declaration

Australia reinforced cooperation on secure critical minerals supply chains.

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Australian Government | June 2026

Queensland budget backs critical minerals

Queensland has committed \$150m to accelerate critical minerals projects, infrastructure and value-added processing.

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The Australian | June 2026

Queensland Critical Minerals Fund

Queensland formally launched its Critical Minerals Fund. Global demand for critical minerals is rising as industries seek secure, reliable supply chains for technologies that enable the energy transition, advanced manufacturing, and defence. Queensland, with its world-class mineral deposits and established resources expertise, is uniquely positioned to play a leading role in this global shift.

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QIC | June 2026



Image Source: QIC

US tariff revisions to some aluminium, steel and copper imports

The proclamation outlines temporary changes to encourage US manufacturing, but at the same time maintains protection for domestic metals industries. Under the revised framework, tariffs are lowered on some steel and aluminium derivative products.

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Project Blue | 3 June 2026



Image Source: Project Blue

China strengthens enforcement of strategic mineral export controls



Image Source: Project Blue

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) has announced enhanced measures to strengthen enforcement of export controls on strategic minerals and related dual-use items, including a formal reporting mechanism for suspected violations.

Read More

Project Blue | 30 June 2026

US invests \$134m to strengthen rare earth supply chains

The US Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation announced \$134 million for two projects that will strengthen domestic supply chains for rare earth elements (REEs).

Read More

Trade Arabia | 7 June 2026

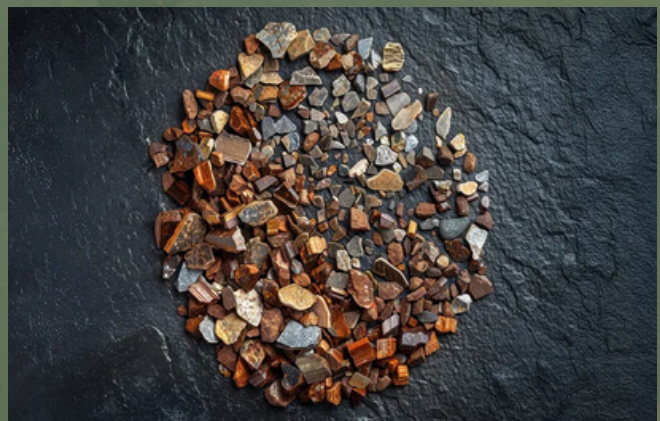


Image Source: Trade Arabia

U.S. House passes DOMINANCE Act to counter China's rare earth monopoly

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 7037, a bipartisan bill aimed at dismantling China's near-total monopoly (approximately 90%) on the global processing of rare earth elements critical for defense, manufacturing and technology.

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Natural News | 12 June 2026



Image Source: Natural News



Image Source: Mining.com

Japan's Shin-Etsu plans new rare earth refinery to secure supply

Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., one of Japan's largest rare earth magnet makers, plans to build a new domestic refinery, the latest attempt by a company outside China to diversify its supply chain.

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Mining.com | 11 June 2026

Congo withdraws unused cobalt export quotas

The US Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation announced \$134 million for two projects that will strengthen domestic supply chains for rare earth elements (REEs).

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Reuters | 30 June 2026

G7 sets up critical minerals alliance, platform to cut reliance on China

Group of Seven leaders agreed on Wednesday to step up coordination to cut their countries' reliance on China for critical minerals, including plans to align stockpiling and launch a new platform with an expanded role for the International Energy Agency.

Read More

Reuters | 18 June 2026

China plans whistleblower hotline

BEIJING, June 24 (Reuters) - China on Wednesday announced plans for a whistleblower hotline to encourage citizens to report smuggling of restricted critical minerals, as Beijing continues its crackdown on a sector that has provided so much diplomatic leverage.

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Reuters | 24 June 2026



Image Source: Reuters

US firms struggle to source critical minerals

Companies report ongoing impacts from Chinese export controls.

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Reuters | 11 June 2026

Canada and Japan consider joint stockpiling

Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., one of Japan's largest rare earth magnet makers, plans to build a new domestic refinery, the latest attempt by a company outside China to diversify its supply chain.

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Reuters | 26 June 2026

US Army to lease land for critical mineral production

The U.S. Army is leasing land on bases across the country to companies that will build and operate critical mineral processing plants, military officials said Thursday, the latest push by the Trump administration to establish a domestic supply chain of the crucial materials.

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The Wall Street Journal | 25 June 2026

Trump pricing plan faces G7 skepticism

The Trump administration's push to boost critical minerals production by regulating prices is facing skeptical G7 allies and a divided mining industry, with negotiations for a Western trading block stumbling over concerns about and plan's cost and governance, according to diplomatic sources and a Reuters analysis of corporate policy recommendations.

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Reuters | 16 June 2026

BIG PICTURE THINKING

US rare earth funding shifts downstream

The US Department of War's Office of Strategic Capital (OSC) announced two conditional loan commitments to support domestic rare earth processing: US\$500M for Phoenix Tailings and US\$725M for Energy Fuels. Both commitments are focused on expanding US-based separation and metallisation capacity, marking a further move by the US government to address the mid- and downstream stages of the rare earth supply chain.



Image Source: Project Blue

Phoenix Tailings currently operates metallisation facilities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, with the OSC commitment intended to support both expansion and development of a new US-based rare earth separation and metallisation facility. Energy Fuels operates the White Mesa Mill in Utah, including uranium processing and rare earth oxide separation facilities, and its OSC commitment is similarly intended to support a new US-based separation and metallisation facility.

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Project Blue | 23 June 2026

Could South Africa become a major African lithium producer?

South Africa's Northern Cape is renowned for its abundance of pegmatites. The Northern Cape pegmatite belt, known as the Orange River Pegmatite Belt (ORPB), hosts approximately 45,000 pegmatite bodies, ranging from barren, simple types to complex, rare-earth-bearing types. The ORPB is ~400km long and ~40-80km wide, extending across South Africa and Namibia.



Image Source: Project Blue

The western portion of the ORPB primarily hosts lithium-caesium-tantalum (LCT) pegmatites, whilst the eastern portion primarily hosts Niobium-Yttrium-Fluorine (NYF) pegmatites. The western portion, commonly known as the Vioolsdrif Pegmatite Field (VPF), has historically hosted various mines that exploited these pegmatites for a variety of mineral concentrates, including lithium.

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Project Blue | 26 June 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

2026

CMA AUSTRALIA

01 | January

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02 | February

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03 | March

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04 | April

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05 | May

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06 | June

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07 | July

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08 | August

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09 | September

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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

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



This Newsletter has been Edited by:
Elise Tan | BE(Hons) Student | Mining3 & The University of Queensland

This Newsletter has been Researched by:
Cooper Ferguson | PhD student | University of Adelaide



Contact: admin@criticalmineral.org

Critical Minerals Association Australia Limited
ACN 660 785 124



Critical Minerals Association Australia



@CMA_AUS



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