



CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

MAY 2026
EDITION

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Newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS



AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- Territory push global investment
- Push for Australia to extract helium as Iran war impacts supply
- Arafura Rare Earths mine green-lit
- Core Lithium restarts NT mine
- Mineral Resources restarts Bald Hill operations
- Forrest's Wyloo to offload stake in WA rare earths mine; BofA hired
- CEO of Lynas Rare Earths, addresses National Press Club
- Gina Rinehart plots new Australian lithium mine as prices soar
- Australia-Japan Joint Statement on Critical Minerals Cooperation
- Treasurer orders more Chinese-linked investors to offload shares
- Critical minerals, fuel security and faster approvals define budget
- Tax like a cut to the jugular, say miners

CRITICAL MINERALS EVENTS



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Brazil probes USA Rare Earth's \$2.8B deal for Serra Verde
- USA seeks gallium recovery alternatives through DoE funding
- Brazil developing national rare earths policy framework.
- Zero tariffs, strategic minerals: China deepens ties with Africa
- China's export policy rises solar installation costs in UK
- Canada Strong Fund – Canada's first sovereign wealth fund
- G7 in talks to set up permanent unit to oversee critical minerals
- Quad agreement targets \$20 billion critical minerals push
- India: Mining of Critical Minerals; REEs to begin in 2 years
- Defence-driven demand powers surge in US listings by mining firms



BIG PICTURE THINKING

- What is behind the surge in US vanadium prices?
- UQ-led program advances next-generation mineral processing
- Has diplomacy become mining's latest critical resource?
- How does rare earths demand break down by demand and region?

To open articles in a new tab:



CTRL+Click on link



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UK Critical Minerals Website Showcase

London | 18 May

The Critical Minerals Association (UK), with support from the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), welcomed guests from across government, industry, academia and the wider critical minerals sector for the **UK Critical Minerals Website Showcase - Ministerial Launch** held in London on 18 May 2026.

Read full article [here](#).



UK Minister for Industry Chris McDonald MP giving opening remarks at the UK Critical Minerals Website Ministerial Launch.

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

FUTURE OF
MINING

AUSTRALIA 2026

16 - 17 June 2026 | Crown Perth

Supporting Organisation

Critical Minerals Association

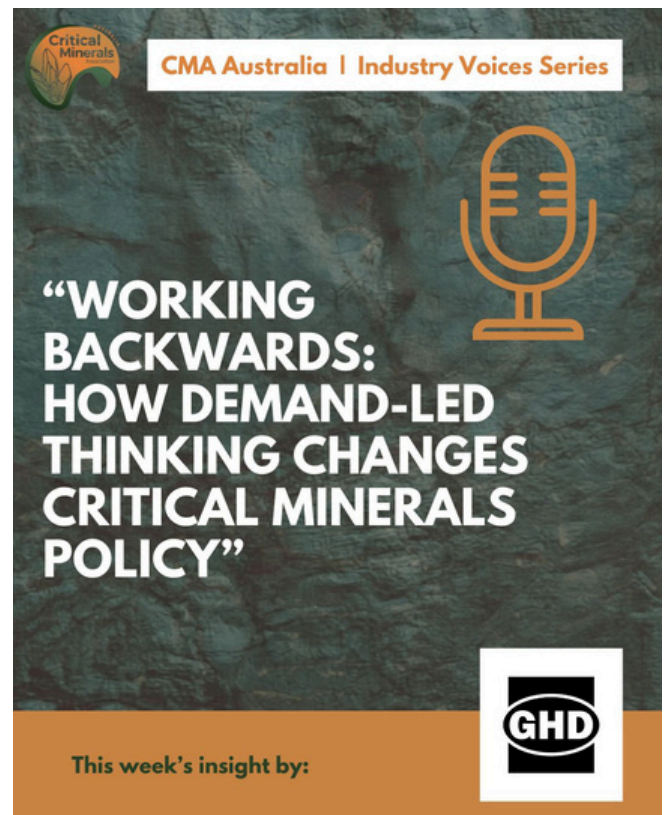


CMAA Industry Voices

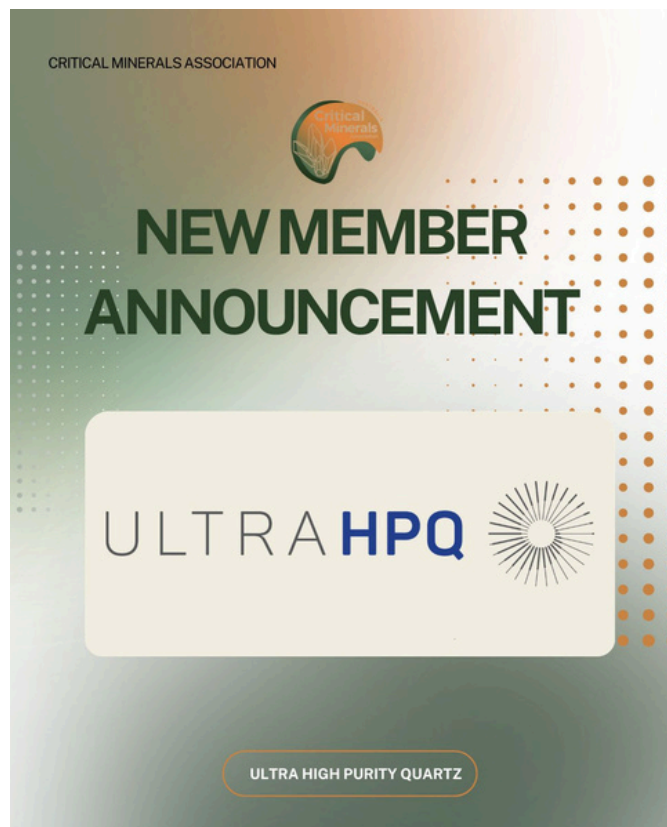
Industry Voices is a CMAA series giving our members a direct platform to share the perspectives shaping Australia's critical minerals sector.

This month, **GHD** highlights the key principles for prioritising critical minerals for policy intervention and the most optimal way to sequence this process so it's led by end user interest. Too often prioritisation starts with geological abundance rather than the demand drivers and technical uplift required to extract and refine minerals to a valuable intermediate. Due consideration needs to be given to whether a mineral has both commercial and strategic interest — and working back from there to bridge the gap between raw supply and sophisticated customer requirements.

Read full post [here](#).



New Member Announcement



We are delighted to announce that **High Purity Quartz** has joined CMA Australia as a new member.

UltraHPQ will produce Ultra High Purity Quartz Sand (UHPQS) from its drilled and tested JORC resource of "Champagne" quartz at Sugarbag Hill in Queensland with advanced processing being completed at the Lansdown Eco-industrial Precinct at Townsville.

Champagne quartz and UHPQS is very scarce globally and is the only material that can be used to manufacture solar PV grade fused quartz crucibles used in the Czochralski (CZ) process. The CZ process is the means by which polysilicon is transformed into mono-crystalline silicon ingots before wafering for use in downstream solar PV cell and module assembly.

Read full post [here](#).

CMAA Member Spotlight

Wave International

25 Years Shaping the Critical Metals Industry

Wave International (Wave) is a global advisory, engineering and project delivery consultancy with over 27 years of experience. Headquartered in Australia with operations in Europe, we service the regions of Europe / UK, Africa, Australasia, Canada and the US.

Wave operates across the sectors of resources, industrial, infrastructure and agribusiness, with a world leading profile specifically in critical metals. Wave is at the forefront of industry across commodities of lithium, graphite, REE, Vanadium, Tin, Silica / HPQ and HPA, alongside work in other boutique / speciality metals.

In the area of critical metals, Wave has been a participant for over 25 years with deep roots in the lithium industry. Wave leads the industry through its advisory division supporting our clients with market leading advice on project strategy, M&A technical advisory, market intelligence, technology / process solutions and economic evaluation / feasibility. Wave's focus is not only on the upstream resources sector, but also the build out of western mid-stream refining capacity. Wave's advisory team balances corporate objectives, market opportunities, economic parameters and deep processing knowledge in supporting its clients from concept through financing, construction and transition to operations.

Wave's success has been the realisation of globally significant upstream and midstream supply capacity across its suit of commodities.



AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY NEWS

Territory funds push for global investment

A \$4 million commitment from the Northern Territory Government is earmarked to boost the region's position as an investment destination and unlock long-term economic growth in sectors such as mining.

Read More

Australian Mining | 8 May 2026



Arafura Rare Earths mine green-lit as federal government agrees to buy 500 tonnes of product per year

Arafura Rare Earths has announced its flagship Nolans mine will go ahead, decades after it was first flagged as a prospect. The project has received substantial public funding and was listed as a priority in an agreement between the USA and Australia.

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ABC News | 21 May 2026

"Core Lithium restarts Northern Territory mine as price rebounds above \$4,000 per tonne "

Core Lithium has recommenced mining at its Finnis project near Darwin. The mine was closed in 2024 as the lithium price crashed but is now approaching \$4,200 a tonne, with the company also saying it has improved operating costs.

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ABC News | 20 May 2026

Push for Australia to extract helium as Iran war impacts supply - calls to put helium back on critical minerals list to support industry expansion

The conflict in the Middle East has threatened one-third of the global helium supply. Helium can be mined as a by-product of liquid natural gas (LNG) extraction, and experts say there is potential for Australia to export it.

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ABC News | 18 May 2026



AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY NEWS

Mineral Resources restarts Bald Hill operations as lithium prices recover

Mineral Resources (MinRes) is restarting the Bald Hill lithium operation in Western Australia, incurring an estimated cost of A\$20M (US\$14.24M). The move will bring capacity of 165ktpy of spodumene concentrate (SC) grading 5.1% Li₂O, back online and capitalise on recovering lithium prices.

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Project Blue | 21 May 2026



Forrest's Wyloo to offload stake in WA rare earths mine; BofA hired

Billionaire miner Andrew Forrest has had a change of heart at Yangibana. Just five months ago, he was looking to fast-track the rare earths and niobium deposit, after [the Australian and US governments](#) announced a multibillion-dollar deal to invest in the critical minerals sector.

Read More

AFR | 4 May 2026

Gina Rinehart plots new Australian lithium mine as prices soar

Hancock Prospecting executive chairman Gina Rinehart plans to start construction of a new \$1 billion lithium mine in Western Australia in 2028, in the latest sign that surging commodity prices are breathing life into the sector.

Read More

AFR | 17 May 2026

Amanda Lacaze's Address to the National Press Club of Australia

Amanda Lacaze, CEO and Managing Director of Lynas Rare Earths, address to the National Press Club of Australia - on "An historical perspective on the slow awakening of the West to the importance of the rare earths industry and challenges for governments today".

Read More

National Press Club of Australia | 7 May 2026



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

Federal treasurer orders more Chinese-linked investors to offload shares in Australian rare earths mine

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has ordered another six companies to divest their holdings in Northern Minerals as concerns grow in Canberra that Chinese-backed investors are trying to seize control of the rare earths mining company.

Read More

ABC News | 18 May 2026



Tax like a cut to the jugular, say miners

Mining executives warn Jim Chalmers' capital gains tax changes could devastate Australia's exploration sector and threaten the nation's economic future.

Read More

The Australian | May 2026

Australia-Japan Joint Statement on Elevated Critical Minerals Cooperation

Under the Australia-Japan Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation announced today, we, the Prime Ministers of Australia and Japan, announce the elevation of critical minerals as a core pillar of our economic security relationship.

Read More

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet | 4 May 2026

Critical minerals, fuel security and faster approvals define mining-friendly budget

Australia's mining industry has welcomed the 2026-27 Federal Budget, with the sector pointing to major investments in critical minerals, fuel security and streamlined project approvals as measures that will support future growth across the sector while continuing to deliver benefits for Australians.

Read More

Australian Mining | 13 May 2026



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Brazil probes USA Rare Earth's \$2.8B deal for Serra Verde "

Brazil's antitrust watchdog has opened an investigation into USA Rare Earth's (Nasdaq: USAR) proposed acquisition of its only rare earth producer, posing a regulatory hurdle to America's critical minerals plans in Latin America's largest market.

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 12 May 2026



USA seeks competitive gallium recovery alternatives

The US Department of Energy's (DoE) Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) has awarded US\$5.4M to five US-based gallium projects to establish primary gallium recovery in the USA.

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 11 May 2026

PM Carney announces the Canada Strong Fund

Prime Minister Carney announced the Canada Strong Fund – Canada's first national sovereign wealth fund. Through an initial federal contribution of \$25 billion.

[Read More](#)

PM of Canada | 11 May 2026

Zero tariffs, strategic minerals: China deepens trade ties with Africa

China has expanded zero-tariff treatment to all 53 African countries with which it has diplomatic ties, extending previous exemptions for 33 African least-developed countries (LDCs) to a further 20 non-LDC economies.

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 7 May 2026

G7 in talks to set up permanent unit to oversee critical minerals agenda

The Group of Seven countries are in talks to create a permanent secretariat to ensure initiatives to increase critical mineral supplies survive beyond the bloc's rotating presidencies

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 5 May 2026

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China's export policy rises solar installation costs in UK

China has decided to scale back export tax rebates for solar and battery products, which is feeding through into higher installation costs in the UK energy market.

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 5 May 2026



Quad agreement targets \$20 billion critical minerals push

Australia has joined the United States, Japan and India in a new Quad Critical Minerals Initiative designed to strengthen diversified supply chains across mining, processing and recycling. The initiative will seek to mobilise up to \$20 billion in government and private sector

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 28 May 2026

India: Mining of critical minerals rare earth elements will begin in 2 years

Bihar, India, is set to witness large-scale mining operations for a dozen critical minerals and rare earth elements within next couple of years in 7 districts of south Bihar.

[Read More](#)

Times of India | 30 May 2026

Defence-driven demand powers surge in US listings by mining firms

There has been a surge in mining companies seeking U.S. listings this year, but even more striking is the change in language as firms explicitly target defence-related demand for critical minerals

[Read More](#)

Reuters | 27 May 2026



BIG PICTURE THINKING

What is behind the surge in US vanadium prices?

A 78% increase in prices is not backed by a corresponding rise in demand. The current market dynamic increasingly has the appearance of a bubble. With prices in the Chinese and EU vanadium markets remaining relatively stable, the rise in US prices over recent months is exceptionally stark.

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 8 May 2026



UQ-led program advances next-generation mineral processing

Led by researchers from UQ's Sustainable Minerals Institute, the CPR Program brings together some of the world's largest mining companies to collaborate on pre-competitive research focused on coarse particle flotation technologies.

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 19 May 2026

How does rare earths demand break down by demand & region?

Rare earth demand is highly concentrated in magnet applications, and this is particularly the case for key magnet rare earths such as Nd, Pr, Dy, and Tb. China represents the dominant region across the main applications, with smaller but still significant flows into Asia ex-China, the US and Europe.

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 28 May 2026

Has diplomacy become mining's latest critical resource?

Three developments in the past week have highlighted a growing reality for Australian mining: success in critical minerals is increasingly being shaped not just by geology, project economics and engineering, but also by international relations and diplomacy.

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 29 May 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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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:
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