

# CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

## MARCH 2024

- New report shows Australia's critical minerals are leading the way
- Joint statement by Canada and Australia on cooperation on critical minerals
- China's dominance over critical minerals poses an unacceptable risk

Subscribe to our  
Newsletter



MARCH 2023

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

## CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

- American Chamber of Commerce
- Australia-Japan Energy Partnership Conference
- Paydirt Battery Minerals Conference, Perth
- Innovate to Grow: Critical Minerals
- News from PDAC

## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- New report shows Australia's critical minerals are leading the way
- Australia's push for higher ESG standards in critical minerals industry
- Federal minister advocates for higher prices of Australia's critical minerals in global markets
- Rinehart-backed Arafura gets \$840m in taxpayer aid for NT project
- From confrontation to collaboration: Working together on critical minerals supply chains
- Albanese champions lithium and critical minerals to power Australia's renewable energy ambitions
- Liontown secures millions for Kathleen Valley
- Wong sounds alarm over China-led nickel collapse
- BHP stands down contractors at West Musgrave nickel and copper project
- Federal Government to introduce Net Zero Economy Authority
- Mining sector primed to set climate related goals
- Australian Strategic Materials receives \$923m funding from US EXIM for Dubbo rare earths project
- AVL welcomes first vanadium electrolyte

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

- SMEs unlock critical minerals potential with CSIRO support program
- Joint statement by Canada and Australia on cooperation on critical minerals
- Up to \$3 million in exploration grants available in the NT
- Australia, US engage in critical nickel talks
- New CSIRO mining survey calls on all Australians

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Seabed mining regulator meets as critical minerals drive heats up
- Canada leads on critical minerals while the U.S. falters
- New polysilicon developments could reduce Chinese dependency
- India looking to Africa for critical minerals
- South Korea's demand for critical minerals
- China's dominance over critical minerals poses an unacceptable risk

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

To open articles in a new tab:



CTRL+Click on link



Command+Click on link



Critical Minerals Association Australia



@CMA\_AUS



www.cmaaustralia.org

# CMA NEWS



## AmCham Australia

Namali Mackay, MD of CMA Australia participated in a panel discussion hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) on 19 March in Brisbane: 'Embracing the Future of Energy' discussing the energy transition across a range of energy and resource sectors.



## Looking Ahead

### Australia-Japan Energy Partnership Conference

The CMAA will be hosting the critical minerals session of this important dialogue between Japan and Australia on 11-12 April in Adelaide, hosted by the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee.

April 11-12

**ROUNDTABLE:**  
CRITICAL MINERALS, BATTERY TECHNOLOGY & STORAGE

**Moderator:**  
**Namali Mackay**  
Managing Director,  
Critical Minerals Association

**TRANSITIONING AUSTRALIA-JAPAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP**  
TOWARDS A CARBON-NEUTRAL 2050

ADELAIDE | 11 - 12 APRIL 2024

### Paydirt Battery Minerals Conference, Perth

CMA members – please contact us on [admin@cmaaustralia.org](mailto:admin@cmaaustralia.org) for discounted attendance

April 16-17

**PAYDIRT'S 2024 BATTERY MINERALS CONFERENCE**

**Join us on**  
**16-17 April 2024**  
at Pan Pacific, Perth

To register please contact Georgia Tully  
☎ (+61) 8 9321 0355 ✉ [georgia@paydirt.com.au](mailto:georgia@paydirt.com.au)



**CSIRO**

**Innovate to Grow**  
your project in the critical  
minerals sector with our  
**FREE 10-week program**

**Apply today! | Closes 14 April 2024**  
Selection criteria applies

[csiro.au/criticalmineralssector](https://csiro.au/criticalmineralssector)

Innovate to Grow: Critical Minerals is supported by the Australian Critical Minerals Research and Development Hub. The hub is a partnership with CSIRO, ANSTO and Geoscience Australia.

## Innovate to Grow: Critical Minerals

Applications are open for a free 10-week virtual program run by CSIRO for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) working on critical minerals.

The program is open to SMEs interested in investigating how joining with a research organisation can advance their new idea/innovation. SMEs will be connected to innovation facilitators and researchers, as well as hearing from other experts and networking with other SMEs. Participants will be able to develop an actionable R&D business plan as they work through the self-paced parts of the program.

SMEs from the following sub-sectors are encouraged to apply:

- Mining technology
- Ore characterisation and analysis
- Ore suitability for processing
- Mineral sorting and processing
- Sustainable processing
- Minerals to Materials to Market
- Integration of renewable energy to processes
- Recover, reclaim, recycle
- Other

Registrations close 14 April 2024. For more information and to apply visit [Innovate to Grow: Critical minerals](https://csiro.au/criticalmineralssector)





## News from PDAC

*Written for CMA Australia by Allison Britt, Director Mineral Resources Advice and Promotion, Geoscience Australia*

With 27,000 delegates from more than 130 countries, Australia Minerals was once more in the thick of it at the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention, 3-6 March 2024. Australia Minerals is a collaboration of all of Australia's government geoscience organisations, led by Geoscience Australia, and this year the group was joined by the Hon Madelaine King, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia. Minister King is leading the implementation of the Australian Government's strategy for critical minerals growth and supply chain diversification, using the visit to promote the role of Australia's mineral resources and innovative mining sector in the energy transition to net zero.

As in previous years, the Australian delegation continued to promote Australia's credentials as a premier destination for low-sovereign risk investment and responsible exploration, mining and downstream value-adding, at both federal and jurisdictional level. Responsible minerals development was particularly topical at PDAC, given the recent volatility in the nickel and lithium markets, with how to price in ESG standards and counter unfair competition key points of discussion. The topic of critical minerals collaboration and the need for stable and secure international partnerships continued its popularity, countering discussions about shifting global politics, particularly the sovereign risk to projects posed by unstable or 'personality-led' regimes.

Australia Minerals used the opportunity to promote Australia's recent record of exploration success, with a session boldly titled "World's best data producing the world's best record of discovery". Geoscience Australia demonstrated that Australia's approach to precompetitive geoscience is opening up greenfield minerals provinces more successfully than anywhere else. Greenfield discoveries can be thought of as more valuable than brownfield discoveries because one discovery in a new frontier often leads to more. All of Australia's recent (2017-2021), world-class (>US\$200 million) greenfield discoveries were supported by government geoscience data. The Australian approach is a crucial competitive advantage, as one of the largest contributions Australia can make to global decarbonisation is to unlock our full mineral potential.

On a lighter note, Minister King also the launched the latest editions of Geoscience Australia's publications at PDAC:

- [Australia's Identified Minerals Resources 2023](#)
- [Australian Operating Mines Map 2023](#)
- [Australian Critical Minerals Map 2023](#).

These products support decision-making for a range of stakeholders and all are freely available online. If you would like to learn more about Geoscience Australia's precompetitive geoscience and its impact, you can read here about the [Exploring for the Future](#) program...

05 Apr 2024



# AUSTRALIAN NEWS

## New report shows Australia's critical minerals are leading the way

Australia is a leading supplier of the minerals the world needs to reach net zero according to the latest Australia's Identified Mineral Resources (AIMR) report.

Minister King said Australia has the resources needed for the global energy transition and is producing them to the highest environmental, social and governance standards...

[Read More](#)

Australian Government - Geoscience Australia | 20 Mar 2024

## Federal minister advocates for higher prices of Australia's critical minerals in global markets

Just weeks after telling Australians how important its critical minerals are to the country and the globe's future, the federal government is informing audiences in Canada and the US that the world needs to pay more for the nation's nickel and lithium...

[Read More](#)

Small Caps | 06 Mar 2024

## Australia's push for higher ESG standards in critical minerals industry

The Australian Government is promoting environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices in critical minerals mining, pushing companies towards sustainability and net-zero emissions.

The world's transition towards net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is driving a significant increase in demand for critical minerals such as aluminium, cobalt, copper, graphite, lithium, nickel and rare earth elements...

[Read More](#)

Mining Technology | 08 Mar 2024

## Rinehart-backed Arafura gets \$840m in taxpayer aid for NT project

The Albanese government is supercharging its push to break China's stranglehold on global critical minerals supply with an \$840 million package of loans and grants to help Gina Rinehart-backed Arafura Rare Earths develop its Northern Territory mine and refinery.

The support is Labor's biggest single financial commitment for the critical minerals sector and effectively expands federal taxpayers' exposure to rare earths mining and processing by more than 50 per cent to well over \$2 billion...

[Read More](#)

Australian Financial Review | 13 Mar 2024





## From confrontation to collaboration: Working together on critical minerals supply chains

A recent article in the Australian Financial Review on the urgent “parachuting” of Chinese technicians to a troubled lithium processing plant in Western Australia has highlighted China’s significant advantages in the processing of critical minerals. However, the piece failed to emphasise China’s vital and, at least in the short term, almost irreplaceable role in the field of critical minerals processing – a factor that cannot be overlooked without incurring considerable costs...

[Read More](#)

Lowy Institute | 05 Mar 2024

## Albanese champions lithium and critical minerals to power Australia’s renewable energy ambitions

Australia’s prime minister Anthony Albanese has highlighted the government’s commitment to supporting the lithium and critical minerals sectors. In an “opinion” piece written for a national audience, the PM revealed why the federal government had recently elected to invest millions into a Western Australian lithium project and a Northern Territory rare earths development...

[Read More](#)

Small Caps | 19 Mar 2024

## Liontown secures millions for Kathleen Valley

Liontown Resources has entered into a \$550 million debt facility agreement to fund the development of its Kathleen Valley lithium project in Western Australia...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 13 Mar 2024

## Wong sounds alarm over China-led nickel collapse

07

Foreign Minister Penny Wong has gone into bat for Australian miners suffering from turbulent nickel prices during talks with her Chinese counterpart, amid accusations Beijing is manipulating the market to favour its own producers...

[Read More](#)

Australian Financial Review (Subscription Required) | 20 Mar 2024

## BHP stands down contractors at West Musgrave nickel and copper project

BHP has stood down around a quarter of the workforce building its \$1.7 billion West Musgrave nickel and copper project in Western Australia, but says it remains committed to the development, which it acquired when it purchased OZ Minerals last year.

Last month, the resources major wrote down the value of its nickel business by \$5.4 billion and suggested it could suspend work altogether. The West Musgrave project, a large but very remote greenfield site, was 21 per cent complete in February...

[Read More](#)

Australian Financial Review (Subscription Required) | 17 Mar 2024

[Click here to access the opinion piece](#)



Photo source: Carla Gottgens | Bloomberg via Getty Images

## Federal Government to introduce Net Zero Economy Authority

The Federal Government has introduced legislation to establish the Net Zero Economy Authority, which will act as an independent statutory body that sits within the Prime Minister's portfolio.

The Net Zero Economy Authority intends to ensure Australian workers and regions realise and share the benefits of a net-zero economy...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 28 Mar 2024

## Mining sector primed to set climate related goals



The new KPMG Mining Risk Forecast 2024 report has identified climate change as the top reported risk for ASX-listed mining companies.

The results are collected from an analysis of reported material risks in the most recent annual reports from ASX 300 mining sector companies...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 08 Mar 2024

## Australian Strategic Materials receives \$923m funding from US EXIM for Dubbo rare earths project

Australian Strategic Materials (ASX: ASM) has received substantial US government backing for its Dubbo rare earths and critical minerals project in central-western New South Wales.

Australian Strategic has received a non-binding and conditional Letter of Interest (LoI) from the Export-Import Bank of the United States (US EXIM) to provide a debt funding package of up to \$923 million for the construction and execution phase of the rare earths and critical minerals at the Dubbo project...

[Read More](#)

Small Caps | 22 Mar 2024

## AVL welcomes first vanadium electrolyte

Australian Vanadium (AVL) has produced its first high purity vanadium electrolyte, which is a key component of vanadium flow batteries.

Independent testing demonstrated that the vanadium electrolyte complied with typical specifications required by vanadium flow battery manufacturers.

Alongside producing first vanadium electrolyte, AVL has also successfully commissioned its vanadium electrolyte manufacturing facility that completed construction in December...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 19 Mar 2024



## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

### **SMEs unlock critical minerals potential with CSIRO support program**

Applications are now open for a free 10-week program for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to understand how research and development can advance their critical minerals projects...

The 'Innovate to Grow' program will help SMEs acquire valuable business insights to leverage R&D to meet their business needs...

***Read More***

Australian Government - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water | 19 Mar 2024

### **Up to \$3 million in exploration grants available in the NT**

The Northern Territory (NT) Government has opened applications for Round 17 of its Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations program, with up to \$3 million in grants available to advance exploration.

The grants aim to address geoscientific knowledge gaps, advance exploration activity and support the discovery and development of resources in the Territory...

***Read More***

Australian Mining | 06 Mar 2024

### **Joint statement by Canada and Australia on cooperation on critical minerals**

The joint statement sets out shared priorities on critical minerals including the importance of robust environmental, social and governance credentials.

#### **Joint statement**

Canada and Australia are both global leaders in minerals extraction and home to advanced exploration projects for battery minerals and metals such as lithium and graphite, as well as rare earth elements (REE) and other critical minerals that are vital inputs for EVs and the clean technology sectors...

***Read More***

Australian Government - Department of Industry, Science and Resources | 05 Mar 2024

### **Australia, US engage in critical nickel talks**

Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King has reportedly met with US Pentagon representatives earlier this week to discuss both governments co-investing in an Australian nickel project. King is currently visiting Canada and the US to engage in complex discussions surrounding critical minerals...

***Read More***

Australian Mining | 08 Mar 2024

### **New CSIRO mining survey calls on all Australians**

Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, is calling on all Australians to take part in a major mining survey. In partnership with data science company Voconiq, the CSIRO study aims to explore the attitudes of Australians towards the mining industry today...

***Read More***

Australian Mining | 21 Mar 2024

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

## Seabed mining regulator meets as critical minerals drive heats up

A marine scientist has emerged as a new candidate to lead the International Seabed Authority. If elected, she could represent a shift in how the UN-affiliated organization that regulates deep sea mining operates. It's a high-stakes year for the nascent industry, as pressure mounts on the ISA to finalize mining regulations and as more countries focus on shoring up their supply of critical minerals used to make electric vehicle batteries and other technologies...

[Read More](#)

Bloomberg News | 22 Mar 2024

## Canada leads on critical minerals while the U.S. falters

While the United States dawdles, Canada has quietly taken the lead in countering China's grip on the global supply of critical metals. Both the United States and Canada have raised the alarm over China's control of mineral supply chains, but only our northern neighbors are taking decisive action to do something about it...

[Read More](#)

Nebraska Examiner | 22 Mar 2024

## New polysilicon developments could reduce Chinese dependency

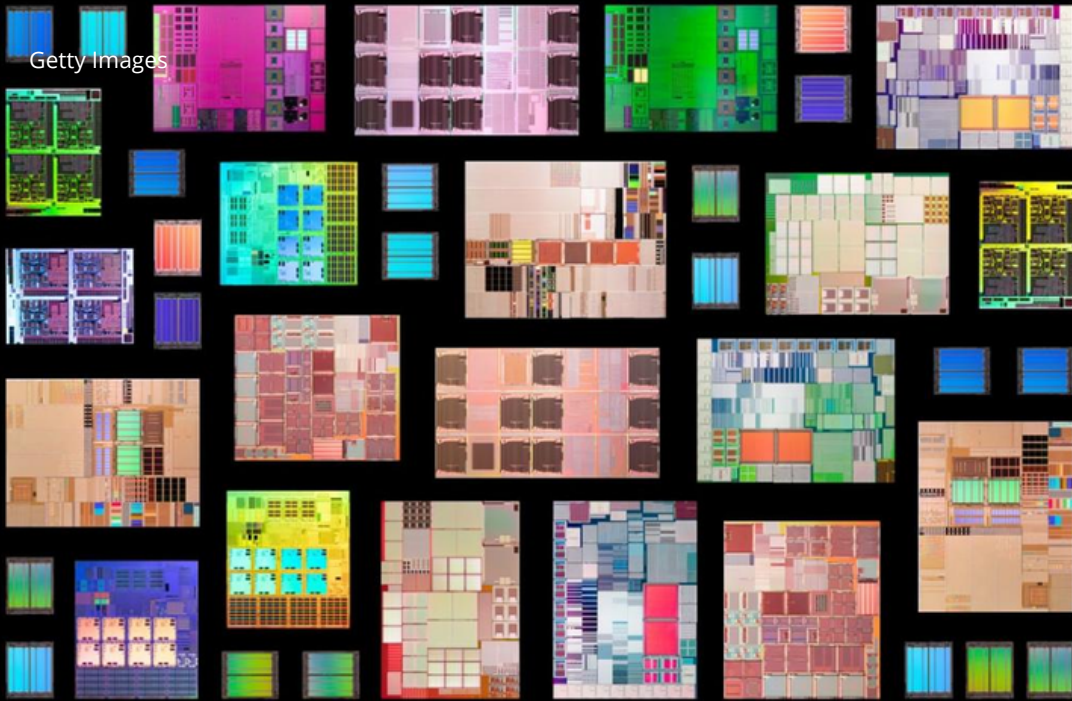
In March, Oman-based United Solar Polysilicon (FZC) SPC began construction of a US\$1.35Bn polysilicon production facility at the SOHAR Port and Freezone in Oman. The facility is the first of its kind to be constructed in the Middle East and will cover an area of 160,000m<sup>2</sup>. Operations are scheduled to start in 2025, with an annual production target of 100kt. The project aligns with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, the national reference for economic and social planning...

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 28 Mar 2024







## India looking to Africa for critical minerals

NEW DELHI, March 22 (Reuters) - India is looking to Africa for minerals such as copper, cobalt and other critical minerals, while also engaging with Australia for lithium blocks, said V.L. Kantha Rao, secretary of mines, on the sidelines of an industry event on Friday.

"In Africa, we are exploring countries like Zambia, Namibia, Congo, and Ghana for critical minerals," he added...

[Read More](#)

Reuters | 22 Mar 2024

## South Korea's demand for critical minerals

In December 2021 the then president of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, made a largely unexpected working visit to Australia, at the end of his term, and at unusually short notice. Media speculation was that the visit was all about China, given that both Australia and Korea had been subjected by China to costly economic coercion measures, and China's aggressive actions continued to provoke concern in both countries...

[Read More](#)

Australian Strategic Policy Institute | 04 Mar 2024

## China's dominance over critical minerals poses an unacceptable risk

Critical minerals are the world's building blocks for emerging and future technologies. They are essential to manufacturing, clean energy production, semiconductor production, and the defence and aerospace industries. Their supply and value chains are small relative to major commodities such as iron ore and coal. They are highly concentrated around China, are easily distorted, and are vulnerable to price fluctuations...

[Read More](#)

Lowy Institute | 20 Mar 2024

# Calendar of events 2024

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

MARCH 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2024

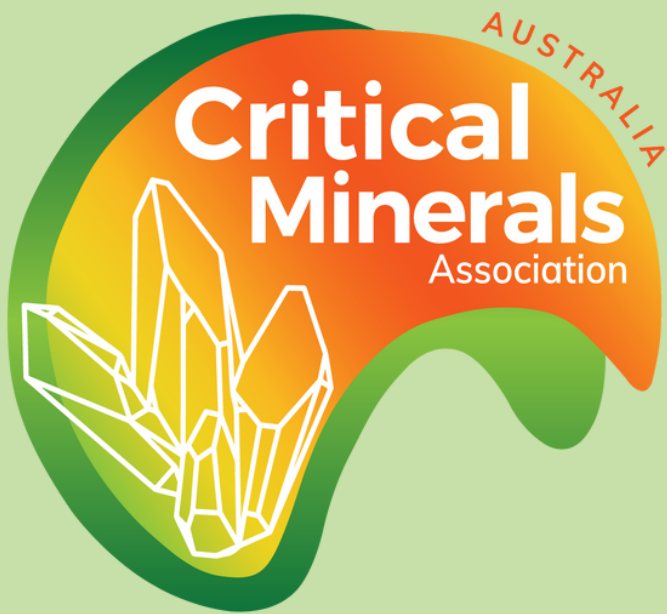
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

	DATE(S)	EVENT	HOSTS/PARTNERS	LOCATION
MAR	3 MAR - 6 MAR	<a href="#">PDAC</a>	Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada	Toronto, CA
	26 MAR - 28 MAR	<a href="#">Future Facing Commodities Conference 2024</a>	Resource Connect	SG
APR	11 APR - 12 APR	<a href="#">Australia-Japan Energy Partnership Conference</a>	AJBCC	Adelaide, AU
	16 APR - 17 APR	<a href="#">2024 Paydirt Battery Minerals Conference</a>	Paydirt	Perth, AU
May	23 MAY - 24 MAY	<a href="#">Critical Minerals Forum - Tokyo 2024</a>	Project Blue	Tokyo, JP
JUN	17 JUN - 18 JUN	<a href="#">Future of Mining Perth</a>	Future of Mining	Perth, AU
	18 JUN - 19 JUN	<a href="#">Copper to the World</a>	Austmine	Adelaide, AU
AUG	5 AUG - 7 AUG	<a href="#">Diggers and Dealers</a>	Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum	Kalgoorlie, AU
	13 AUG	<a href="#">Critical Minerals Forum - Perth 2024</a>	Project Blue	Perth, AU
	26 AUG - 28 AUG	<a href="#">Aust CM Conference 2024</a>	AusIMM	Brisbane, AU
OCT	7 OCT - 8 OCT	<a href="#">Battery &amp; Supply Chains 2024</a>	IQ Hub	Perth, AU
	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:

**Sara Couperthwaite** | Professor  
**Elaiza Luker** | Research Associate



Critical Minerals  
Association Australia



@CMA\_AUS



[www.cmaaustralia.org](http://www.cmaaustralia.org)

Contact: [admin@criticalmineral.org](mailto:admin@criticalmineral.org)

Critical Minerals Association Australia Limited  
ACN 660 785 124