



CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

APRIL 2026
EDITION

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Newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS



AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT NEWS

- Perth Mint flagged as future rare earths processing hub.
- New copper projects may bypass Mount Isa smelter infrastructure.
- Europe seeks Australian miners for critical minerals supply security.
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency backs low-emissions lithium refining project in WA.
- US and Australia fund major rare earth refinery project.
- New laws strengthen critical minerals industry and fuel security.
- WA nickel sector receives multi-million-dollar government funding support.
- Queensland Government backs Australia-first facility in Townsville

CRITICAL MINERALS EVENTS



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- US urges World Bank critical minerals funding shift.
- US selects firms to secure domestic gallium supply.
- Brazil developing national rare earths policy framework.
- EU launches critical minerals procurement platform operations.
- EU and US near critical minerals agreement.
- US invests in strategic antimony supply development.
- Norway advances Europe's largest rare earth deposit project.
- China and Vietnam expand critical minerals cooperation talks.
- G7 increases efforts against China's minerals dominance.
- Rare earth development critical for future magnet supply.



BIG PICTURE THINKING

- New partnerships needed to reduce rare earth supply chain risks.
- Australia positioned strongly for future critical minerals growth.
- EU develops European critical minerals trading platform partnership.
- China sulfuric acid export suspension disrupts global rare earths supply.

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](#).



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

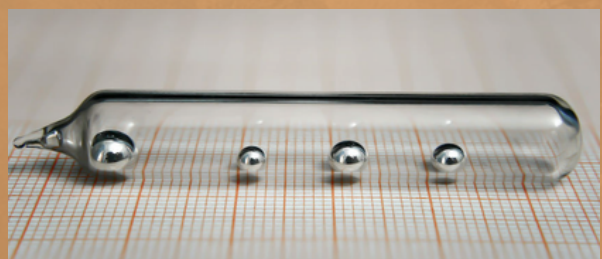


US Department of Energy backs five tech firms to secure gallium supply chain

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.

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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

Reuters | 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.

Read More

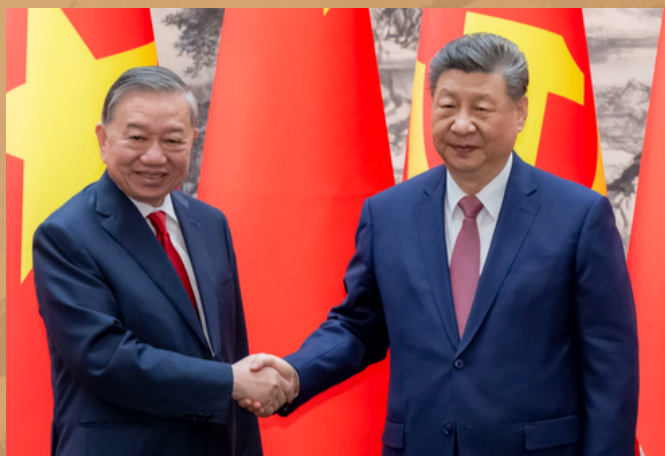
Reuters.com | 20 April 2026

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



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

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



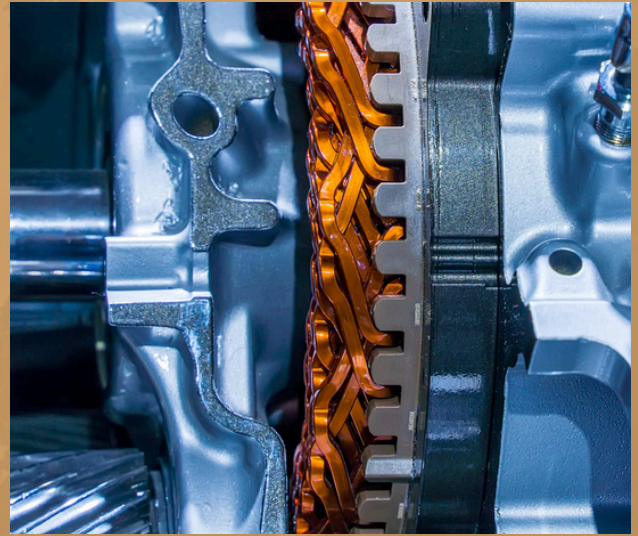
BIG PICTURE THINKING

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".

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Substack.com | April 2026

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

Read More

Reuters | 22 April 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

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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