

CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

JUNE 2023

- Seizing the opportunities for Australia's critical minerals
- The rise of “non-traditional skills”, and the future of Australian miners
- India's govt lists 30 critical minerals in clean energy push

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Newsletter



June 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

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- Big boost for Queensland battery-powered jobs
- Energy and potential: Maryborough charges ahead as battery hub
- Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

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- Mineral Resources ends lithium deal with Ganfeng
- Future Battery Minerals completes \$10m nickel project sale
- More action needed to capitalise on WA critical minerals, says Chamber of Minerals and Energy
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- ChemX kicks off high-purity alumina plant construction
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023



Critical Minerals
Association Australia



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www.cmaaustralia.org

CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS

SRK Australia

SRK Australia is thrilled to announce its membership in the Critical Minerals Association, building on a longstanding relationship with its UK branch. As a member of CMA, SRK is looking forward to strengthening ties with the Australian critical minerals industry, sharing technical knowledge and experience on ESG best practices, and contributing to CMA's responsible mining and sourcing initiatives.

With a track record of success in critical minerals projects in Australia and abroad, SRK's multidisciplinary team offers a comprehensive range of services from project initiation to mine development. These services include early exploration, 3D modeling, structural mapping of outcrop and core, JORC Code industrial Mineral Resource estimates, mining studies from scoping through to feasibility, independent technical reviews and asset valuations, and independent geologist's reports.

SRK Consulting employs some 1,700 staff internationally in over 45 permanent offices in 20 countries on 6 continents. A broad range of internationally recognised associate consultants complements the core staff. In Australia, SRK employs some 110 people in offices located in Brisbane, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth and Sydney. With this combined expertise, SRK can provide support at any stage of a project's life cycle, with a focus on value creation through best practices for its clients.

SRK's client roster includes many of the world's mining and exploration companies, financial institutions, EPCM and construction firms, and government bodies. As an entirely employee-owned company with no equity or contingent interests in any project, SRK offers conflict-free and objective support on crucial issues at every stage of a project's life cycle.

Find out more about
SRK Australia here



CMA UK presentation at WMC

Jeff Townsend, CEO, CMA UK, was invited to present at the World Mining Congress 26th June symposium, where he spoke about driving the UK's critical minerals strategy forward. Jeff highlighted the three pillars of the UK's strategy which was refreshed in March 2023:

- **Accelerate** – Domestic extraction and midstream capacity
- **Collaborate** – Develop, deepen and integrated the UK's Critical Minerals Supply Chain with Partner nations
- **Enhance** – Improve the wider critical minerals supply chain structure including ESG, Finance etc



CMAA joins Qld Government's tour of regional Qld

CMA Australia (Namali Mackay, MD) and CMA UK (Jeff Townsend, CEO) were invited to join the Hon Scott Stewart MP, Qld Minister for Resources on a tour of regional Qld showcasing upstream and midstream activities and the potential for critical minerals. Highlights included visits to Mt Isa Mines, Sun Metals, the Vanadium Common User Facility site and the Port of Townsville, which all served to demonstrate the significant potential, policy support, international collaboration and community engagement in the local critical minerals industry.

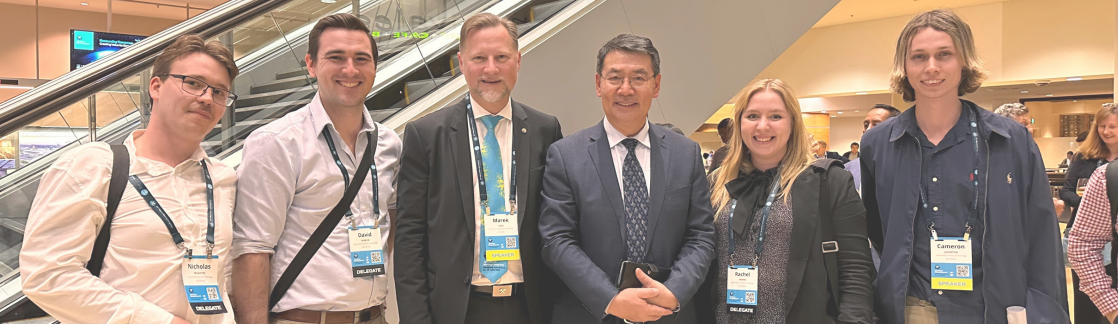


CMA networking drinks

On 28th June in Brisbane the CMAA hosted a networking event on the sidelines of the World Mining Congress, which was an excellent evening of connections and discussion about the week's events and broader industry issues. We would sincerely like to thank our sponsors – our founding members Lava Blue Ltd and the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) research group STRATA.

POWERING
THE ENERGY
TRANSITION
WITH AUSTRALIA
CRITICAL
MINERALS





CMAA newsletter team review: 26th World Mining Congress 2023

*Mr. Nicholas Spadotto | Queensland University of Technology Research Associate
Dr. David Hunter | Queensland University of Technology Research Fellow*

From June 26 to 29 this year, the 26th instalment of the World Mining Congress (WMC) saw a cohort of global leaders and stakeholders from across the mining industry descend upon Brisbane. Through the Congress, the sector's commitment to sustainable practices, environmental stewardship, and indigenous and community engagement were on full display through the plenary and technical sessions, and evident in the extraordinary exhibition booths.

The event highlighted several themes in the mining industry, from the crucial role of the industry for decarbonisation and the global shift toward net-zero, to improving ESG outcomes and education. On day two of the Congress, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk unveiled Queensland's Critical Mineral Strategy highlighting the state government's commitment to shoring up supply chains to meet future demand while creating more jobs for Queenslanders and supporting regional communities.

The morning Congress plenary sessions covered a range of key issues and developments across the industry. Rohitash Dhawan's (President and CEO, International Council on Mining and Metals) speech on diversity, inclusivity, equity, and the abolishment of assault in the industry was both moving and inspiring. Sinead Kaufman (Chief Executive Minerals, Rio Tinto) highlighted several sustainable mining innovations that Rio Tinto has been investing in to contribute to the circular economy and decarbonisation. Prof Deborah Terry AO (Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Queensland), spoke about challenges related to looming skill shortages in the industry and the role universities must play in the transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, through collaboration to innovate and training the future workforce.

Many of these themes trickled down into the technical sessions, covering key topics such as artificial intelligence, critical minerals, environmental sustainability and decarbonisation, developments in mining and processing technologies, ESG and workplace health and safety. The congress exhibition was without doubt a highlight. From the Monday night opening of the exhibition, when the oddly disturbing kangaroos on stilts bounced around arriving delegates, to the very close of the last technical sessions on Thursday evening, the exhibition hall was a hive of activity. Companies from around the world displayed new technologies at a scale ranging from miniature 3D models to real-world size from excavation and comminution equipment to ore-sorting and robotics. Many booths also had on display a range of virtual and augmented reality technologies to immerse you in the resource sector.

As a final note, there was a recurring theme echoed by many speakers, across the plenary talks and technical sessions. The theme was of the looming skill shortages faced by the industry, a widespread level of mistrust in the younger generations, and the resulting obstacles in meeting production demands and consequently the increased level of risks for potential investors. Despite this clear and present issue, there was a noticeable lack of young delegates at the congress, further validating this notion. Was this a missed opportunity? Could more have been done to bring younger people to this event and open their eyes to all the exciting innovations in the industry and its role in decarbonisation, and to hear from them why a career in the resource sector is not their first preference? Booths and technology demonstrations within the Exhibition Hall were so engaging, how could this not encourage more students into a career in mining, if only more students had the opportunity to experience and learn about the industry.

If the authors may be so bold as to offer a suggestion, more effort is required to promote the inclusion and active participation of younger delegates in events such as the World Mining Congress. For example, an invitation to these industry conferences could be extended to STEM educators in primary and secondary schools and high school students interested in STEM careers. The aim: to create a "spark" and inspire students into a career in mining, to gain support from educators to communicate the opportunities and value from a career in mining, and to provide a platform for both stakeholders to have a voice in how best to engage with them in the exciting changes the resource sector is making towards decarbonisation.

In summary, the congress emanated an industry that is strong, ready, and willing to meet the challenges of tomorrow and there couldn't have been a better stage than Brisbane, the gateway to Queensland. It was the first time the World Mining Congress had been hosted in Australia, and Brisbane showcased Queensland as a region with an abundance of natural resources, a rich mining heritage and a thriving community of mining experts. The congress was a beacon for the region's prospects to investors, demonstrating the sector's capacity to provide sustainable economic growth and play a leading role in meeting the world's demand for critical minerals. Overall, the organising committee of the Congress, chaired by CSIRO's Dr Hua Guo, did a brilliant job pulling together a world-class congress and they should be applauded.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

Seizing the opportunities for Australia's critical minerals

Australia's new Critical Minerals Strategy sets out a vision to grow our critical minerals wealth, create Australian jobs in mining and manufacturing, strengthen global clean energy supply chains, and support the world to achieve net zero emissions...

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Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia | June 20 2023

**AUSTRALIAN CRITICAL
MINERALS STRATEGY
2023-2030**



The Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy

Critical minerals are the next chapter in Queensland's resources story. For Queensland to capitalise on the generational opportunity the demand for our critical minerals represents, we must take quick and purposeful action, and this is why we have developed the Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy...

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Queensland Government | 2023

**QUEENSLAND CRITICAL
MINERALS STRATEGY**



Big boost for Queensland battery-powered jobs

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver a boost Queensland's place in the energy storage revolution through a \$15 million investment to scale up the National Battery Testing Centre (NBTC), based in Banyo on Brisbane's northside...

Read More

Queensland Government | June 15 2023

Energy and potential: Maryborough charges ahead as battery hub

The first sod has been turned on a \$70 million battery manufacturing centre in Maryborough, part of a series of developments with the potential to provide 20 per cent of Australia's renewable energy storage needs and employ up to 500 highly-skilled workers across regional Queensland...

Read More

Queensland Government | June 06 2023

Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund

The QCMBTF is inviting expressions of interest from businesses that will:

- deliver economic growth in Queensland;
- create Queensland-based jobs (although there will be no requirement to headquarter in Queensland);
- support private infrastructure development to allow the growth of the critical minerals sector within Queensland; and/or
- mine or refine critical minerals or manufacture advanced materials using critical minerals in Queensland.

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QIC

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

'WA nickel miner plans "all-electric" mine to provide ore for EV batteries

A team of experts including from technology giant ABB has been engaged to help deliver an all-electric nickel mine in Western Australia, and green up the supply chain feeding massive global demand for batteries...

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Renew Economy | June 14 2023

More action needed to capitalise on WA critical minerals, says Chamber of Minerals and Energy

West Australia's peak body for the resources sector has warned the State has a "narrow window of opportunity" to capitalise on demand for critical minerals to unlock its potential as a key player in the global supply chain...

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The West Australian | June 17 2023

Mineral Resources ends lithium deal with Ganfeng

Australia's Mineral Resources (ASX: MIN) has withdrawn its lithium production forecast for Mt Marion mine after ending a deal with Ganfeng Lithium.

The scrapping of the tolling agreement to convert spodumene concentrate from the operation into lithium battery chemicals is effective June 1, MinRes said.

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Mining.com | June 16 2023

Northern Territory funds critical minerals drilling

The Northern Territory Government has awarded \$3.7 million in grants to fund mineral exploration in the Territory.

The grants were awarded under the Resourcing the Territory initiative and will support 38 projects from 30 companies...

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Australian Mining | June 02 2023

Future Battery Minerals completes \$10m nickel project sale

Future Battery Minerals will bank a cool \$8 million after its subsidiary completed the sale of a trio of tenements within the Nepean nickel project, where it is an 80 per cent-owner, in Western Australia's Eastern Goldfields region...

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The West Australian | June 15 2023





Photo source: King Ropes Access via Shutterstock

The rise of “non-traditional skills”, and the future of Australian miners

It is no secret that Australia's mining industry has been one of the country's most dramatically and consistently profitable enterprises. Resources and energy exports alone added over \$200bn to the country's economy between 2019 and 2020 and more recently, between September 2021 and September 2022, mineral exploration expenditure increased by 9.6%, as Australian miners search farther and farther afield for new deposits...

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Mining Technology | June 05 2023

Orexlore further explores critical minerals sector

Metal mining services company Orexplore Technologies has secured two key contracts in the critical minerals sector.

The first contract concerns an agreement to scan approximately 2500 metres of core for Green Critical Minerals, following the successful completion of an initial order to scan 300 metres of core. The contract has a total value of \$226,000...

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Australian Mining | June 29 2023

Signs of fading resources boom as Australia's record exports tipped to decline

An unprecedented boom in the value of Australia's resources exports is set to come to an end amid forecasts that earnings from iron ore, coal and gas will fall back down to earth...

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ABC News | July 03 2023

How much will Australia realistically achieve with its critical minerals?

By the end of 2024, Western Australia's Minister for Mines and Energy, Bill Johnston, says the state will account for 10% of the world's lithium hydroxide demand. By 2028, that figure is expected hit 20%, as planned refineries complete commissioning...

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PV Magazine | June 27 2023

It's critical: Calls for Australia to go big and fast or miss green minerals boom

Australia risks falling behind in the race to gain a foothold in the global critical minerals industry, with the US, China and the European Union investing billions into the sector.

IGO Limited acting chief executive Matt Dusci said to be competitive, Australian miners would need help to lower the cost of moving to higher value processing for minerals such as lithium, manganese and graphite...

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The Sydney Morning Herald | July 03 2023

Australia digs deep to break China's dominance in critical minerals

Australia will pledge hundreds of millions of dollars in new funding to challenge China's stranglehold over the supply of critical minerals as it works with allies to diversify supply chains for electric cars, clean energy and advanced military weapons...

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The Sydney Morning Herald | June 20 2023

Critical minerals subsidy snubbed despite modelling revealing massive job, economic opportunity

The Albanese Government snubbed calls for direct incentives for the critical minerals industry despite its own modelling showing added support could spur almost \$30 billion more economic activity and 67,000 extra jobs than other approaches...

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The West Australian | June 28 2023

Photo source: ABC News

Australian miners to explore waste into critical minerals systems

Miners in Australia are tapping into mine waste to extract copper, nickel, cobalt and other minerals necessary for the energy transition can be extracted from mining waste, delegates at the World Mining Congress in Brisbane heard on Wednesday...

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Mining Technology | June 29 2023



Surefire eyes high-purity alumina potential in WA

Dual-metals explorer Surefire Resources is positioning closer to having an impact in the world's burgeoning battery market after stamping a maiden aluminium oxide resource at its Victory Bore project in Western Australia's Mid West region...

[Read More](#)

The West Australian | June 08 2023

ChemX kicks off high-purity alumina plant construction

Budding critical materials producer ChemX Materials is set to kick off construction of its high-purity alumina (HPA) pilot plant later this month and has appointed metallurgical processing specialist, Fremantle Metallurgy, to oversee the project.

Following a pre-feasibility study (PFS) tabled in August last year, validating its proprietary "HiPurA®" technology, ChemX secured a site in O'Connor's industrial hub near Fremantle in Western Australia to construct an upscaled HPA pilot plant...

[Read More](#)

The West Australian | June 05 2023

Australian Vanadium project given \$49 million boost

Australian Vanadium Limited (AVL) and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources have executed a Commonwealth grant agreement. The grant provides up to \$49 million in funding support for the Australian Vanadium project by collaborating with industry partners to create an Australian vanadium battery industry...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | May 31 2023

Critical Minerals to wrap numbers around vast vanadium play

After achieving an eye-watering 363-million-tonne vanadium resource at its Queensland-based Lindfield project, Critical Minerals has moved to wrap some financials around the operation with the commencement of a scoping study...

[Read More](#)

The West Australian | May 2023

Australia "on the verge of a vanadium revolution"

Australia has seen a vanadium breakthrough as the first commercial vanadium-flow battery has been completed in South Australia...

[Read More](#)

TAustralian Mining | June 26 2023

Photo source: Australian Mining



BIG PICTURE THINKING ...

Rare earths: The forgotten foundation of the green economy

Jeff Townsend, Founder & CEO, and Olimpia Pilch, Founder & COO of the Critical Minerals International Alliance, emphasise the importance of rare earth elements for the transition to a green economy...

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Innovation News Network | June 05 2023

Critical material prices are recovering but the outlook is mixed

The Critical Materials Price Index tracked by Project Blue dropped to a 12-month low in May, but the energy transition market intelligence company now believes last month marked a bottom in the cycle for the basket of 30 metals and minerals...

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Mining.com | June 16 2023

Inside the race to remake lithium extraction for EV batteries

The global battle to reshape the lithium industry is sucking in oil producers, tech startups and entrenched mining giants, each jockeying to be the first to reinvent how a metal key to the green energy transition is produced...

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Reuters | June 16 2023

Australia's critical mineral push will make world safer: Taiwan

Taiwan foreign minister Joseph Wu said the democratic world would feel "much more comfortable" if Australia could become a global player in critical minerals to lessen reliance on China.

But Mr Wu, speaking to a group of international reporters on Tuesday, said Australia must be prepared play the long game, explaining that Taiwan's dominance in the semiconductor chip manufacturing industry was the product of 40 years of investment and support...

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Australian Financial Review | June 20 2023

Material intensity in EV batteries going down

Tent report by IDTechEx found that even though there is a trend to reduce the number of materials that provide core functionality to the battery pack, the rapidly growing EV market means that demand for such materials will continue...

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Mining.com | June 0182023



DRIVING MARKET DEMAND

Critical minerals boom a 'remarkable time in history'

Pilbara Minerals chief executive Dale Henderson says the past 12 months have been exhilarating and, not surprisingly, a little tiring...

[Read More](#)

Australian Financial Review | June 30 2023

Why the Fight for 'Critical Minerals' Is Heating Up

Over more than a century, oil companies have developed a vast industrial network to extract, refine and deliver their product to customers around the world. Sourcing the materials needed to build an alternative, less carbon-intensive economy presents a whole new set of challenges...

[Read More](#)

The Washington Post | July 03 2023

VIDEO: Calls for Australia to prioritise critical mineral alliance

A new report says Australia should counter China's control of critical minerals manufacturing by fostering an alliance in the field with the United States...



[Watch the Video Here](#)

ABC News | June 15 2022

Global ambition for renewable energy drives critical minerals boom, but new mines years away

Australia is on the cusp of another mining boom in critical metals to feed the world's insatiable appetite for technology, but any new mines could still be years away.

Vanadium, copper, zinc, and cobalt are vital to the creation of renewable energy technology such as electric cars, wind farms, solar energy, and the large-scale batteries that store clean energy...

[Read More](#)

ABC News | June 29 2023



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cobalt and Lithium – a tale of two battery metals

The uncertain price outlook for lithium and cobalt poses challenges to market participants. At the same time, futures markets for battery metals are growing in liquidity, enabling firms to manage their exposure to these price movements with tools previously unavailable...

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Forbes | June 01 2023

Australia fast-track cooperation to develop critical minerals, EV battery supply chains

As part of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's visit to Australia for the annual leaders' meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto witnessed the signing of the Action Plan for the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State Government of Western Australia and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) in Sydney, Australia, on Tuesday. The signing was carried out by Kadin chairman Arsjad Rasjid and the Premier of Western Australia, Hon Roger Cook MLA...

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The Jakarta Post | July 04 2023

America needs a critical mineral model beyond onshoring and ally-shoring

Critical minerals are necessary for key technologies, like superalloys in jet engines, making them critical to US economic prosperity and national security. Currently, the United States relies heavily on critical minerals sourced overseas, but rising global mineral demand and escalating...

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Mining.com | June 16 2023

Collaboration with Africa's miners essential to UK's Critical Minerals Strategy

As the UK works to secure critical minerals supply from around the world, UK Minister of State for Industry in the Department for Business and Trade Nusrat Ghani tells Mining Weekly that the upcoming UK-African Investment Summit in April 2024 will be a good forum for engaging critical mineral-hosting nations on the African continent...

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Creamer Media's Mining Weekly | July 04 2023

Photo source: GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO



China threatens to curb mineral supply to West amid widening tech war

As soon as the Netherlands announced new restrictions on exports of advanced microchip machines to China on Friday, Chinese trade officials on Monday hit back with an export-control regime tantamount to threatening a ban on exports of two types of critical raw materials to unfriendly countries on national security grounds...

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POLITICO | July 04 2023

China's critical mineral supply chains in Africa

As global demand for critical rare earth elements rises, many countries have looked to Africa's abundant stores of cobalt, lithium, copper and other minerals vital to the manufacturing of modern technologies. China is among the largest players on the continent with billions invested in the African mining and mineral extraction sectors. In 2019 alone, China imported nearly \$10 billion worth of minerals from sub-Saharan Africa...

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United States Institute of Peace | June 29 2023

Photo source: Lithium mining/Adobe



India's govt lists 30 critical minerals in clean energy push

The Indian government said on Wednesday that it had listed 30 minerals, including nickel, titanium, vanadium and tungsten as critical to drive its clean energy push.

The federal government had previously listed 12 strategic minerals, including lithium - a critical raw material for electric vehicle batteries. Lithium reserves were discovered earlier this year in the federally administered region of Jammu and Kashmir...

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Reuters | June 29 2023

Getting critical minerals right

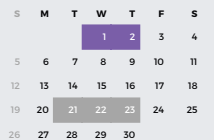
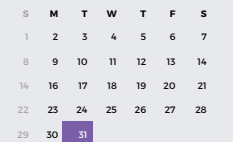
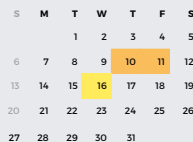
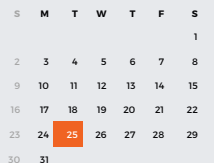
A straightforward urgency surrounds supply chains for critical minerals, given their importance in helping guide the United States towards new technological and economic heights. However, many ongoing policy discussions regarding mine permitting reform, which seeks to develop the domestic mining industry to strengthen U.S. critical minerals security, lack a realistic, definable vision of what an ideal regulatory system would accomplish...

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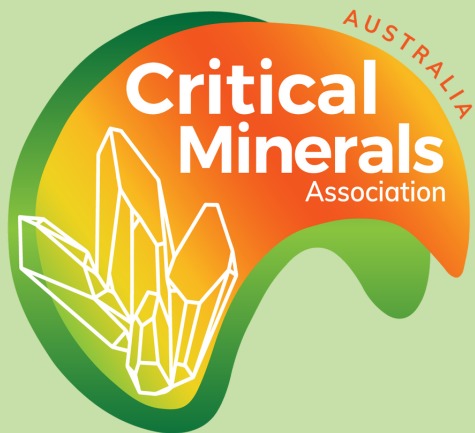
The Breakthrough Institute | June 29 2023

Calendar of events 2023

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



		DATE(S)	EVENT	HOSTS/PARTNERS	LOCATION
JUN		08 JUN	Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum - Next Step for Critical Minerals in the UK	Westminster Forum Projects	Online
		08 JUN - 09 JUN	Battery Gigafactories USA 2023	Benchmark Events	Washington DC, USA
		20 JUN - 22 JUN	Lithium Supply & Battery Raw Materials 2023	Lithium Supply & Battery Raw Materials	Las Vegas, USA
		26 JUN - 29 JUN	World Mining Congress	WMC	Brisbane, AU
JUL		25 JUL	Critical Minerals as Tools of Economic Statecraft	Australian Institute of International Affairs Queensland	Brisbane, AU
AUG		10 AUG - 11 AUG	Critical Materials Forum Perth 2023	Project Blue and Critical Minerals Association Australia	Perth, AU
		16 AUG	Critical Materials Forum Sydney 2023	Project Blue and Critical Minerals Association Australia	Sydney, AU
SEP		07 SEP - 9 SEP	Meeting of the Mines		Conclurry, AU
		18 SEP - 19 SEP	Future of Mining Perth	Aspermont Media	Perth, AU
		20 SEP - 21 SEP	Critical Minerals & Energy Investment Conference and Exhibition	Spire Events	Perth, AU
		28 SEP	IEA Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Summit		Paris, FR
OCT		31 OCT - 02 NOV	International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC)	AusIMM, Victoria State Gov, AustMine, Mines and Money	Sydney, AU
NOV		21 NOV - 23 NOV	Critical Minerals Conference 2023	AusIMM	Perth, AU



This Newsletter has been compiled by QUT researchers:

Sara Couperthwaite | Professor

Elaiza Luker | Research Associate

David Hunter | Research Fellow

Nicholas Spadotto | Research Associate



Critical Minerals
Association Australia



@CMA_AUS



www.cmaaustralia.org

Contact: namali@criticalmineral.org

Critical Minerals Association Australia Limited
ACN 660 785 124