

CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

JUNE 2024

- Victorian rare earths mine backed by US investment
- Paying for a future made in Australia
- A Trump vs. Biden White House: the impact on critical materials

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Newsletter



June 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

- DFAT 2024 Peak Bodies Consultations – National Press Club, Canberra
- Treasury consultation: Critical minerals production tax incentive
- Critical Minerals Association Australia – Sundowner
- SRK News: Emerging Prominence of Battery Metals

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- Geoscience Australia's \$566 million challenge to map nation's critical minerals and water assets
- Net zero unlocks the nation's critical minerals potential
- Mineral exploration full steam ahead in Victoria
- Victorian rare earths mine backed by US investment
- Chinese lithium pioneer calls for 'fair go' in Australia
- Forget wine and pandas, it's all about precious rocks and minerals as China's Premier Li Qiang heads west
- BHP: Copper is king
- New strategic alliance to progress Tivan's Speewah project
- Australian Vanadium receives \$14.7m grant to create vanadium battery industry
- New tech for Green River

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

- New Federal net-zero plan spotlights resources sector
- Paying for a future made in Australia
- NT Government backs emerging copper project
- More support for NT lithium
- Australia won't bow to China on critical minerals

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- EU moves to implement new tariffs on Chinese Evs
- Canada takes step toward boosting tariff regime on Chinese EVs by announcing consultation
- Canada classifies high-purity iron, phosphorous and silicon metal as critical
- A Trump vs. Biden White House: the impact on critical materials
- Envirostream and Volvo lock in battery recycling agreement
- Japan finds over 200 million tonnes of battery metals in seabed

BIG PICTURE THINKING

- Are batteries with a niobium-based anode set to gain market share?
- Is graphite the gateway commodity for further easing of US raw material sourcing restrictions?
- Metso launches new battery cathode plant
- Countering coercion: Australia must engage with allies on critical minerals supply
- China's control and coercion in critical minerals
- Investing in innovation will secure vital critical minerals for the energy transition – here's where to start

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

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Critical Minerals Association Australia



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CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Peak Bodies Consultations
Australia's Trade Policy and
Negotiating Agenda
18 June 2024

DFAT 2024 Peak Bodies Consultations – National Press Club, Canberra

On the 18th of June the Critical Minerals Association Australia was invited to participate in a forum for open discussion between government and Australian peak bodies on Australia's trade and investment policy and free trade agreement negotiation agenda. The discussion covered key topics in trade and investment, including an analysis of the global economic outlook, priorities for Australian industry, Indo-Pacific engagement, Southeast Asia economic strategy and a Chief Negotiator's panel discussion on Australia's current FTA negotiations. The national critical minerals industry featured significantly in discussions and members will receive a member's update in this regard.

Treasury consultation: Critical minerals production tax incentive

Treasury is seeking views on the design implementation details and questions outlined in [the consultation paper](#) relating to the Critical Minerals Production Tax Incentive, which the Australian Government announced in the 2024–25 Budget to support downstream refining and processing of Australia's 31 critical minerals as part of the government's Future Made in Australia package.

The CMAA is calling on members and any other interested parties to contribute to our submission. Please contact [Elvira Nawrocka](#) with any contributions by **10 July 2024**.

Critical Minerals Association Australia – Sundowner

The CMAA would like to invite members and friends to a networking event in Brisbane on Monday 26 August from 6:30 – 8:30pm.

Click to RSVP and secure your place, as numbers are limited.

Critical Minerals Association Australia – Sundowner



Monday, 26 August

6:30pm - 8:30pm

The Charming Squire, Brisbane

Sponsored by



Click to RSVP



SRK's Principal Mining Engineer, Sean Kautzman, provides an overview of Battery Metals:

Emerging Prominence of Battery Metals

Battery metals, a key component in the production of batteries for various technologies such as electric vehicles (EVs) and renewable energy storage systems, have become extremely critical as companies strive to achieve their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions targets and minimize negative impacts to the environment.

While metals such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel typically garner the most headlines, there are a number of additional metals (e.g., manganese, aluminum, and zinc) that make up the chemistry of current batteries. Unless alternative chemistries are discovered, ensuring there is sufficient supply of these minerals will be essential in creating the technology required to achieve net zero emissions in the post-carbon economy.

Over the next decade, the demand for critical battery metals will continue to rise as the disruptive effects induced by the COVID-19 pandemic begin to recede and the pace of EV adoption accelerates. Government-mandated policies such as carbon taxes are forcing corporations and individual citizens to transform their ways of life, especially in Europe and North America. Recent forecasts indicate that some metals may be in a deficit as soon as 2024 and continue on that path unless new mines are commissioned or production expanded at existing operations. As new mines (and the downstream refining facilities required) take years to bring online, the deficit will impact both the raw material producers and their customers in the form of higher prices.

Alternatives to EVs, such as vehicles powered using hydrogen, light natural gas, or biodiesel carry either a lower GHG abatement potential or lower technology readiness level. Thus, EVs will continue to feature prominently in the near- to mid-term.

As with most minerals, worldwide in situ distribution of battery metals does not necessarily align with the consumption requirements of a specific country or region. Countries are increasingly developing strategies to protect national interests by limiting access to both the raw and refined versions of battery and other critical metals. Not only will this help minimize the reliance on imports (where feasible), but it can also provide internal economic boosts through job creation. Critics argue such strategies may be damaging if environmental regulations are loosened in order to expedite permitting; however, increasing sustainable production in jurisdictions with mature and well thought out mining regulations can remove so-called "conflict minerals" from the supply chain.

SRK provides expertise on battery metals, beginning from the exploration stage, through permitting and production, and finally into the closure and remediation of mine sites. This newsletter highlights a few of the topics SRK has assisted clients on in order to maximize their deposits of battery metals...

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Geoscience Australia's \$566 million challenge to map nation's critical minerals and water assets

James Johnson knows a thing or two about rocks.

But after decades studying the millions of square kilometres of land known as Australia, he is still intrigued about what else is out there.

"There's an awful lot more to learn about our continent," he said...

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ABC | 31 May 2024

Net zero unlocks the nation's critical minerals potential

With government support and an abundance of the mineral resources vital for many renewable energy technologies, Australia has the potential to become a critical minerals powerhouse as the world shifts to net zero. Yet experts warn there are headwinds that require careful navigation...

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The Australian Business Review | 25 Jun 2024

Mineral exploration full steam ahead in Victoria

The search for materials needed to support the renewable energy transition and make technology products is heating up across Victoria.

Victoria has demonstrated presence of antimony, titanium, zirconium and rare earth elements, as well as opportunities for other key raw materials such as copper, silica and high purity alumina...

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The Australian Mining Review | 21 Jun 2024

Victorian rare earths mine backed by US investment

A rare earths and mineral sands project in Victoria is another step closer to production thanks to a \$183 million funding boost from US uranium miner Energy Fuels Inc.

Astron Corporation's Donald project in west Victoria is at the heart of the deal, which involves farm-in, joint venture, and offtake agreements that will see Energy Fuels become a 49 per cent owner...

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Australian Mining | 06 Jun 2024



Critical mineral miners chase China's tail

The Chinese company that pioneered lithium processing in Australia says it deserves access to the billions of dollars in tax incentives put up by the Albanese government to boost the critical minerals sector...

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Australian Financial Review (Subscription Required) | 17 Jun 2024

Forget wine and pandas, it's all about precious rocks and minerals as China's Premier Li Qiang heads west

Cute and cuddly pandas might have dominated the headlines when the Chinese Premier visited South Australia, but the only other state Li Qiang is visiting has bigger ambitions...

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ABC | 18 Jun 2024

BHP: Copper is king

BHP South Australian copper asset president Anna Wiley has laid out a copper-focused future for the Big Australian in her address to the Copper to the World conference in SA.

Wiley said SA is home to 70 per cent of Australia's copper resources, one of only so many world-class copper resources remaining in the world...

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Australian Mining | 19 Jun 2024

New strategic alliance to progress Tivan's Speewah project

Tivan has formed a strategic alliance with Sumitomo Corporation, an integrated trading company working across industries such as minerals resources, to accelerate growth at the Speewah fluorite project in the east Kimberley region of Western Australia. The agreement provides a framework for both parties to negotiate a formal joint venture agreement for the development, financing and operation of Speewah...

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Australian Mining | 07 Jun 2024

Australian Vanadium receives \$14.7m grant to create vanadium battery industry

Australian Vanadium (ASX: AVL) has received a \$14.7m grant from the Federal Government as part of the Modern Manufacturing Initiative – Manufacturing Collaboration Stream.

In May 2023, Australian Vanadium and the Federal Government executed a Commonwealth grant agreement to the value of up to \$49m. The grant will assist AVL, in collaboration with industry partners, to create an Australian vanadium battery industry...

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The Australian Mining Review | 20 Jun 2024

New tech for Green River

Anson Resources and Koch Technology Solutions (KTS) will collaborate to test a new Li-Pro Lithium Selective Sorption pilot unit using brine at the Green River lithium project.

The new technology will process fresh brine under commercial production conditions that may be used to produce battery-grade lithium carbonate...

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Australian Mining | 24 Jun 2024

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

New Federal net-zero plan spotlights resources sector

The Australian Government is developing a new strategy to reach net-zero goals with a focus on working with the resources sector to make the push.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is leading coordination with relevant departments...

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Australian Mining | 18 Jun 2024

Paying for a future made in Australia

Australians want a bold vision for their future economic prosperity. They want not just to create new opportunities but to align them with our values and international commitments, not the least of which is the clean energy transition. Critical minerals should be central to this vision, and dig-and-ship is no longer the answer. The government's 2024-25 budget outlines the vision and commits new funding to it, but more is needed to address commercial, technological and economic fundamentals...

[Read More](#)

Australian Strategic Policy Institute | 04 Jun 2024

NT Government backs emerging copper project

Copper explorer NT Minerals has welcomed funding from the Northern Territory Government's geophysics and drilling collaborations (GDC) program.

The program is funded by the NT Government's Resourcing the Territory program, which sees the Government invest \$9.5 million per annum...

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Australian Mining | 14 Jun 2024

Australia won't bow to China on critical minerals

The Albanese government is refusing to bow to pressure from China as it looks to grow onshore downstream processing of critical minerals and support US efforts to develop Western supply chains. The government said it would not rush a call on whether entities wholly or part-owned by Chinese interests would qualify for billions of dollars in tax and other incentives unveiled as part of the May budget...

[Read More](#)

Financial Review | 18 Jun 2024

More support for NT lithium

The Northern Territory Government has extended a deal with two aspiring lithium cathode producers for the development of a new battery manufacturing project.

Avenira Limited and Advanced Lithium Electrochemistry (Aleees) will extend a memorandum of understanding (MOU) originally signed in September 2022...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 25 Jun 2024



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Canada classifies high-purity iron, phosphorous and silicon metal as critical

Canada released its first Critical Minerals List in March 2021 with a commitment to review the minerals identified as critical every three years. The list guides federal policy and programs and signals government areas of priority to stakeholders.

Public consultations took place with provincial and territorial governments, other government departments, industry, Indigenous groups and other interested or affected stakeholders...

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Project Blue | 13 Jun 2024

EU moves to implement new tariffs on Chinese EVs

The EU Commission announced a range of additional tariffs on Chinese-manufactured EV models. The new tariffs ranging up to 38.1% will be implemented on top of existing tariffs totalling 10% for Chinese manufactured models. The level of additional tariff imposed by the EU will be calculated based on the level of cooperation with an ongoing anti-subsidy investigation which is planned to be concluded in November 2024. The November 2024 deadline will form the definitive implementation of new tariffs, with a provisional tariff being implemented from July 2024...

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Project Blue | 14 Jun 2024

Canada takes step toward boosting tariff regime on Chinese EVs by announcing consultation

The federal government took a step Monday toward making Chinese electric vehicle imports more expensive in Canada by announcing a 30-day consultation period to examine Beijing's trade practices in the EV sector.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland made the announcement in Vaughan, Ont. She said that the consultations, which begin July 2, will help the government craft its response to Beijing...

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CBC | 24 Jun 2024



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2024

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Photo source: Project Blue

A Trump vs. Biden White House: the impact on critical materials

The result of November's US election will have an impact on key drivers of commodity markets including policy and regulation, geopolitics and climate policy. In this Blue View opinion piece, Project Blue explores the likely differences between a Trump and Biden White House and what that could mean for critical materials.

Americans will go to the polls on November 5 to decide between Democratic President Joe Biden and former Republican President Donald Trump. At the time of writing, the outcome of this rematch is too close to call, while pollsters seem to agree that the key battlegrounds will be the swing states of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Control of Congress is also an area of uncertainty, but one with big implications – without a clear majority legislative action is curtailed. ..

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Project Blue | 12 Jun 2024

Envirostream and Volvo lock in battery recycling agreement

Lithium Australia subsidiary Envirostream has signed an exclusive agreement with the buses arm of Volvo Group Australia to recycle end-of-life lithium-ion batteries from its electric and hybrid bus fleet.

Volvo manufactures and supplies electric and hybrid buses to Australian customers including the Public Transport Authority in Western Australia and Transdev in Queensland...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 05 Jun 2024

Japan finds over 200 million tonnes of battery metals in seabed

Japanese researchers have found more than 200 million tonnes of manganese nodules rich in battery metals in the Pacific Ocean, within the country's exclusive economic zone.

The team of experts from the University of Tokyo and the Nippon Foundation said the fist-sized nodules cover an extensive area of the seabed near Minamitorishima, a remote Tokyo Island...

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 25 Jun 2024

BIG PICTURE THINKING

China's control and coercion in critical minerals

Markets for critical minerals are no longer shaping up to be the next components of the global economy to be dominated by China. They already are. While Western nations were sleeping, China built vertically integrated supply chains for several critical minerals vital to the energy transition and high technology applications, including defence equipment....

[Read More](#)

Australian Strategic Policy Institute | 07 Jun 2024

Metso launches new battery cathode plant

Metso is launching a new plant to manufacture precursor cathode active material for lithium-ion batteries. As a Metso pCAM plant, the facility centres around an energy-efficient pCAM reactor, PSI 1000 particle size analyser and pCAM process control...

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Australian Strategic Policy Institute | 07 Jun 2024

Countering coercion: Australia must engage with allies on critical minerals supply

China's use of coercion to control critical mineral mining and processing projects, their output and even whole supply chains has motivated Australia and its strategic partners to take increasingly strong measures to secure alternative supply chains. Meanwhile, China's state-linked companies continue to use multiple channels to manipulate markets at scale...

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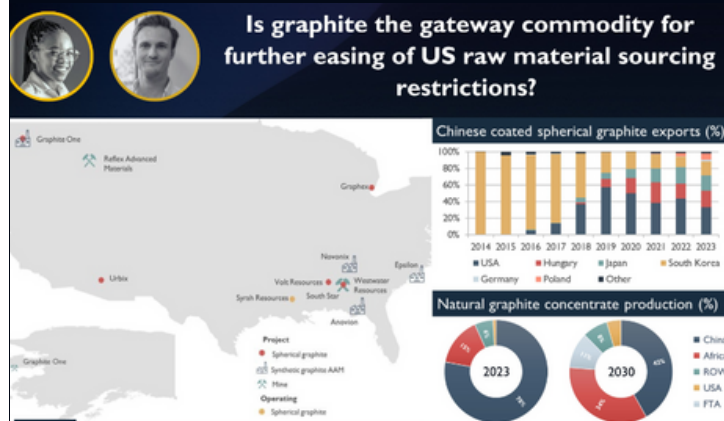
Australian Strategic Policy Institute | 17 Jun 2024

Is graphite the gateway commodity for further easing of US raw material sourcing restrictions?

The US Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is going to push out the deadline for complying with sourcing restrictions for certain battery raw materials until 2027, easing the pressure on OEMs to meet criteria...

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 18 Jun 2024



Investing in innovation will secure vital critical minerals for the energy transition – here's where to start

Rising demand for low-carbon technologies is escalating the need for critical minerals. These technologies require more minerals than their conventional counterparts, such as coal, oil and gas, and so the transition to renewable energy is driving substantial growth in demand for critical minerals...

[Read More](#)

World Economic Forum | 24 Jun 2024

Are batteries with a niobium-based anode set to gain market share?

The three companies have unveiled a prototype electric bus powered with the new battery, which is said to realise an ultra-fast charge time of around 10 minutes and deliver high energy density...

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Project Blue | 26 Jun 2024

Calendar of events 2024

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

JUNE 2024

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JUNE 2024

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JULY 2024

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AUGUST 2024

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SEPTEMBER 2024

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OCTOBER 2024

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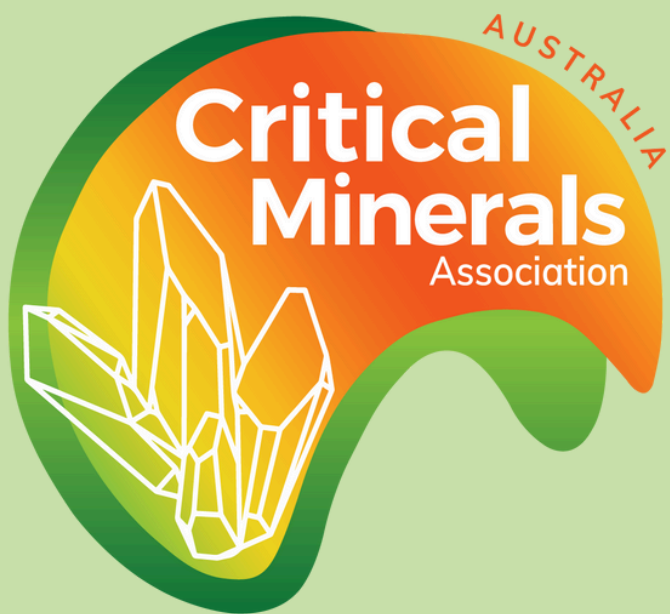
NOVEMBER 2024

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DECEMBER 2024

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	DATE(S)	EVENT	HOSTS/PARTNERS	LOCATION
June	23 June - 24 June	Critical Minerals Forum - Tokyo 2024	Project Blue	Tokyo, JP
JUN	17 JUN - 18 JUN	Future of Mining, Perth	Future of Mining	Perth, AU
	18 JUN - 19 JUN	Copper to the World	Austmine	Adelaide, AU
JUL	17 JUL - 19 JUL	Noosa Mining Investor Conference	Noosa Mining	Noosa, AU
AUG	5 AUG - 7 AUG	Diggers and Dealers	Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum	Kalgoorlie, AU
	13 AUG	Critical Minerals Forum - Perth 2024	Project Blue	Perth, AU
	26 AUG - 28 AUG	AusIMM's Critical Minerals Conference 2024	AusIMM	Brisbane, AU
SEP	11 SEP - 12 SEP	BENCHMARK - CIGA+ APAC 2024	Benchmark	Perth, AU
OCT	7 OCT - 8 OCT	Battery & Supply Chains 2024	IQ Hub	Perth, AU
	29 OCT - 31 OCT	IMARC	International Mining and Resources Conference	Sydney, AU
DEC	3 DEC - 5 DEC	Resourcing Tomorrow 2024	Mines and Money	London, UK



This Newsletter has been compiled by QUT researchers:

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