



CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

MARCH 2025

- Reality bites critical-minerals hope
- Trump's critical minerals order may harm Australian interests
- Which countries and sectors are most exposed to Trump's tariffs?

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Newsletter



March 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- NSW Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Exploration Program opening
- Indigenous Engagement Roundtable discussion
- AusIMM's Capability ESG Survey
- Paydirt Battery Minerals Conference

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- New critical minerals opportunities in the NT
- Mining's moment in the sun
- EQR locks in \$194m in tungsten offtakes
- A new graphite hub in South Australia
- Reality bites critical-minerals hope
- Arafura secures rare earths offtake
- Australia will not revise critical minerals-for-tariffs exemption deal rejected by Trump administration
- What does the Federal Budget mean for the mining sector?

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Which countries and sectors are most exposed to Trump's tariffs?
- Trump's critical minerals order may harm Australian interests
- The Executive Order on American Mineral Production: A Step Forward, But Funding Gaps Remain
- President Trump's 25% auto tariff sparks global trade concerns
- The economics of by-products
- Overcoming technical challenges in tailings management
- EU selects 47 strategic projects to secure critical minerals access

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

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Command+Click on link



Critical Minerals Association Australia



@CMA_AUS



www.cmaaustralia.org

NSW Government Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Exploration Program opens shortly

The NSW Government has advised us that applications are opening for the new **Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Exploration Program** at 10am on Wednesday **16 April 2025**. This program is a key initiative from the NSW Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy 2024-35.

The \$2.5 million fund requires a 50% co-investment from successful applicants and will encourage more exploration in the state, supporting companies to undertake drilling, geophysics and geochemistry, all crucial steps to determine the scale of a critical minerals deposit.

A total of \$2.5 million will be available across the following funding streams:

Exploration Geochemistry: Up to \$50,000 per project

Exploration Geophysics: Up to \$70,000 per project

Exploration Drilling – less than 250 metres depth: Up to \$150,000 per project

Exploration Drilling – greater than 250 metres depth: Up to \$250,000 per project



NSW Resources will conduct an **information session webinar on 30 April 2025 at 10:00am** on the program guidelines and application process, which you can register for and view the fund guidelines [here](#).



Roundtable dialogues on Indigenous Partnerships in Critical Minerals:

CSIRO and [i2i Global](#), in collaboration with [Critical Minerals Association Australia](#) are conducting a roundtable series exploring the future of Indigenous partnerships in critical minerals. The first roundtable was held on 11 April.

The second roundtable was held on 27 March with over 32 participants from Australian indigenous groups, government and industry, resulting in an excellent discussion. A guest presentation from [Canada's First Nations Major Projects Coalition](#) set the scene on efforts to engage in proponent led models in mining in Canada, including educating and developing toolkits for proponents. The discussion identified a range of opportunities for government support and challenges across the board that needed addressing to allow the critical minerals industry to engage differently from its traditional and historical mining counterparts.

The roundtable dialogues are part of CSIRO's Valuing Sustainability Future Science Platform Navigating Just sustainability transitions in critical minerals project. The objective of the roundtables is to place First Nations views at the centre of Australian critical mineral development, improve understanding and consider actions to advance economic self-determination and inclusive decision-making processes. This series of dialogues seek to outline existing tensions and aspirations for Indigenous partnerships in the development of the critical minerals sector, and the steps to be considered in working towards resolutions – using Queensland as a case study.



AusIMM's Capability ESG Survey



The CMAA is supporting Queensland Critical Minerals Industry (QCMI) ESG Capability Survey currently being conducted by AusIMM. Responses from across the resources sector and all knowledge levels are encouraged to help develop a baseline, identify relevant initiatives to raise awareness, lift capability and attract sustainable investment.

All stakeholders interested or involved in the QCMI are invited to participate in this important survey. Its quick and easy to complete and will take ~10 minutes to complete - please support their efforts:

<https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90807438/QCMI-ESG-Baseline-Survey>

Paydirt Battery Minerals Conference

CMAA Participation

29-30 April | Perth, Australia

CMA Australia invites you to join us at the Paydirt Battery Minerals conference in Perth from 29-30 April for a timely assessment of the battery minerals and metals industries. We will be looking closely at the current geopolitical dynamics at play and assessing the impacts on the Australian industry. Do get in touch with us for **member discounts** and see you in Perth!

**PAYDIRT'S 2025
CRITICAL
BATTERY
MINERALS
CONFERENCE**
29 – 30 April, Pan Pacific Perth

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

New critical minerals opportunities in the NT

The 2025 edition of the 'Critical Minerals in the Northern Territory' guide has listed 13 minerals as having emerging geological potential...

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Australian Mining | 12 Mar 2025

Mining's moment in the sun

A recent CSIRO report suggests public trust in the mining industry is improving, but the sector must remain vigilant...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 6 Mar 2025

EQR locks in \$194m in tungsten offtakes

EQ Resources (EQR) has secured five long-term offtake agreements from its tungsten operations in Australia and Spain spanning the next two years...

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Australian Mining | 19 Mar 2025

A new graphite hub in South Australia

Quantum Graphite and Sunlands Energy Co.'s Eyre Peninsula graphite hub in South Australia has been granted major project status by the Federal Government...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 5 Mar 2025

Photo source: Australian Mining



Reality bites critical-minerals hopes

Like Australia, Ukraine, Greenland and the Democratic Republic of Congo are among countries with large supplies of the critical minerals and rare earths that offer an alternative to China's dangerous dominance of the market...

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Financial Review (Subscription Required) | 17 Mar 2025

Australia will not revise critical minerals-for-tariffs exemption deal rejected by Trump administration

The Australian resources minister was saddened the US did not accept an offer of guaranteed supply to critical minerals in return for steel and aluminium tariff exemptions and has warned the package will not be improved...

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The Guardian | 15 Mar 2025



Photo source: Australian Mining

Arafura secures rare earths offtake

Arafura Rare Earths has secured a binding offtake agreement with Traxys Europe SA for the sale of neodymium-praseodymium (NdPr) oxide, two highly sought-after magnet rare earths...

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Australian Mining | 20 Mar 2025

What does the Federal Budget mean for the mining sector?

The 2025–26 Federal Budget has reconfirmed the Australian Government's commitment to the critical minerals sector, with continued investment in downstream processing and production tax credits...

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Australian Mining | 26 Mar 2025

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Photo source: Flint Global



Which countries and sectors are most exposed to Trump's tariffs?

Since his inauguration, President Donald Trump has imposed country-specific tariffs on Canada, China, and Mexico and threatened reciprocal tariffs on other countries. He has also announced steel and aluminium tariffs, due to take effect on 12 March...

[Read More](#)

Flint Global | 11 Mar 2025

Trump's critical minerals order may harm Australian interests

US President Donald Trump is certainly not afraid of an executive order, signing 97 since his inauguration on 20 January. In minerals and energy, Trump has declared a national emergency...

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ASPI | 27 Mar 2025

The Executive Order on American Mineral Production: A Step Forward, But Funding Gaps Remain

The latest Executive Order on American mineral production sends a strong message: the U.S. is serious about reshoring its critical minerals supply chain. But here's the reality - this order doesn't add new funding; it only reorganizes how existing dollars can flow.

[Read More](#)

LinkedIn | 21 Mar 2025

President Trump's 25% auto tariff sparks global trade concerns

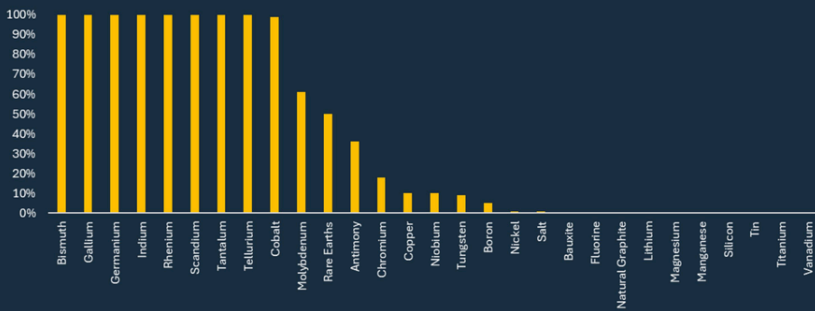
US President Trump has announced a 25% tariff on imported vehicles and auto parts entering the USA. The move, set to take effect on 3 April, is expected to significantly impact global supply chains and disrupt trade with key US trade partners...

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 28 Mar 2025



Critical Material Supply Mined as a By-Product



Data Source: Project Blue Research Services

Photo source: Project Blue

The economics of by-products

Critical materials are in a period of great uncertainty when it comes to trade barriers and retaliatory actions around the world, and there are not enough scenarios anyone can model right now to get a high degree of comfort...

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Project Blue | 17 Mar 2025

Overcoming technical challenges in tailings management

Renowned tailings expert Professor David Williams discusses designing for the probable maximum flood, preparing for earthquakes, separating containment from storage, and the lifespan of a tailings dam...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 4 Mar 2025



Photo source: Australian Mining

EU selects 47 strategic projects to secure critical minerals access

The European Union (EU) has published its first list of strategic projects strengthening the local extraction, processing, and recycling of 14 of the 17 materials it deems critical for its energy transition and security...

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Mining.com | 25 Mar 2025



Photo source: Australian Mining

Calendar of events 2025

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

MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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APRIL 2025

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MAY 2025

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JUNE 2025

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30						

	DATE(S)	EVENT	HOSTS/PARTNERS	LOCATION
MAR	2-5 MAR	PDAC 2025	PDAC	Toronto, Canada
APR	14 APR	Paydirt Battery Minerals Conference	Paydirt Media	Perth, Australia
JULY	16 JUL	Transitioning Australia-Japan Energy Partnership	Australia Japan Business Cooperation Committee	Melbourne, Australia
	30 JUL	Mine Waste & Tailings Conference 2025	AusIMM	Brisbane, Australia
	23-25 July	Noosa Mining Investor Conference	AMETS	Noosa, Australia
AUG	4-6 AUG	Diggers & Dealers Mining Forum	Diggers & Dealers	Kalgoorlie, Australia
SEP	2-4 SEP	AusIMM Critical Minerals Conference 2025	AusIMM	Perth, Australia
OCT	21-23 OCT	IMARC 2025	IMARC	Sydney, Australia



This Newsletter has been compiled by QUT researchers:

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