

CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

AUGUST 2024

- Discovery of Australian Copper will be revolutionised by AI
- Australia holds an advantage in race for critical minerals
- Canada restricts foreign investment into their mining sector

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Newsletter



August 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

- Sundowner Event | Brisbane
- Diggers and Dealers Miners Forum - Blog review
- Upcoming events:
 - International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC) 2024 | Sydney
 - Sundowner Event | Perth
 - Benchmark Giga APAC Event | Perth

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- Australian copper poised for tech-driven future
- Australian mineral exploration review 2023
- Australia fledging batteries downstream sector at a crossroads
- Arafura going global with rare earths
- Why Australia is not yet a critical minerals powerhouse

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

- US and Australia link critical minerals funding pact
- This miner claims Plibersek's decision sets them back a decade. She says its 'nonsense'

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- India to offer incentives for critical minerals exaction, govt source says
- Ford halts Quebec battery project amid shift in EV strategy
- What will China's antimony export restrictions mean for the market?
- Biden administration considering price support to backstop critical minerals project
- China leads critical minerals production

BIG PICTURE THINKING

- How has the rise of Indonesian supply affected the cost landscapes for nickel miners, and can other produces become more competitive?
- Diversification is difficult

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

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Critical Minerals Association Australia



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www.cmaaustralia.org

CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

Sundowner Event Brisbane | 26 August 2024

CMA Australia was delighted to host a Sundowner event in Brisbane on 26 August, held at the unique Charming Squire.

This exclusive networking event brought together industry leaders, government bodies, and notable figures from Queensland's resources sector.

The evening began with a warm welcome from Namali, who highlighted CMAA's vision and the crucial role we play in advancing the critical minerals industry.

Our generous sponsors, [SRK Consulting](#) and [Lava Blue Limited](#), also shared their valuable insights and expressed their appreciation for the collaborative spirit driving our industry forward. Their contributions were instrumental in making the event a success. We would also like to extend a special thanks to our Indigenous partner, [i2i Global](#), for their presence and support.

The Sundowner provided a fantastic opportunity to connect with key stakeholders and discuss the future of critical minerals in Australia. We were thrilled to network with a range of members and supporters including GHD, CSIRO, Department of Resources (Queensland), Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), QUT (Queensland University of Technology), Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, Sumitomo Corporation, QEM Limited (ASX:QEM), Core Resources Pty Ltd, Cobalt Blue Holdings, O2 Mining Limited, Enthalpy, PwC Australia, UQ Business School, ERM, Advanced Materials and Battery Council (AMBC), Xanadu Mines Ltd, and Rio Tinto and engage in insightful discussions with representatives from the Queensland Government and other influential bodies.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this event. We look forward to continuing these valuable conversations and driving the industry forward together!



Photo Source: LinkedIn

Diggers & Dealers Mining Forum

Minviro's Phoebe Whattoff, Country Director, Australia, blogs for us on her experience and Diggers and Dealers earlier this month

As I reflect on my experience at the 2024 Diggers & Dealers Mining Forum, one word stands out: gold. This year, the forum was truly focused on the gold industry, with discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities all highlighting the metal's significance in today's mining landscape.

Held in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, the forum brought together industry leaders, investors, and professionals from around the world. The focus on the gold sector was particularly strong, reflecting the ongoing global demand for gold and its role in maintaining economic stability, especially amid market fluctuations.

Monday's stock market wipeout made for plenty of chatter at the forum on Tuesday. There are questions about how serious the downturn is and what it spells for those also starting to feel the pinch from softer commodity prices.

Although companies representing the critical minerals space were few and far between, they did not disappoint with their insightful presentations. Examples include Australia Strategic Minerals making significant strides in securing >A\$1bn funding in conditional debt funding for the Dubbo Project, and a letter of interest for A\$49M from US EXIM. Chalice Mining presented their Gonnevillle PGE-Ni-Cu-Co project and the recent announcement of their signed MOU with Mitsubishi Corporation with the intention to formalise a potential binding partnership post the PFS completion. The newly appointed CEO of Core Lithium, Paul Brown, presented on the team's current focus. They are working on optimizing the currently paused Finnis Lithium Operation. This is being achieved by conducting a bottom-up cost analysis of the past 18 months of operational data. The goal is to reduce overall operating costs while ensuring that the processing facility remains operationally sound. This will prepare the facility to recommence operations when the lithium price increases.

Networking is always a key feature of Diggers & Dealers. I had the opportunity to engage with some of the most innovative minds in the industry. These conversations not only reinforced the importance of Australia's raw materials feeding the global economy but also showcased the cutting-edge approaches companies are taking to ensure the sector's sustainability. The collective commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible mining practices was evident, and it's encouraging to see the industry moving in this direction.

The forum provided a rich platform for meaningful discussions, knowledge exchange, and the formation of new partnerships. As we navigate the challenges and possibilities ahead, it's clear that the drive for governmental support, staying competitive with product prices and maintaining high ESG credentials will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of mining both in Australia and globally. I am excited to be part of this journey and to contribute to the ongoing success and sustainability of the sector as a whole.



IMARC 2024

CMA Australia is delighted to have partnered with IMARC 2024, Australia's largest mining event.

Sydney | 29 - 31 Oct 2024

[REGISTER HERE](#)



SUNDOWNER EVENT

Hosted by RPM Global and Minviro

Perth | 11 Sept 2024

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Register for the exclusive

SUNDOWNER EVENT

Wednesday, 11th September 2024 | Stories Rooftop, Perth

[Register Now](#)

Benchmark Giga APAC Event

The Critical Minerals Association Australia is pleased to be an official supporter of Benchmark's **Giga APAC** event, where the region's government, industry and finance will meet to understand the latest trends in the global lithium ion battery economy. CMAA's Managing Director, Namali Mackay will be speaking at the event.

Perth | 11 - 12 Sept 2024

Speaker Announcement

 **GIGA+ APAC** 2024



Namali Mackay
Managing Director
Critical Minerals
Association Australia

[Learn More](#)

11-12 September 2024 | Perth, Australia

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Australian copper poised for tech-driven future

A study has shown that the discovery of Australian Copper will be revolutionised by artificial intelligence, geo-spatial data, and other emerging technologies...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 5 Aug 2024

Australia's fledgling batteries downstream sector at a crossroads

Albermarle suspended parts of the Kemerton hydroxide plant, south of perth dealing another blow to Australia's efforts to establish a downstream lithium sector...

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 11 Aug 2024

Arafura going global with rare earths

Arafura Rare Earths will work with SRC to establish a diversified supply chain for rare earth products.

A memorandum of understanding will see the toll processing of samarium-europium-gadolinium/heavy rare earth products from the Canadian facility. This will create dysprosium and terbium oxides -- essential product for electric vehicles...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 26 Aug 2024

Why Australia is not yet a critical minerals powerhouse

Australia should have a huge advance in the race for critical minerals. Its red center holds large reserves of the minerals and rare earths that are vital for green and military technologies. Its center-left Labor government wants to dig and process more of them...

[Read More](#)

The Economist (Subscription Required) | 29 Aug 2024

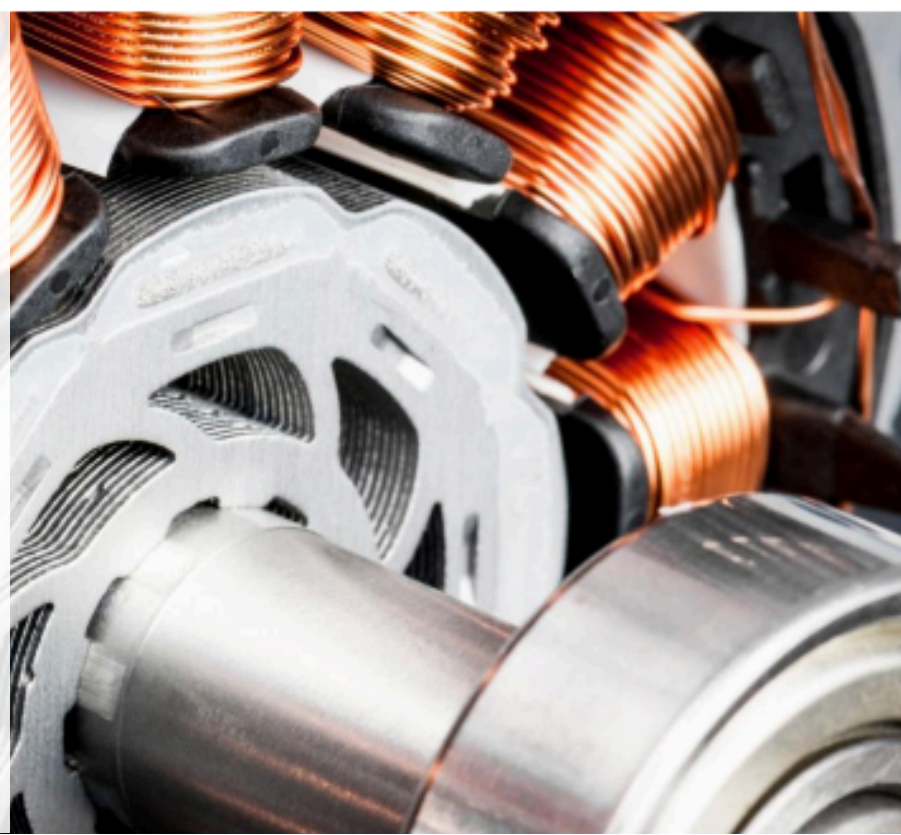
Photo source: Aus Government Geoscience Aus

Australian mineral exploration review 2023

A review of exploration expenditure, commodity trends and significant results in Australia. Annual published assessment of the exploration industry draws on data from the ABS and company reporting to reveal exploration trends, mineral discoveries and activities across Australia...

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Australian Government Geoscience
Australia | 01 Aug 2024



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

US and Australia ink critical minerals funding pact

The United States and Australia have teamed up for the first time to help fund the next wave of critical minerals projects, as the US seeks to shore up non-Chinese supply chains and trade routes...

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Financial Review (Subscription Required) | 01 Sep 2024

This miner claims Plibersek's decision sets them back a decade. She says its 'nonsense'

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek has rejected as "nonsense" a gold miner's claims that its project in the NSW Central West has been delayed by up to a decade due to her decision to veto a tailings dam at the headwaters of the Belubula River on Indigenous heritage grounds...

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The Sydney Morning Herald (Subscription Required) | 27 Aug 2024

Photo source: Aus Government Geoscience Aus



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

India to offer incentives for critical minerals exaction, govt source says

India plans to provide funding for research institutes to give technical assistance to miners, according to a government source and a letter reviewed by Reuters, to try to develop a critical minerals industry...

[Read More](#)

Reuters | 13 Aug 2024

Ford halts Quebec battery project amid shift in EV strategy

Ford announced that it had halted construction of its Bécancour cathode active material (CAM) project from the 5th August.

This delay follows Ford's recent shift in EV strategy, in which it announced it would be scrapping the production of its three-row electric SUV and introducing additional hybrid models...

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 27 Aug 2024

What will China's antimony export restrictions mean for the market?

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) announced export controls on a variety of forms of antimony including antimony ore, metal, and oxides. The decision was made "...in order to safeguard national security and interests and fulfil international obligations such as non-proliferation"...

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 11 Aug 2024

Biden administration considering price support to backstop critical minerals project

In an effort to support US critical minerals projects, the Biden administration is considering market intervention to counter the crash in prices of lithium and other key minerals caused by overflow of supply from China...

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 30 Aug 2024

China leads critical minerals production

The demand for critical minerals such as copper, cobalt, lithium and nickel is soaring with these raw materials are used in a range of new technologies. Experts forecast that this trend is set to accelerate nearly six-fold between now and 2025...

[Read More](#)

Statista | 31 Jul 2024

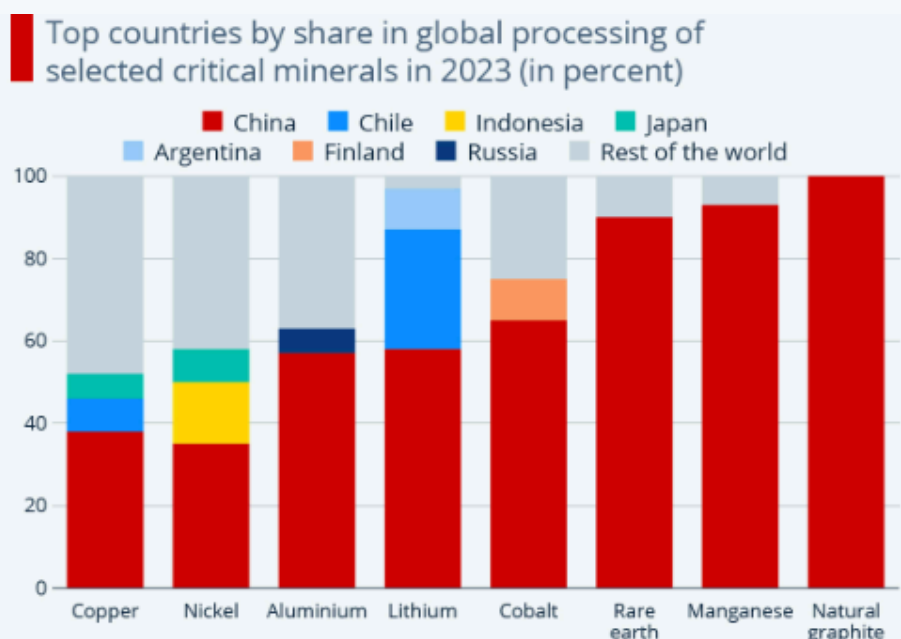


Photo source: Statista

BIG PICTURE THINKING

Diversification is Difficult

Lithium is needed for the production of green stuff, and Serbia hosts one of the largest lithium deposits in Europe — enough for around “1mn EV batteries. The EU getting access to lithium is essential to weening itself off China and the US...

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Most Favoured Nation | 12 Aug 2024

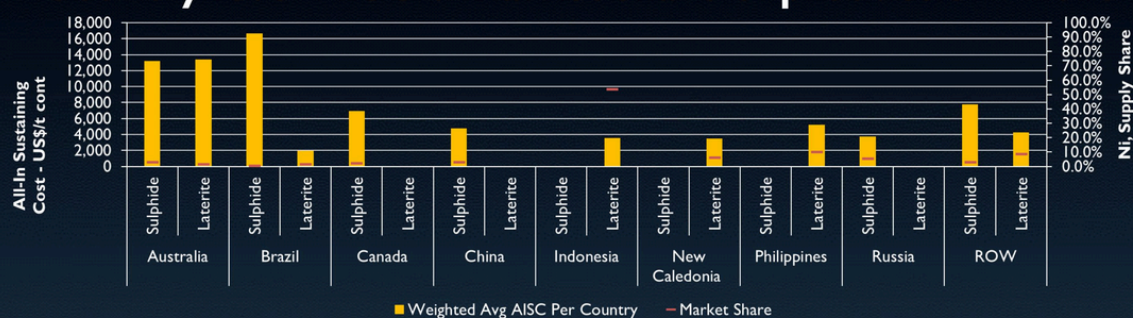
How has the rise of Indonesian supply affected the cost landscapes for nickel miners, and can other producers become more competitive?

This nickel cost analysis comes at a time when demand for nickel continues to rise, largely owing to its use within lithium-ion batteries to power electric vehicles (EVs). Batteries accounted for 15% of primary nickel demand in 2023 (up from just 4% in 2017), though the market is still dominated by the stainless steel sector. The service offers unique insights into mining and processing cost breakdowns at an asset level...

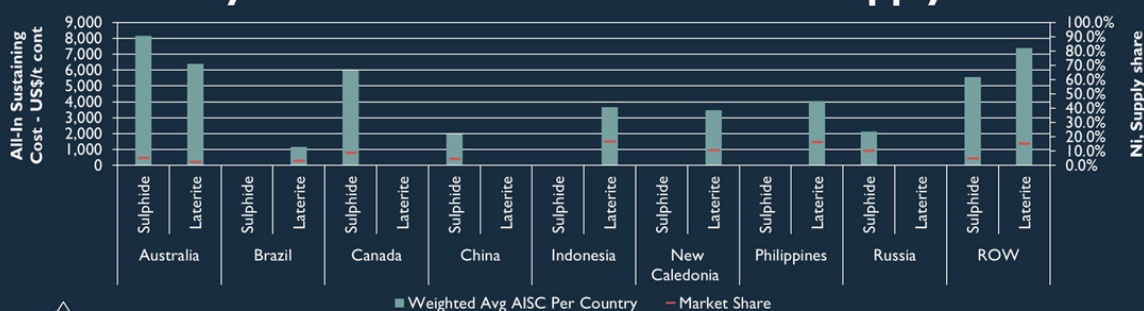
Read More

Project Blue | 28 Aug 2024

Country level AISC v market share of production - 2023



Country level AISC v market share of supply - 2017



Calendar of events 2024

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

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
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 - GIGA+ 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
	2 DEC	CMA UK Annual Conference	CMA UK	London, UK
DEC	3 DEC - 5 DEC	Resourcing Tomorrow 2024	Mines and Money	London, UK



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Critical Minerals
Association Australia



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