



CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

NOVEMBER 2022

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

CMA-AUSTRALIA NEWS

- CMA and partners win funding for critical mineral supply chain index
- CMA-Australia & CMA UK: Bridging the Gap Between Miners and OEMs
- CMA Annual Conference
- Austrade Critical Minerals Reception
- Mines and Money in London

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- Selling Queensland's critical minerals to the world
- Orica and Alpha HPA strengthen high-purity aluminium ties
- Australian Government boosts critical minerals production in the Pilbara
- Australian Government approves QPM's TECH Project for critical metals
- Comet Resources gears up to restart Mt Margaret copper project within 24 months
- BHP-OZ Minerals deal confirms importance of copper
- Castle Minerals looks to test graphite for EV market
- Jervois makes FID on Brazilian nickel-cobalt refinery restart

BIG PICTURE THINKING

- State and federal support key to Australia becoming a critical minerals super power
- Critical minerals key says PwC Aussie Mine Report
- Critical Minerals Policy Tracker
- The mining industry's most pressing concern
- The Breakthrough Agenda: a master plan to accelerate decarbonization of five major sectors
- Environmental nod for CopperString Project

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Plans for Opec of nickel finds doubters in Australia, Canada
- Centre taking proactive measures for critical minerals security official
- Aus/Japan strike critical minerals partnership
- Breaking China's Grip on Rare-Earths Markets a 'Pipe Dream,' Australia says
- Canada slams the door on China in critical minerals race
- Australia and US push to 'friendshore' critical supply chains draws rebuke from China

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Anglo American greens Australia operations
- Trafigura gets \$600m from Africa's TDB for Congo cobalt mines
- American Battery Factory Enters Strategic Alliance with Anovion to Procure Synthetic Graphite for US-Made

DRIVING MARKET DEMAND

- Treasury backs intervention in Australian energy market to 'quickly' reduce prices
- Tesla Supplier warns of graphite supply risk in 'opaque' market
- Singaporean developer sizes up Australia's 'largest' battery



Critical Minerals
Association Australia



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CMA - AUSTRALIA NEWS

CMA and partners win funding for critical mineral supply chain index

We are very excited to share that CMA Australia in partnership with Edith Cowan University, Queensland University of Technology and University of Melbourne as well as Deloitte Australia have been **awarded funding by the UK Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office**, to develop an index that identifies resilience factors along the critical minerals supply chain, charting pressure points, potential disruptions, and their likely impacts – with a view to providing a concrete roadmap for action.

COVID-19, monopolisation of supply chains, the war on Ukraine, and climate change made governments and business across the globe aware of the fragility of trade relations and their associated supply chain vulnerability, in particular for critical minerals essential to the green energy transition taking place in this decade. Rapidly rising demand for lithium, nickel, and rare earth elements are examples of the importance of quickly developing and securing resilient and diversified supply sources, increasing trade flows to avoid shortages and ensuring strategic industries like energy, advanced electronics and military do not face systematic shortages.

This project will develop an index to measure the resilience of the critical minerals supply chain across Australia and the UK, providing a roadmap for action. By identifying emerging players, policies, and commercial agreements the project will set a roadmap. The index will establish triggers that can initiate actions to anticipate and mitigate risks. It will also provide a strong reference point for policies and the recent free trade agreement. The focus will be on mining, refining, alloying, and transporting of critical minerals with high exploration potential in Australia and high industrial demand in the UK. The ultimate goal is to secure supply for the manufacturing of strategic goods.

Project participants are: *Critical Minerals Association – Australia (CMA), Edith Cowan University (ECU), Queensland University of Technology (QUT), University of Melbourne (UoM) and Deloitte Australia.*

CMA - AUSTRALIA NEWS



CMA Australia & CMA UK: Bridging the Gap Between Miners and OEMs

The CMA Australia held its first webinar in collaboration with the CMA UK, focusing on bridging the existing gap between miners and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). The discussion centred around the potential to build integrated critical mineral supply chains between the two nations.

Panelists:

- John Walker, CEO, Tees Valley Lithium
- Michael Naylor, CEO, EV Metals Group
- Stephen Grocott, CEO, Queensland Pacific Metals
- Quentin Willson (former Fifth Gear host and automotive journalist)

[Click to watch the webinar](#)

CMA Annual Conference

CMA Australia participated in the CMA UK's annual conference on 28 November which commenced with a breakfast reception at the Houses of Parliament followed by in-depth discussions at the Geological Society's Burlington House in London. The conference brought together expert speakers from across industry, academia and government and covered topics including Supplying Giga-factories, Research and Innovation, ESG, Traceability, Government Strategy, Geological Data and Geophysics Surveys and Funding of and Investment in Mining Projects – covering rare earth metals, battery materials and base metals.



CMA - AUSTRALIA NEWS



Austrade Critical Minerals Reception

Also on 28 November CMA Australia was invited to an evening reception at Australia House in London which was hosted by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission in support of their visiting delegation of Critical Minerals Companies.



Mines and Money in London

CMA Australia attended the Mines and Money Conference from 29 Nov – 1 Dec in London, where we partnered with the Australian Minerals delegation, Austrade, the Qld Minister for Resources and a range of Australian Critical Minerals companies to showcase Australia's strengths in critical minerals explorations and ambitions to move downstream.



AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Selling Queensland's critical minerals to the world

Helping create good jobs through the development of Queensland's in-demand critical minerals is the focus of Resources Minister Scott Stewart's trade mission to the United Kingdom...

In the United Kingdom the trade delegation will attend the Mines and Money conference which brings together more than 150 mining companies and 2000 mining leaders, investors, financiers, and industry professionals from across the globe.

While there they will also take part in the Critical Minerals Association Annual Conference...

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Orica and Alpha HPA strengthen high-purity aluminium ties

Orica has expanded its strategic relationship with Alpha HPA Limited, including acquiring a 5% equity interest and establishing a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to investigate the feasibility of establishing a new high-purity aluminium (HPA) manufacturing facility in North America...

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Australian Government approves QPM's TECH Project for critical metals

Queensland Pacific Metals (QPM) has received approval from the Australian Government to develop and operate the company's Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub (TECH) Project, a groundbreaking facility for processing critical metals...

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Australian Government boosts critical minerals production in the Pilbara

The Australian Government will commit up to \$250 million in loans to support the expansion of Pilbara Minerals Limited's Pilgangoora Operations in Western Australia. The loans will be used to expand the company's mining and processing operations in the Pilbara region, which produce lithium containing spodumene and tantalite concentrates, with the former exported from Port Hedland. These are key battery materials that are used largely in the manufacture of lithium batteries, making them an important element in Australia's offering as a globally trusted supplier of critical minerals and supporting the world's transition away from non-renewable energy sources... [**Read more**](#)

Comet Resources gears up to restart Mt Margaret copper project within 24 months

Mt Margaret is just 7km from key infrastructure at the Ernest Henry Copper-Gold Mine in Queensland's established Mount Isa/Cloncurry region mining region, with all the infrastructure in place for a fast restart of mining operations and toll treating of ore.

And the project represents both potential near-term copper production and regional exploration upside, with nine mining, infrastructure and regional exploration tenements hosting known iron oxide copper gold (IOCG) style deposits... [Read More](#)

BHP-OZ Minerals deal confirms importance of copper

When BHP made its unsolicited play on OZ Minerals in August, many in the industry took it as a sign that majors are keen to get their hands on future-facing critical minerals – copper chief among them.

As the world moves towards an electrified future with the goal of net-zero emissions, copper sits comfortably at the centre of the resources vital to that transition... [Read More](#)

Castle Minerals looks to test graphite for EV market

OASX-listed gold and battery metals explorer Castle Minerals has kicked off a round of diamond drilling at the company's flagship Kambale graphite project in Ghana. The four-hole 370m program is designed to retrieve samples for a second phase of test work to assess the ability of Castle's project to produce a fine flake graphite concentrate for use in the manufacture of electric vehicle battery anodes...

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Jervois makes FID on Brazilian nickel-cobalt refinery restart



Photo source: [Mining Technology](#)

The São Miguel Paulista refinery is initially expected to produce 10,000mtpa of nickel and 2,000mtpa of cobalt metal cathode. Australian mining company Jervois Global has made the final investment decision (FID) to restart its 100% owned São Miguel Paulista (SMP) nickel-cobalt refinery in São Paulo, Brazil... [Read more](#)

BIG PICTURE THINKING . . .

State and federal support key to Australia becoming a critical minerals super power

The Federal Budget brought forth a number of new programs and funds to accelerate the transition to clean energy technology, as well as confirming expenditures on commitments made pre-election.

A \$1.9 billion Powering the Regions Fund will support industry decarbonisation and development of new clean energy. A new Driving the Nation Fund earmarks \$275 million over six years to invest in electric and hydrogen vehicle infrastructure for cheaper and cleaner transport... [Read More](#)



Photo source: [ausbiz.com.au](https://www.ausbiz.com.au)

Critical minerals key says PwC Aussie Mine Report

[Click to Watch the Full Video](#)
(free sign up required)

Critical Minerals Policy Tracker

As the world transitions towards net zero emissions, the rapid scale-up of clean energy technologies is expected to boost demand for many minerals and metals, including lithium, nickel, cobalt, graphite, copper, aluminium and rare earth elements. To ensure that supplies are safe, secure, and sustainable enough to support clean energy transitions, governments will need to implement effective policies and regulations to create incentives for companies along the clean energy supply chain.

This new Critical Minerals Policy Tracker therefore highlights prominent policies and regulations already in place around the world to enhance security of supply, incentivise new resource development and ensure sustainable and responsible production...

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The mining industry's most pressing concern

Critical minerals are increasingly permeating the global mining and economic dialogue as the world's pursuit of decarbonisation heats up

Geoscience Australia defines a critical mineral as a metallic or non-metallic element that is essential to the functioning of our modern technologies, economies and national security, which is also at risk of experiencing supply chain disruption...

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Photo source: [Australian Resources and Investment](#)

The Breakthrough Agenda: a master plan to accelerate decarbonization of five major sectors

Governments representing over half of global GDP set out 12-month action plan to help make clean technologies cheaper and more accessible everywhere.

Countries today launch a package of 25 new collaborative actions to be delivered by COP28 to speed up the decarbonisation under five key breakthroughs of power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture... **[Read More](#)**

Environmental nod for CopperString Project

Key environmental approvals have been granted for a proposed electricity transmission line that promises to open up the expansion of Queensland's minerals zone...

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Plans for Opec of nickel finds doubters in Australia, Canada

An Indonesian proposal to create an OPEC-like group of nickel suppliers has raised eyebrows among Australian miners. Indonesian Investment Minister Bahlil Lahadalia floated the idea of an alliance that he said would help to unite government policies on the in-demand battery metal -- and push the development of the downstream industry -- at the Group of 20 Summit in Bali this week. The plan has been discussed with both Canada and Australia... [Read More](#)

Centre taking proactive measures for critical minerals security official

An official from the government said on Thursday that a number of proactive measures are being taken to strengthen the mineral supply chain for emerging technologies, including lithium from Australia and Argentina.

In a bid to strengthen the critical mineral supply chain for emerging technologies, the government is taking several proactive measures to secure such minerals, including lithium from Australia and Argentina, a top official said on Thursday... [Read More](#)

Aus/Japan strike critical minerals partnership

PERTH – Just days after announcing the development of a Critical Minerals Strategy, the Australian government signed a new critical minerals partnership with Japan to help build secure supply chains.

The partnership will establish a framework for building secure critical minerals supply chains between Australia and Japan, and promote opportunities for information sharing and collaboration, including research, investment and commercial arrangements between Japan and Australian projects... [Read More](#)

CHINA



Photo source: [Bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com)

Breaking China's Grip on Rare-Earths Markets a 'Pipe Dream,' Australia says

Australia's resources minister said it was a "pipe dream" that Western countries could soon end their reliance on China for rare earths and critical minerals -- vital for the defense, aerospace and automotive industries -- due to the Asian powerhouse's existing grip on global markets.

"That's a country that has seen this need coming and made the most of it," Resources Minister Madeleine King told Bloomberg News in an interview...

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(free sign-up required)

Canada slams the door on China in critical minerals race

LONDON, Nov 4 (Reuters) - Canada has just upped the ante in the global competition to secure critical minerals.

The Canadian government this week ordered Chinese companies to divest their holdings in three Canadian-listed junior mining companies planning to develop lithium deposits... **[Read More](#)**

Australia and US push to 'friendshore' critical supply chains draws rebuke from China

"Australia's critical minerals are at the centre of an important moment in history which could dictate the shape of the world that we will live in for the next century," federal resources minister Madeleine King told the Rare Earth Conference in Canberra.

With the strategy to grow critical mineral supply chains between Australia and the US gaining momentum, this concept of "friendshoring" was in the spotlight at All Energy 2022... **[Read More](#)**



Photo source: [pv magazine Australia](https://www.pv-magazine.com)

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Anglo American greens Australia operations

London-based multinational Anglo American (LSE: AAL) has reached an agreement with the Queensland government to supply all of its Australian power needs from wind and solar generation by 2025 and onwards.

The 10-year deal will see Stanwell Corporation, a government-owned power utility, effectively remove all scope two emissions from Anglo American's steelmaking coal business in the country... [Read More](#)

Trafigura gets \$600m from Africa's TDB for Congo cobalt mines

Commodities trader Trafigura has agreed a \$600 million syndicated financing facility with the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB) to develop cobalt and copper mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Trafigura said the funding would enable it to complete Congo miner Chemaf's new mechanised mine at Mutoshi, processing plant in Kolwezi, and the expansion of its Etoile mine and processing plant in Lubumbashi... [Read More](#)



Photo source: [mining.com](https://www.mining.com)

American Battery Factory Enters Strategic Alliance with Anovion to Procure Synthetic Graphite for US-Made

Synthetic graphite anode material is critical for lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles, consumer electronics, critical defense applications and stationary storage for electric grids.

American Battery Factory Inc. (ABF), a leader in developing the first network of gigafactories in the United States based on Lithium-Iron Phosphate (LFP) cell technology, today announced a strategic alliance agreement with Anovion, LLC (Anovion) to supply graphite anode materials for ABF's US-manufactured LFP battery cells. As the preferred vendor for ABF's synthetic graphite anode materials, Anovion will ensure domestic sourcing of this critical battery component... [Read More](#)

DRIVING MARKET DEMAND

Treasury backs intervention in Australian energy market to 'quickly' reduce prices

Treasury has backed government intervention in the energy market, saying it would support a move to "quickly and directly" reduce prices to help households and businesses struggling with soaring inflation.

In a Senate estimates hearing on Tuesday, Luke Yeaman, a deputy secretary in Treasury, said that while the department would normally support staying out of the market to allow "helpful adjustment" in response to price signals, the war in Ukraine had shifted its thinking... [Read More](#)

Tesla Supplier warns of graphite supply risk in 'opaque' market

Western supply of graphite will be constrained in the coming decade by the "opaque" market for the key battery material, the world's largest natural graphite producer outside China has warned.

Shaun Verner, chief executive of Australia's Syrah Resources, a Tesla supplier that operates a huge mine in Mozambique, said that the graphite market's lack of transparency over pricing was making bankers hesitant to fund new projects... [Read More](#)

Singaporean developer sizes up Australia's 'largest' battery

Equis Development has committed to invest \$1.9 billion (USD 1.27 billion) to develop the Melbourne Renewable Energy Hub (MREH) north of the Victorian state capital after acquiring the battery energy storage project from Australian renewables developer Syncline Energy.

Previously known as the Melton Renewable Energy Hub, the project was first unveiled in August 2021 by Melbourne-based Syncline. The original design featured a 600 MW/2,400 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) backed by a 12.5 MWp solar farm to supply the battery's ancillary cooling loads and ensure low cost, 'net-zero' operations. But Equis, which assumed full control of the project earlier this year, has since rebranded and resized the big battery... [Read More](#)



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