

# CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

## MAY 2024

- Better communication key to attracting Gen Z to mining
- Resources the 'heart' of Future Made in Australia: King
- China joins the race to invest into domestic semiconductor production

Subscribe to our  
Newsletter



MAY 2024

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

## CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

- ESG Working Group Meeting
- NSW Minerals Week 2024
- Setting the record straight on critical minerals: what are they?

## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- Aussie lithium on the docket for Germany
- More critical minerals identified in NSW
- New rare earths hub on horizon for Darwin
- WA mining approvals policy takes next step
- Critical mineral miners chase China's tail
- Better communication key to attracting Gen Z to mining
- Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance set to work closely with Australia's first TAFE Electric Vehicle (EV) Centre of Excellence
- AU targets critical minerals in hunt
- Critical minerals for the world – or just for the US? Turning Australia into a green minerals powerhouse comes with risks
- Coalition's criticism of tax breaks for critical minerals projects is 'anti-Western Australian', Premier says
- A rush on critical minerals is coming for our most remote and disadvantaged communities

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

- Resources the 'heart' of Future Made in Australia: King
- NSW focuses on rehabilitated mines
- Budget coverage: CMA
- Industry reacts to WA critical minerals refresh
- Federal Government launches the Digital Atlas of Australia
- Minerals exploration myths busted
- Federal Government reveals National Battery Strategy

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Rio puts copper front and centre
- Australia, EU look to critical partnership
- China defies global copper squeeze with near-record production
- What now after \$74b BHP-Anglo deal shelved?
- China joins the race to invest into domestic semiconductor production

## BIG PICTURE THINKING

- Will Australia rise to meet the great copper challenge?
- Vanadium flow batteries to shift market fundamentals
- What impacts will record antimony prices have on the market?
- IEA outlook warns of future supply strains for critical minerals

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

To open articles in a new tab:



CTRL+Click on link



Command+Click on link



Critical Minerals Association Australia



@CMA\_AUS



www.cmaaustralia.org

# CMA AUSTRALIA NEWS

## ESG Working Group Members

ESG Working Group members met on 31 May 2024 to discuss planned work output from the group for the remainder of the year on key ESG issues relating to the Critical Minerals industry. If any members would like to join this working group please get in touch with [Elvira](#).



Lucy McClean, Forelight Advisory writes for us about NSW Minerals week

## NSW Minerals Week 2024

An action-packed week of events in Sydney celebrated NSW Minerals Week from 6 to 10 May 2024. This week is an annual event and an opportunity to feature the minerals sector in NSW, with a spotlight on the emerging critical minerals sector. Over five days the events included Government announcements, forums, investor presentations, meetings as well as the annual showcase from the NSW Geological Survey. The week also included networking drinks events, sideline 1:1 meetings and a new 'Pitch and Pizza' night, providing many opportunities for industry and investors to connect and hear project updates as well as a opportunities to meet industry members, friends and colleagues.

Southern Cross Gold, a new CMAA member, was one of the over 100 exhibitors at the RIU Resources Round Up that spanned three days of company presentations, meetings and trade exhibitions, attracting over 1,500 delegates. Southern Cross provided investors with an update on its successful ongoing drill campaign at its 100% owned Sunday Creek gold/antimony project in Victoria. The company continues to produce world leading gold and antimony intercepts as the size and quality of its known mineralisation increases, with potential for this project to be a leading western supply of antimony into the market.

NSW is a leading jurisdiction for critical minerals, hosting 21 of the 31 nationally identified critical minerals and deposits of all five of the strategic minerals. These natural resources are supported by a strong METS sector, well connected infrastructure, local skilled workforce and strong ESG requirements. One of the most exciting critical minerals in Australia, the Australian Strategic Materials (ASM) Dubbo Project is located in the state.

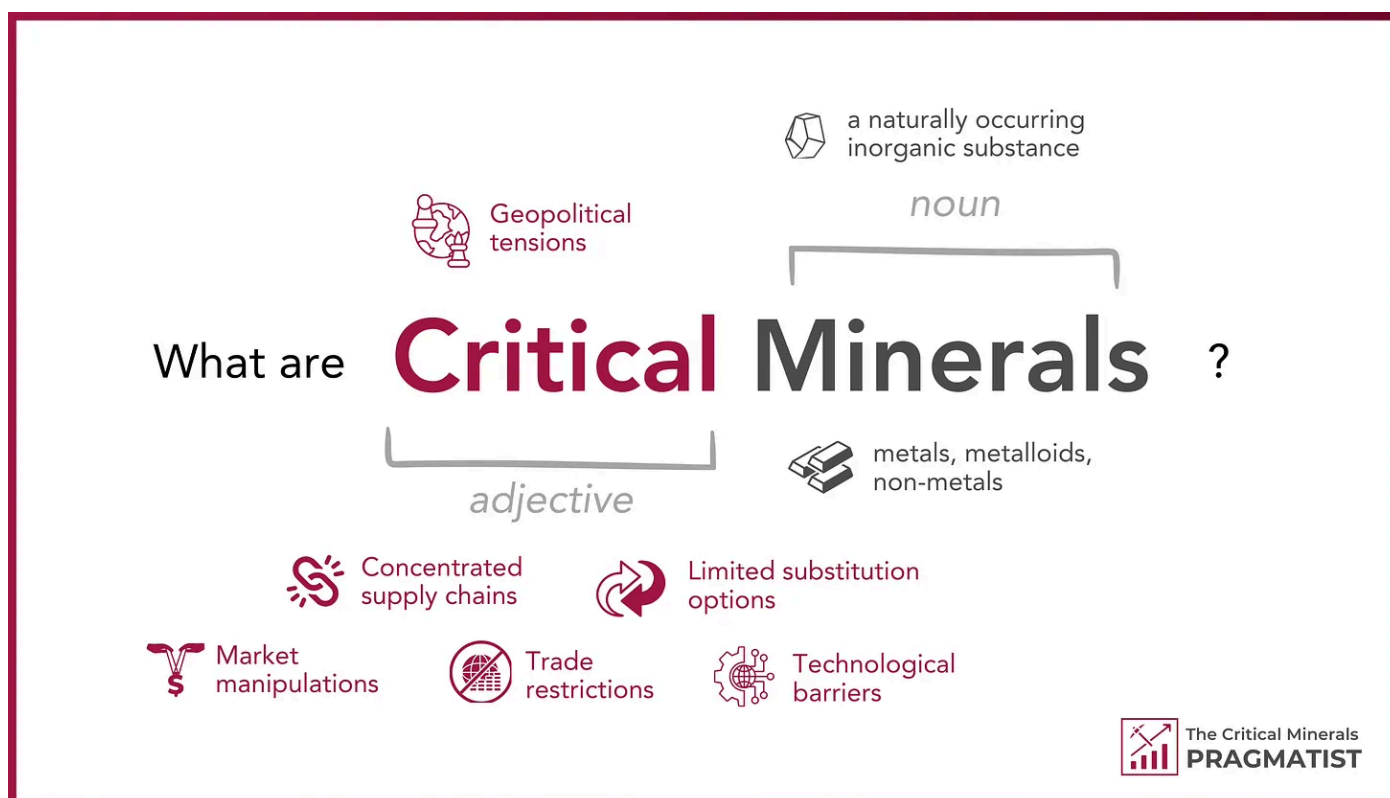
'One of the advantages of our rare earths cornerstone Dubbo Project is that it is located in NSW. That immediately gives us the advantage that it is close to established infrastructure – rail, port and a fantastic workforce. We also have the advantage that it is a tier 1 jurisdiction from an ESG point of view" - Rowena Smith, Managing Director, Australian Strategic Materials (ASM)

During the week, critical minerals exploration was boosted with the announcement by Minister Houssos, NSW Minister for Natural Resources, of the release of data from geophysical surveys over one sixth of the state. The NSW Government has invested \$7.7 million in the geophysical acquisition campaign that will improve geological understanding as well as support identification of underground aquifers in the drought prone state. Minister Houssos also made comment on NSW's mineral potential and the excitement around NSW Minerals Week in NSW Parliament during the week.

In addition, four data packages were released by the NSW Government over prime exploration areas of Southern New England Orogen, Curnamona Province and Delamerian-Thomson Orogen, Eastern Lachlan Orogen and Central Lachlan Orogen. These packages include improvements to data format, data layers and upgraded metadata. All new data is made available free of charge on the Government MinView and DiGS portals that also include industry leading seamless geological maps and volumes of historic data.

As the number plates tell us, NSW really is the 'Premier State'!





## Setting the record straight on critical minerals: what are they?

Three years ago, we knew exactly what critical minerals were. There were no debates or throw-away comments in articles such as, “there is no universal consensus on what critical minerals are”. The debates were concentrated on how criticality should be determined and what minerals should be on the critical minerals list of the nations that need them (hint: no, not every nation on Earth needs one). So why have we gone backwards?

The answer to that is simple, suddenly critical minerals became sexy, and multiple voices began preaching about critical minerals without actually bothering to look up the basic definition of the topic they now claim expertise in. The more mainstream critical minerals became the more convoluted the narrative, eventually leading to everyone having their very own definition of ‘critical minerals’. This is somewhat unsurprising given the state of Western society – one that cannot even define what a woman is.

So, let’s go back to the basics.

### What is a critical mineral?

Geoscience Australia definition:

A critical mineral is a metallic or non-metallic element that has two characteristics:

1. It is essential for the functioning of our modern technologies, economies, or national security and
2. There is a risk that its supply chains could be disrupted.

United States definition:

The Energy Act of 2020 defined critical minerals as those that are essential to the economic or national security of the United States; have a supply chain that is vulnerable to disruption; and serve an essential function in the manufacturing of a product, the absence of which would have significant consequences for the economic or national security of the U.S.

Earlier definitions also included the caveat that critical minerals were non-fuel solids, liquids, and gases. This has slowly been phased out of government discourse and replaced with metals and minerals. No this does not mean that coal is going to weasel its way in...

### Read More

The Critical Minerals Pragmatist | 31 May 2024

# AUSTRALIAN NEWS

## Aussie lithium on the docket for Germany

Germany may soon become a major customer of Australian lithium as the country attempts to lessen its reliance on Chinese imports.

During a recent visit to Australia, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told the ABC the nation is looking to diversify its lithium supply chain after a reliance on Russian fuel led to political turmoil when the Ukraine conflict began...

***Read More***

Australian Mining | 07 May 2024

## More critical minerals identified in NSW

The New South Wales Government has released data from its latest mapping exercise to assist more companies in targeting critical minerals.

The NSW Government used more than eight aircraft over 18 months to collect the geospatial data, including sound waves to delve up to 50km beneath the surface.

Conducted in collaboration with Geoscience Australia, the data will help enhance the understanding of the state's geological composition and structure...

***Read More***

Australian Mining | 07 May 2024

## New rare earths hub on horizon for Darwin

Emerging critical minerals producer Cadoux has acquired a 50 per cent stake in up-and-coming rare earths producer Minhub Operations (MOPL).

The two companies plan to develop a downstream heavy mineral sands processing facility in Darwin in collaboration with Arafura Rare Earths, which has the right to own up to 50 per cent via pro-rata funding with Cadoux...

***Read More***

Australian Mining | 08 May 2024

## WA mining approvals policy takes next step

The Western Australian Government has revealed the newest component of the Fast-Tracking Mining Approvals Strategy, a policy aimed at streamlining regulatory approvals for mining projects.

The Fast-Tracking Mining Approvals Strategy is in year three of its four-year implementation. The \$27.4 million strategy was first introduced in 2022 to transform resource projects regulation under the Mining Act 1978 through multiple work streams...

***Read More***

Australian Mining | 09 May 2024



## Critical mineral miners chase China's tail

Former Woodside Energy chief executive Peter Coleman is now chairman of the world's third-largest lithium producer, Arcadium Lithium. But there's no way he's about to build any lithium refining or processing operations in Australia...

[Read More](#)

Australian Financial Review | 22 May 2024

## AU targets critical minerals in hunt

Latest budget's resource search focuses on battery metals and rare earth elements. Over the coming decade, Australia is prepared to spend A\$566 million (US\$373 million) to map out deposits of minerals critical to high-tech manufacturing and the green energy transition...

[Read More](#)

Metal Tech News | 15 May 2024

## Critical minerals for the world – or just for the US? Turning Australia into a green minerals powerhouse comes with risks

Globalisation is on shaky ground. As China rises, the United States and its allies are moving to reduce their reliance on the world's factory...

[Read More](#)

AU Manufacturing | 24 May 2024

## Better communication key to attracting Gen Z to mining

A national survey of Generation Z 15 to 24-year-olds has found almost three quarters (72%) believe mining is important to a net zero emissions future. However, many have concerns about the rehabilitation of land (77%), use of renewable energy (69%), reducing/recycling mining waste and pollution (67%), and workplace culture (77%)...

[Read More](#)

Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance | 29 Apr 2024

## Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance set to work closely with Australia's first TAFE Electric Vehicle (EV) Centre of Excellence

The Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance (AUSMASA) has welcomed the government's decision to establish Australia's first TAFE Electric Vehicle (EV) Centre of Excellence at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)...

[Read More](#)

Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance | 06 May 2024

## Coalition's criticism of tax breaks for critical minerals projects is 'anti-Western Australian', Premier says

The resources sector has welcomed \$7 billion in tax credits for critical minerals projects.

The proposed tax breaks were dubbed "billions for billionaires" by Opposition treasury spokesperson Angus Taylor. The tax changes need to be legislated and are due to come into effect from July 2027...

[Read More](#)

ABC news | 15 May 2024

## A rush on critical minerals is coming for our most remote and disadvantaged communities

The Australian mining industry was promised billions of dollars in last week's federal budget to boost critical minerals such as lithium, copper and rare earth metals. This includes tax incentives, an innovation fund and money for Geoscience Australia to map these resources...

[Read More](#)

The Conversation | 24 May 2024



Photo source: agnormark/stock.adobe.com

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NEWS

### Resources the 'heart' of Future Made in Australia: King

The Federal Government has revealed it will invest \$566.1 million into mapping services over a 10-year period beginning from 2024–25.

The funding – to be delivered as part of the 2024 Federal Budget – will assist in delivering data, maps and other tools for the resources industry to use in order to uncover new mineral deposits and energy sources...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 08 May 2024

### NSW focuses on rehabilitated mines

The New South Wales Government is set to launch an inquiry into new and innovative approaches to better utilise former mines.

The inquiry aims to ensure closed mine sites can continue to bring in economic investment, opportunities and jobs for regional communities...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 17 May 2024

### Budget Coverage: CMA

The Critical Minerals Association Australia welcomes the Government's Budget announcements this evening, significantly stepping up support for Australia's critical minerals industry.

Since its inception, the CMAA has been calling for increased Government support to grow Australia's critical minerals sector quickly in order to compete globally, and especially for the domestic mid-stream...

[Read More](#)

CMA LinkedIn | 14 May 2024

### Securing Australia's critical minerals, exploration and processing industries

The Albanese Government is backing the emerging industries and sectors that will seize the economic opportunities, deliver well-paid jobs and secure a Future Made in Australia as the world shifts to a net zero economy.

The 2024-25 Budget supports the further development of Australia's rich endowment in critical minerals, while investing in programs for downstream processing and manufacturing technologies needed to help the world lower emissions...

[Read More](#)

14 May 2024



The Hon Madeleine King MP  
Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia



## Industry reacts to WA critical minerals refresh

The Western Australian Government refreshed its Critical Minerals Strategy for 2024–2030 on May 22. Australian Mining takes a look at how the industry has reacted to the changes..

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 24 May 2024

## Minerals exploration myths busted

Resources Victoria has released the first instalment of a minerals exploration video series helping to explain important and sometimes misunderstood aspects of the state's resources sector.

Minerals exploration and mining are often confused. Though both are essential stages along the path to developing a resource, the process and scale are very different...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 24 May 2024

## Federal Government launches the Digital Atlas of Australia

The Federal Government has introduced the Digital Atlas of Australia, which combines a large set of data to provide a holistic view of the country.

The platform was developed by Geoscience Australia and unifies data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics that details water systems, soil analysis, bushfires, social infrastructure and demographic information..

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 29 May 2024

## Federal Government reveals National Battery Strategy

On May 23, the Federal Government revealed its National Battery Strategy, outlining how it will support the Australian domestic battery industry as it grows. But what does the policy mean for the mining industry?..

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 24 May 2024





# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

## Rio puts copper front and centre

Rio Tinto chief executive Jakob Stausholm has alluded to a future of growth amid industry speculation the major could have its eye on a bid to rival BHP's grab for Anglo American.

Stausholm joined Rio chair Dominic Barton in addressing shareholders at the company's annual general meeting yesterday...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 03 May 2024

## China defies global copper squeeze with near-record production

The global copper market is gripped by fears of a shortage, which has propelled prices to record levels and sparked a \$49 billion takeover battle. But in China, the world's biggest producer and consumer of the refined metal, there's more than enough to go around...

[Read More](#)

Mining.com | 27 May 2024

## Australia, EU look to critical partnership

Australia will work closely with the European Union (EU) to strengthen the supply of critical minerals.

It is hoped that the partnership will provide a platform for deeper links between Australia and the EU's critical and strategic materials supply chains, greater science, technology and innovation collaboration, and the development of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 29 May 2024

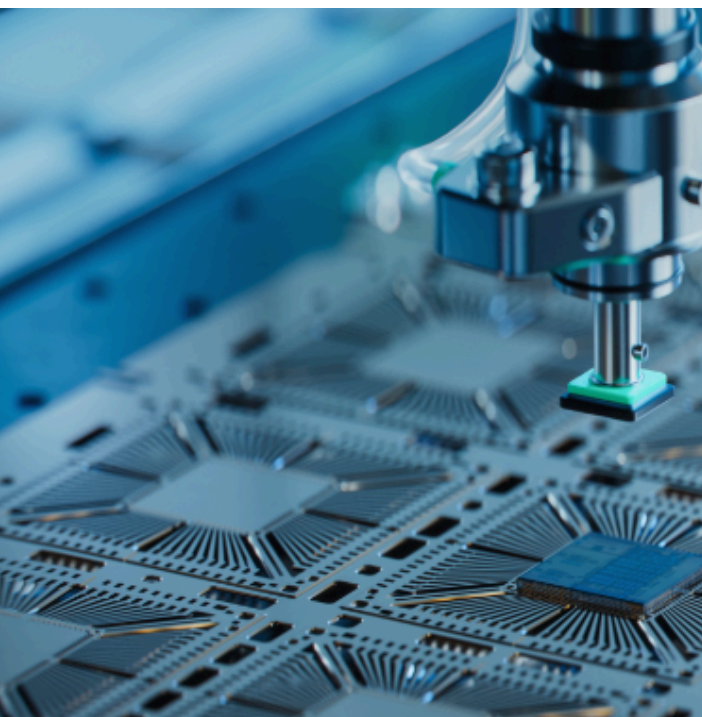
## What now after \$74b BHP-Anglo deal shelved?

BHP will not be making a formal offer for Anglo American after the two parties were unable to come to a resolution regarding their M&A discussions.

After presenting three informal bids, BHP was given until May 29 to table a firm offer, and while the two miners had made headway in their discussions, Anglo remained dissatisfied with the deal structure...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 30 May 2024



## China joins the race to invest into domestic semiconductor production

After two funding phases back in 2014 and 2019, China's third phase of generating capital for its domestic semiconductor industry accumulated US\$47.5Bn in funding.

China's third state-backed investment fund aimed at strengthening the domestic semiconductor industry of \$47.5Bn (RMB344BnRMB), nearly equals the combined \$48.01Bn (RMB347.7Bn) fund raised in 2014 and 2019...

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 30 May 2024

# BIG PICTURE THINKING

## Will Australia rise to meet the great copper challenge?

The International Energy Forum (IEF) has released data revealing the world will need to significantly increase its copper production to meet electrification goals.

The IEF is the world's largest international organisation of energy ministers from 73 countries and includes both producing and consuming nations...

[Read More](#)

Australian Mining | 23 May 2024

## What impacts will record antimony prices have on the market?

In the second half of May, antimony prices soared from already high levels following exacerbating supply constraints, with ingot orders in China of over US\$20,000/t rumoured on the 24th Mat 2024 for the first time...

[Read More](#)

Core Resources | -

## Vanadium flow batteries to shift market fundamentals

Although the steel industry will remain the largest consumer of vanadium this decade and next, vanadium flow battery (VFB) demand is increasingly becoming a key driver for consumption.

The vanadium market is starting to see major changes in its dynamics. Although the steel industry will remain the largest consumer of vanadium this decade and next, vanadium flow battery (VFB) demand is increasingly becoming a key driver for consumption – and one that will lead to changes in the vanadium market's supply landscape. ..

[Read More](#)

Project Blue | 21 May 2024

## IEA outlook warns of future supply strains for critical minerals

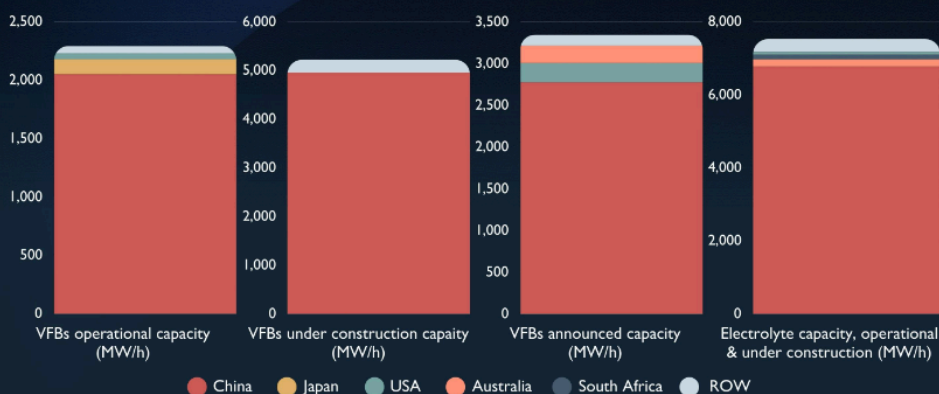
New analysis from the International Energy Agency (IEA) calls for greater and more diversified investment to support efforts to reach energy and climate goals...

[Read More](#)

Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining | 17 May 2024



## Where is the vanadium redox battery value chain being built?



# Calendar of events 2024

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

## MAY 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

## JUNE 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

## JULY 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

## AUGUST 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

## SEPTEMBER 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

## OCTOBER 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

## NOVEMBER 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

## DECEMBER 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

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



This Newsletter has been compiled by QUT researchers:

**Sara Couperthwaite** | Professor  
**Elaiza Luker** | Research Associate



Critical Minerals  
Association Australia



@CMA\_AUS



[www.cmaaustralia.org](http://www.cmaaustralia.org)

Contact: [admin@criticalmineral.org](mailto:admin@criticalmineral.org)

Critical Minerals Association Australia Limited  
ACN 660 785 124