

16 April 2020

COAG Critical Minerals Work Plan

The development of Australia's critical minerals sector is a key priority of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council. Australia has the potential to position itself as a world leader in the sustainable exploration, extraction, production and processing of critical minerals.

It was agreed at the inaugural Roundtable Meeting of COAG Resources Ministers in December 2018 that a nationally coordinated and consistent approach is crucial to realising Australia's critical minerals potential.

At the 2nd Roundtable Meeting of COAG Resources Ministers on 16 April 2020, resources ministers endorsed a critical minerals work program in accordance with the COAG [Strategic Reform Agenda for Resources](#). The work plan, developed collaboratively by COAG resources jurisdictions, will act to boost critical mineral exploration, open up new basins and promote downstream value adding activity.

A National Critical Minerals Development Roadmap

The work program to be progressed is centred upon a National Critical Minerals Development Roadmap. The purpose of the Development Roadmap is to:

- better align the critical minerals strategies, activities and initiatives currently being progressed across all COAG resources jurisdictions; and
- drive a more strategic, national approach to Australia's critical minerals investment activities.

The immediate priorities under the Critical Minerals Development Roadmap include:

1. developing a national ethical certification scheme – with an associated Australian critical mineral brand – to showcase Australia's robust regulatory standards to prospective investors and trading partners, and to help position Australia as the provider of choice as an ethical and responsible global supplier.
2. identifying opportunities for a range of critical minerals precincts and hubs to develop new supply potential, accelerate project approvals and development, and support downstream opportunities including by establishing pre-assessed mining precincts, industrial hubs for processing, precincts for tailings reclamation and infrastructure corridors.

The Critical Minerals Development Roadmap will facilitate a whole-of –sector approach to developing Australia's critical minerals resources and associated industries. It will focus on Australia's comparative advantages and where possible, implement policies that encourage investment and support the long-term economic viability of the sector. The Roadmap will support a more collaborative approach between jurisdictions, for example leverage opportunities to pursue cross-cutting policy approaches and supporting a more joined-up approach to research and development.

The Commonwealth [Critical Minerals Facilitation Office](#) (CMFO) will oversee implementation of the Critical Minerals Work Program, working in close partnership with each jurisdiction. The CMFO will report on progress periodically to the COAG Energy Council.

Further enquiries can be directed to the CMFO at criticalminerals@industry.gov.au.