



Media Statement:

## **Critical minerals boost will drive METS opportunities, jobs and local economic growth.**

Adrian Beer, Chief Executive Officer

METS Ignited welcomes the announcement from the Australian Government of the 2022 Critical Minerals Strategy.

The \$200 million Critical Minerals Accelerator Initiative will help early to mid-stage critical minerals projects proceed to production, with an additional \$50 million virtual National Critical Minerals Research and Development Centre to deliver breakthroughs in critical minerals processing and collaborative research.

METS Ignited Chief Executive Officer Adrian Beer said through the Australian Government's Modernising Manufacturing Initiative (MMI) has prioritised Resource Technology and Critical Minerals Processing.

"The funding sends another strong signal to Australian technology innovators in our mining equipment, technology and services (METS) companies. Harnessing the skills and capabilities of these companies will strengthen our global resources sector, and converting this capability into products and services for the benefit of our national economy," Mr Beer said.

The combined METS sector contributes \$92 billion to the Australian economy and combined with mining, the METS sector supports over 1.1 million jobs, almost 10% of all full time employment.

The Australian Government's commitment of \$243 million for four critical minerals projects will create opportunities and jobs in the nation's mining equipment, technology and services (METS) sector.

"The funding will help these four projects and strengthen Australia's position as a globally significant supplier of critical minerals so essential for the clean energy transition, roll-out of electric vehicles and expansion of advancing manufacturing," Mr Beer said.

The funding for the four projects:

- \$119.6 million for Pure Battery Technologies' \$399 million Western Australian pCAM Hub, in partnership with Poseidon Nickel, will build an integrated nickel manganese cobalt battery material refinery hub in the Kalgoorlie region. The site will become home to a growing workforce with 380 construction jobs and 175 initial permanent jobs from 2023.
- \$49 million for a \$367 million project led by Australian Vanadium, to process high-grade vanadium from its Meekatharra mine in WA and transported to its Tenindewa plant powered by clean hydrogen from partner ATCO Australia. This highly sought-after critical mineral will then be transformed into energy-storing batteries to fuel

the growing domestic and overseas market, with more than 740 jobs to be supported.

- \$30 million for Arafura Resources' flagship Nolans Project near Aileron, in Central Australia, the first of its kind rare earth separation plant in Australia and only the second outside China. The \$90.8 million project, located in the Northern Territory, will leverage Australia's mineral processing expertise to develop rare earth separation technology not currently available here now, creating 650 jobs at the peak of construction and new high-value export opportunities.
- \$45 million for Alpha HPA's \$330 million project with Orica to construct a high purity alumina production facility near Gladstone that will help meet the rapidly expanding demand for lithium-ion batteries and LED lights, with more than 300 jobs to be created from this year.

Link to the 2022 Critical Minerals Strategy [is here](#)

### Background

METS Ignited works with Australian suppliers to the mining industry, global miners, research organisations and capital providers to maintain and improve the global competitiveness and productivity of the Australian METS sector.

More information about METS Ignited is available at [www.metsignited.org](http://www.metsignited.org)

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