

Victorian Critical Minerals Roadmap

Update 2026

Resources for Net Zero

The Victorian Government acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past and present.

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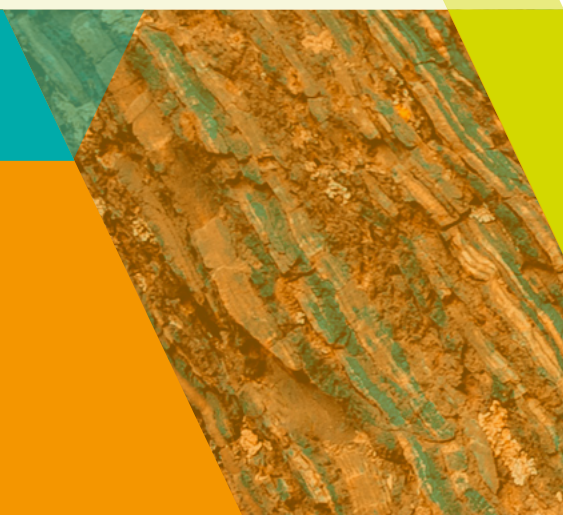
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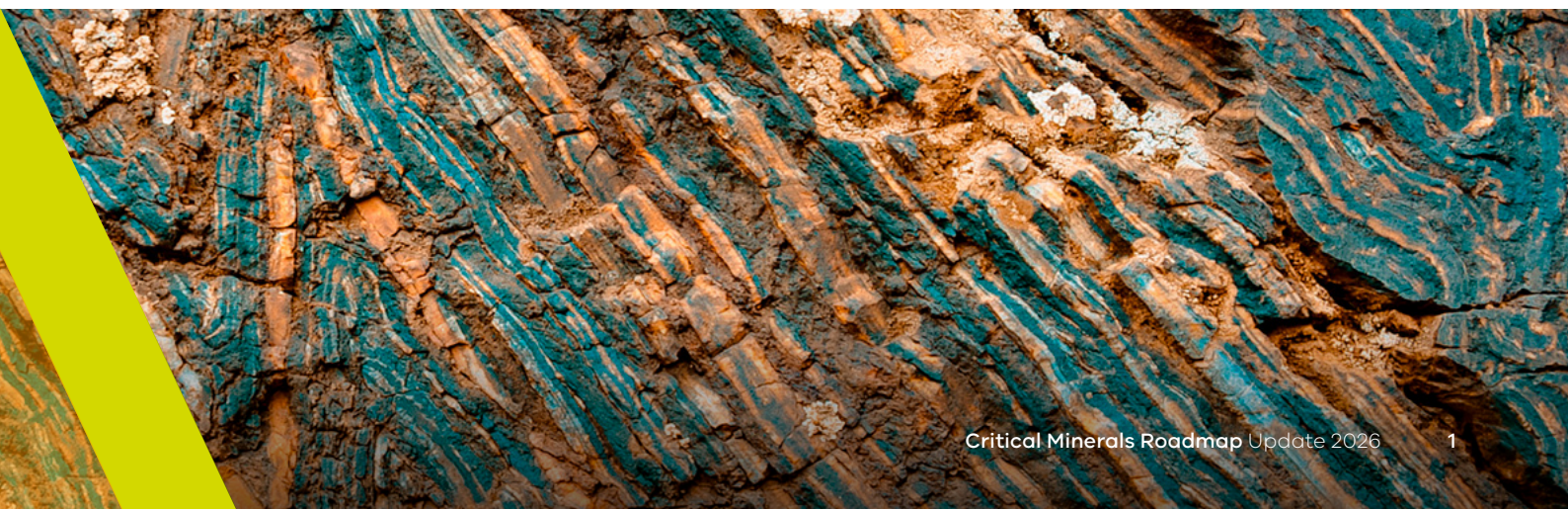
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Contents

Ministerial Foreword	3
Our Vision: continuing to unlock Victoria's potential	7
Evolution of the Critical Minerals Roadmap and updates	8
Theme 1: Identifying future development opportunities	10
Theme 2: Be a safe, stable and predictable jurisdiction	12
Theme 3: Secure our place in the global supply chain	14
Theme 4: Embed social and environmental best practice	18
Snapshot: Streamlined and coordinated regulatory processes	22
Conclusion	24





Ministerial Foreword

Victoria is endowed with a wealth of critical minerals that are essential to the technologies driving the global clean energy transition and advanced manufacturing. From zircon, titanium and rare earth element bearing minerals in the Murray Basin to antimony in the older rocks of central Victoria, these resources position the state as a strategic contributor to the industries of tomorrow.

When we released Victoria's first Critical Minerals Roadmap in December 2024, our goal was clear: unlock the potential of this emerging sector. That roadmap laid the foundations to commence mapping our geological opportunities and setting the vision for responsible minerals development.

This update builds on that work. It moves us from planning to activation - mobilising investment, accelerating minerals exploration and processing, and creating the conditions to generate critical mineral development opportunities in Victoria and Australia more broadly. By leveraging our critical minerals resources, we can strengthen supply chains, attract advanced industries, deliver high-value jobs across our regions and nation, and share the benefits of this next Victorian resources boom.

Our approach is guided by Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, a commitment to sustainability and a focus on community benefit-sharing frameworks. These frameworks ensure that development delivers tangible benefits for local communities - through jobs, training, infrastructure and long-term economic participation. We will continue to work in partnership with Traditional Owners, regional communities, industry, and research institutions to create a sector that is inclusive, transparent, and accountable. This is about building a future where economic growth goes hand-in-hand with environmental best practice and social responsibility.

Advancing a modern regulatory environment is central to this vision. By streamlining approvals, fostering transparency, and ensuring regulations keep pace with emerging technologies and global best practice, we will provide certainty for investors, support responsible minerals development, and uphold high environmental and social standards.

The choices we make today will shape Victoria's prosperity for decades to come. This updated roadmap is our commitment to support the technologies that will define our future - responsibly and sustainably, with shared benefits for all Victorians.



Jaclyn Symes MP

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for Environment
Minister for Climate Action
Minister for the State Electricity Commission

Summary of progress on Roadmap 2024

Following strong implementation and progress under Roadmap 2024, the Roadmap Update 2026 builds on this momentum to continue supporting the pipeline of existing and emerging projects across Victoria. This will provide stakeholder certainty and unlock the long-term value of Victoria's critical minerals sector.

 Completed	Reviewed and updated antimony occurrences across the state to identify areas of high antimony prospectivity	Published over 40,000 new geochemical analyses and obtained more than 100 new rock and mineral age dates
Developed a multi-criteria analysis to enable conflict avoidance mapping through Strategic Land Use Assessments	Created a new Application Guidance Hub for quicker, easier licence applications	Implemented an application triage process to prioritise assessment of exploration licences for critical minerals
Established the Critical Minerals Advisory Group comprising Industry, Academia and Government representatives	Established the Critical Minerals Coordination Office to facilitate sector development	Completed a preliminary Economic Assessment of Victoria's antimony processing capability
Developed criteria to exempt land from mineral exploration and development under section 7 of the Mineral Resources Sustainable Development Act (MRSDA)	Completed a pre-feasibility study for downstream processing of rare earth elements in partnership with the Federal Government	Partnered with the Minerals Council of Australia (Victoria) and Sunraysia TAFE to develop the Mining Pathways TAFE course
Established a dedicated engagement officer in northwest Victoria	Approved two new mineral sands mines in northwest Victoria	Approved an exploration decline for Gold and Antimony

 **Ongoing and
in-progress**

Capturing environmental
baseline geochemistry data

Collaborating with
Geoscience Australia
to facilitate Victoria's
first statewide airborne
electromagnetic map for
geology and groundwater

Undertaking geological
analysis with the CSIRO
and Geoscience Australia
to understand new critical
mineral opportunities

Developing a next-
generation statewide
gravity map for Victoria

Continuing to waiver land
surrender requirements for
exploration licences

Undertaking statewide
Strategic Land Use
Assessments

Reviewing and updating
public guidance materials
for proponents, landholders
and communities

Further engagement on
Traditional Owner and
community benefit sharing
models

Exploring opportunities
to minimise land
use conflicts

Investigating antimony
processing opportunities
with industry

Building a critical
minerals investment
opportunities pipeline





Our Vision: continuing to unlock Victoria's potential

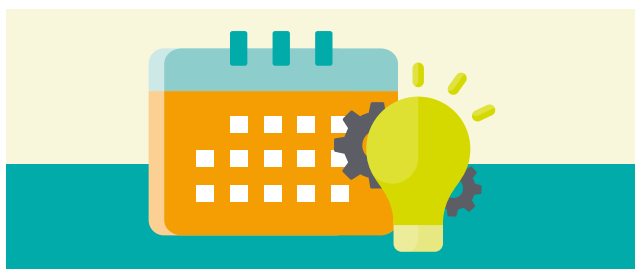
In December 2024, the Victorian Government published its Critical Minerals Roadmap 2024, which laid a strong foundation for Victoria's emerging critical minerals sector. The Roadmap 2026 builds on this foundation and marks an evolution of our vision, moving from policy setting to driving action.

Strong collaboration across government, industry, academia, Traditional Owners, and local communities has been essential to implementing Roadmap 2024. These achievements reflect the collective effort and commitment of stakeholders to advance Victoria's critical minerals sector. We particularly acknowledge the valuable contributions and support from key industry bodies such as the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC), whose insights have been instrumental in shaping practical and impactful outcomes.

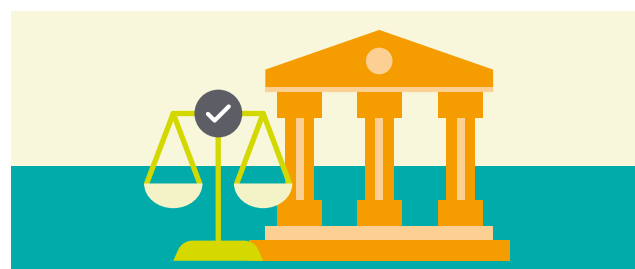
The input from Traditional Owners, local governments and community representatives has ensured that our approach remains inclusive and responsive to regional priorities. Together, these partnerships have laid a solid foundation for the next phase of the roadmap.

While the themes have evolved, they remain focused on what matters most: unlocking Victoria's critical mineral potential. This update sets an ambitious path forward, embedding Victoria as a trusted and competitive player in the global critical minerals market at a time when the race for secure, sustainable critical mineral supply is accelerating. With proven resources, emerging projects, and growing processing capabilities, Victoria is ready to lead as a key contributor in the world's critical minerals future.

Theme 1 Identify future development opportunities



Theme 2 Be a safe, stable and predictable jurisdiction



Theme 3 Secure our place in the global supply chain



Theme 4 Embed social and environmental best practice



Evolution of the Critical Minerals Roadmap and updates



Theme 3



2024 Roadmap

Critical minerals production and processing in Victoria

What we've done

We completed pre-feasibility for antimony, secured Commonwealth funding for a rare earth processing study, and catalysed private-sector collaboration.

2026 Roadmap update

Secure our place in the global supply chain



Roadmap 2026 opportunities

The update will commission an antimony processing facility study and finalise a rare earth processing pre-feasibility study, to secure Victoria's position in global supply chains.

Theme 4



2024 Roadmap

Sharing the benefits of Victoria's minerals

What we've done

We partnered with Federation University to work with communities, engaged with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (FVTOC) and Traditional Owners to begin developing a benefit-sharing model, commenced developing a Mining Pathways course for TAFE, and strengthened presence in the north-west.

2026 Roadmap update

Embed social and environmental best practice



Roadmap 2026 opportunities

The update embeds further engagement with Traditional Owners and communities on benefit sharing best practice, tangible community outcomes from current producers, and mine-specific best practice rehabilitation under the new duties model, ensuring social and environmental performance is integral to project development and operations.

Theme 1

Identify future development opportunities



The Victorian Government remains focused on identifying and unlocking Victoria's next generation of critical minerals projects. We will identify the most prospective geology by using modern high quality geoscience data and strategic partnerships with leading researchers such as CSIRO and Geoscience Australia. High-value geoscience data assets and enhanced geological knowledge will help build a strong project pipeline of quality critical mineral investment offerings and provide investor and community confidence.

Land-use mapping will help to ensure development occurs in a safe and sustainable way, balancing critical minerals development with environmental and community considerations. We will also explore innovative opportunities such as mine waste reprocessing to maximise resource value, advance circular economy principles and support a responsible minerals sector.

Geoscience to enable a strong project pipeline



What we will do within the next 12 months

Victoria's public database of mineral occurrences will continue to be enriched, new geochronology and geochemistry data will be acquired, a new generation gravity map will be finalised and the next phase of airborne electromagnetic acquisition will commence. In addition, targeted minerals tenement data in favourable geology will be released. These will strengthen Victoria's geoscience knowledge base, identify critical minerals investment opportunities and improve focused mineral exploration.



Develop mapping that will help reduce land-use conflict



What we will do within the next 12 months

Building on the current geological knowledge base, we will progress mapping of Victoria's land uses by identifying public data, including cultural heritage, environment, biodiversity, agriculture and infrastructure, and apply multi-criteria analysis to identify areas for responsible minerals development. This framework and accompanying guidance will be published.

Investigate circular economy solutions for critical minerals recovery to reduce waste



What we will do within the next 12 months

A mapping exercise will be conducted with key stakeholders and current projects to identify capabilities, gaps, and opportunities for critical minerals diversification. Potential value-add critical mineral opportunities within future and legacy mine waste streams will be identified based on the geology and international demand.

Promote Victoria's critical minerals sector globally, showcasing competitive investment opportunities, and positioning Victoria as a leading player in national and international markets



What we will do within the next 12 months

Resources Victoria, with Global Victoria and Invest Victoria, will partner with Austrade and Geoscience Australia to undertake targeted strategic engagements to present clear, data-driven insights on Victoria's geological value at key industry and investment events. By showcasing our critical minerals opportunities, the state government aims to attract and foster investment, forge partnerships, and position Victoria as a competitive and responsible destination for minerals exploration and development.

Theme 2

Be a safe, stable and predictable jurisdiction



We will continue our work to make Victoria a safe, stable, and predictable destination for investment and development, supported by clear and reliable processes with faster and simpler approvals. Strong support will be provided for industry to help businesses succeed and grow, while maintaining high regulatory standards and oversight.

The critical minerals sector is capital-intensive, high-risk, and globally competitive. Investors and developers seek jurisdictions that offer certainty and confidence over the long term. A safe, stable, and predictable operating environment is essential to attract investment, enable project development, and deliver the resources needed for the clean energy transition.

Mining projects require significant capital invested upfront and long lead times. Investors therefore prioritise jurisdictions with clear rules, consistent enforcement, and low political risk. Uncertainty, such as sudden policy changes or regulatory delays, can deter investment and redirect capital elsewhere.

Streamline relevant approvals via the Critical Minerals Coordination Office (CMCO) for critical minerals projects to reduce regulatory timelines and to provide greater certainty for industry while maintaining high environmental standards



What we will do within the next 12 months

Since Roadmap in 2024, the Victorian Government has taken action to reform an outdated and complex approvals process for critical minerals projects. This has included the establishment of the CMCO and extension of Resources Victoria Approvals Coordination (RVAC) to assist, coordinate and fast-track approvals. The CMCO and RVAC will continue to facilitate and coordinate approvals for critical minerals projects.

Resources Victoria will further enhance existing regulatory processes, drawing on international best practice and engagement with key stakeholders.



Introduce a duty-based regulatory framework to better align with a modern regulatory approach



What we will do within the next 12 months

Continue to actively engage with industry to support their transition to be regulated under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment Act 2023*.

The Amendment Act establishes a duty-based regulatory framework that aligns with contemporary approaches, designed to encourage a flexible, proportionate, efficient, and risk-based approach to regulation, and ensure that compliance efforts are targeted and effective.

A set of regulatory tools are being developed to help administer the regulatory framework, with the subordinate legislation and a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) to be released for public consultation in late 2026.

The full package will include the RIS, two sets of draft regulations for minerals and extractive industries and three Codes of Compliance covering exploration, quarrying and mining for lower risk level operators.



Theme 3

Secure our place in the global supply chain



The Victorian Government will strengthen the state's standing in the global critical minerals supply chain by advancing opportunities for downstream processing for antimony and rare earth elements. We will connect industry with investors and explore pathways to enable commercial agreements and partnerships. These efforts will help position Victoria as a reliable and competitive contributor to international markets.

As global demand accelerates, the resilience and integrity of supply chains for critical minerals have become a strategic priority for governments and industry worldwide. Reliable access to critical minerals is essential for scaling renewable energy and electrification. Disruptions in supply chains could slow progress toward net-zero targets and increase costs for clean technologies.

A resilient supply chain integrates recycling, substitution, and advanced processing technologies while reducing dependence on extraction and supporting a circular economy approach. Current supply chains are highly concentrated in a few countries, creating vulnerabilities to geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions, and resource stockpiling.

Investigate the viability of establishing a processing facility for antimony



What we will do within the next 12 months

Building on earlier studies, and working collaboratively across the Victorian government, we will strengthen our efforts to investigate the establishment of an antimony processing facility in Victoria. We will support industry to assess costs, technology options, and environmental impacts to ensure technical and economic viability. This includes providing guidance, data and frameworks that enable informed decision making supported by competitive grants (including Advancing Antimony Grant) to encourage collaboration between industry, research, and innovators and accelerate development. To highlight opportunities to support industry we will investigate logistics, feedstock proximity, infrastructure, and environmental factors, ensuring efficiency and sustainability.



Advance pre-feasibility studies for a rare earth element pilot processing facility



What we will do within the next 12 months

In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, Victoria will engage with key stakeholders to align priorities and explore opportunities for collaboration on rare earth elements. A pre-feasibility study for a pilot facility will be progressed to assess costs, technology options, and environmental impacts, ensuring technical and economic viability. To optimise logistics and sustainability, an analysis will be conducted on potential opportunities based on infrastructure, supply chain proximity, and environmental factors.

Strengthen pathways linking Victorian businesses with investment opportunities from institutional investors and other jurisdictions



What we will do within the next 12 months

Victoria will build a robust evidence base through a comprehensive review of the state's critical minerals supply chain and global demand trends. This will identify priority projects and inform strategies to enable processing infrastructure and facilitate market access. We will work to remove barriers, accelerate development, and foster partnerships, creating streamlined engagement processes and strengthening connections with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions. These actions aim to support the Victorian minerals sector to be positioned as a trusted supplier in the global critical minerals value chain, including exploring pathways for commercially led offtake arrangements within appropriate regulatory frameworks.

Position Victoria as a competitive destination for critical minerals investment through a targeted investor proposition



What we will do within the next 12 months

Victoria will develop an investor-focused critical minerals prospectus to clearly articulate the state's value proposition as a competitive destination for critical minerals investment. The prospectus will be underpinned by a robust evidence base, drawing on a comprehensive assessment of Victoria's critical minerals opportunities and endowment, supply chain capabilities, infrastructure readiness and global demand trends.

This work will identify investment-ready projects, highlight opportunities for downstream processing and market access, and set out Victoria's regulatory settings, approvals pathways and government support mechanisms. The prospectus will be used to strengthen engagement with domestic and international investors, strategic buyers and partners, and will be complemented by closer coordination with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to present a clear and consistent investment narrative.

Building on the prospectus, the Victorian Government will use targeted, investor-facing engagement to support market activation and attract new investment that delivers responsible development, strong economic and social benefits for Victoria. This may include refining incentives and support mechanisms for priority projects and applying a tiered framework to guide engagement with trusted trade and investment partners.



Theme 4

Embed social and environmental best practice



The Victorian Government will provide guidance to equip industry with structured approaches to engage meaningfully with Traditional Owners and regional communities, and to design and implement benefit-sharing models that deliver enduring social and economic outcomes.

Rehabilitation will be a key focus, ensuring post-mining outcomes deliver safe, stable, and productive landscapes. These actions, supported by best-practice engagement frameworks and strategies, will promote responsible development and strengthen Victoria's reputation as a trusted jurisdiction for ethical investment.

The global energy transition and decarbonisation efforts continue to drive unprecedented demand for critical minerals. These minerals are essential for technologies like batteries, renewable energy, electronics and electric vehicles. However, their extraction and processing sometimes come with significant social and environmental challenges that, if unmanaged, can affect the sustainability goals they aim to support.

Communities and stakeholders increasingly look to mining projects as opportunities to create shared value and deliver lasting benefits. Strong social performance through meaningful engagement, respect for cultural heritage, and proactive planning builds trust and supports project success. By prioritising these outcomes, projects can enhance their reputation, meet licensing expectations, and contribute to sustainable development.

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance is no longer optional, it's a core expectation shaping investment decisions and project viability. As demand for critical minerals accelerates, companies that integrate ESG principles into every stage of development not only mitigate social and environmental risks but also unlock long-term value. Demonstrating strong ESG performance builds investor confidence, secures access to capital, and ensures alignment with sustainability goals, making it an imperative for critical minerals projects.

Victoria is aligning with these global trends by strengthening its frameworks for how mines, quarries and minerals exploration are regulated. The *Minerals Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment Act 2023* introduced changes that will deliver better industry, environmental and community outcomes. These reforms, coming into effect from 1 July 2027, will ensure that risks are continually monitored and mitigated, to safeguard the environment and communities. The new regulatory framework will deliver better environmental and community outcomes and at the same time cut unnecessary red tape for industry, positioning Victoria as a leader in responsible resource development.



Treaty alignment and engagement

The Victorian Government is committed to upholding its Treaty obligations, including acting in good faith and consulting on matters that affect First Peoples. Engagement with the former First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and Traditional Owners has informed the development of the Critical Minerals Roadmap and associated benefit sharing work.

The establishment of Gellung Warl on 1 May 2026 marks a significant milestone in progressing the Statewide Treaty and strengthening the relationship between First Peoples and the State. As Treaty structures continue to evolve, the Victorian Government will continue to engage in good faith with Gellung Warl on matters relevant to the Roadmap and the development of the critical minerals sector.

The Roadmap reflects a continued commitment to benefit sharing with Traditional Owners and local communities. The intent remains to implement a legislated benefit sharing model. While a legislative pathway is being confirmed, interim non-legislative guidance is being progressed to support early engagement and provide practical direction, while broader policy and legislative settings are further developed.

Implement guidance on benefit sharing to support industry in adopting structured approaches to agreements with Traditional Owners and regional communities



What we will do within the next 12 months

Guidance materials will be developed to support miners, communities and Traditional Owners to equitably negotiate critical minerals benefit-sharing agreements. These materials will be developed through engagement with Traditional Owners, community and industry.

Develop and embed a best-practice community engagement framework that provides a structured and consistent approach for mining operators to engage with communities



What we will do within the next 12 months

A review of the community engagement frameworks currently applied at both national and international levels will be undertaken. Key stakeholders across Victoria will be identified and engaged to understand their priorities, expectations and concerns.

Best practice principles will be co-designed and tested with industry, community and government stakeholders.



Establish a Mineral Sands Agricultural Land Restoration Advisory Group to improve post mining outcomes



What we have done

Resources Victoria established a Mineral Sands Agricultural Land Restoration Working Group focused on current and future mineral sands operations in northwest Victoria.

The Group provides a dedicated forum to give expert advice on progressive rehabilitation methodologies, including current rehabilitation practices. In addition, it guides how mining companies, farmers, academics and regulators work together to provide the necessary guidance, research, monitoring and evaluation to restore land to pre-mining productivity, where farming is the likely long-term use.

The Group's key deliverable is to review and provide written feedback on the development of best-practice guidelines for the restoration of agricultural land post-mineral sands mining in northwest Victoria.

Snapshot

Streamlined and coordinated regulatory processes

The Critical Minerals Roadmap 2024 set a clear goal: reduce approval timelines and provide clearer, more streamlined guidance and processes.

Since its publication, the Roadmap has supported several key regulatory approvals for critical minerals projects in 2024–25:

- Major project approvals - work plan approvals for two significant mineral sands projects: Goschen (VHM Ltd) and Donald Mineral Sands (Astron Corporation).
- Innovation - approval of Victoria's first exploration decline tunnel development.

How did we make the change?



Coordinated case management

Resources Victoria Approvals Coordination (RVAC) unit stepped up to facilitate approvals and provide coordinated case management - streamlining approvals and helping industry navigate complex regulatory requirements.



Streamlined processes

Introduced streamlined processes including application triage and faster exploration licence pathways.



Enhanced guidance

Provided guidance for operators and communities through the *Support to Comply* initiative and updated guidance materials.



Improved collaboration across Government

Created stronger inter-agency collaboration and outcomes-focused engagement with referral agencies and key stakeholders.

Looking ahead, the Critical Minerals Roadmap Update 2026 will maintain a strong focus on facilitation and coordinated approvals case management through the CMCO and RVAC. Consolidating these improvements is essential to further optimise Victoria's regulatory environment and support the growth of the critical minerals industry.



Conclusion

The Critical Minerals Roadmap 2024 set the vision for Victoria's role in a changing global critical minerals market, and the Roadmap Update 2026 maps the pathway forward.

Since 2024, Victoria has progressed foundational reforms, strengthened collaboration across government, industry and research, and tested new approaches to innovation, circularity and market engagement. These early achievements have reinforced the importance of coordinated delivery, strong social and environmental outcomes, and placing regional communities at the centre of sector development.

By building a critical minerals sector that creates growth, jobs and opportunities for regional Victoria, this Roadmap Update 2026 recognises that long term value is unlocked when resource development is aligned with community aspirations and expectations. From exploration through to processing, manufacturing and recycling, Victoria is supporting place-based benefits, skills development and enduring economic resilience.

This Roadmap Update 2026 aims to deliver tangible outcomes for industry, regions and communities. Together, we are laying the foundations for a critical minerals sector that is competitive, sustainable and central to Victoria's transition to a low emissions future.

Looking ahead, the Roadmap Update 2026 sets a clear direction for the next phase: scaling what works, addressing barriers identified through delivery, and deepening partnerships that strengthen investor confidence and supply chains. Through world class research and responsible resource development, Victoria will continue to position itself as a trusted global partner in clean energy and advanced manufacturing supply chains.

For further information, or to engage with the Victorian Government's critical minerals initiatives, contact the Critical Minerals Coordination Office at critical.minerals@deeca.vic.gov.au



