

### **Disruptive Thinking and Transformational Research to Shape the Future Resource Workforce**

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The global transition to a high-tech, 'green' energy future requires a fundamental shift towards commodities characterised by high risk of supply chain disruption. This pivot is not easy since it requires a change in the way we explore for and process minerals and requires a work force with a future-focused skillset. Accordingly, there is growing recognition for the importance of skills training, as highlighted in the respective critical mineral strategies of many nations and nation blocks globally. Optimal skills training demands much closer collaboration between the higher education, government, public and the resources sectors. Established in November 2024 in Australia, this centre is unique in its kind as the term 'resource' encompasses both the mineral commodities and the specialist human resource. Our centre represents an unprecedented partnership across the minerals value chain. It strategically brings together four major Australian universities, with significant funding from the Australian Research Council, major government agencies and state/territory geological surveys, as well as mining companies and technology firms advancing mineral discovery and extraction.

The centre will revolutionize the path for training in the geosciences and will drive transformational outcomes for industry and government by translating cutting-edge skillsets and knowledge into applied capacity. This centre aims to leverage complementary strengths with other centres operating in the same framework, providing tailored skill development solutions, fostering collaborative events, co-designing and marketing training courses, and providing broader opportunities for industry internships and placements. This centre will bridge the gap between mineral systems science, mineral exploration protocols and ore processing/metallurgical extraction. It will train the next generation of geoscientists with an essential understanding of the whole value chain of the critical resources of the future, which are needed to unlock the critical mineral potential of any geological environment and to enable the transition to a high-tech, clean energy society.