


Critical Minerals & High-Tech Metals Exploration Program (CMEP)

Information Webinar
30 April 2025

NSW Resources

A decorative border on the left and right sides of the page. The left side features a stylized landscape with a blue sky, a dark blue night sky with stars and a moon, a brown and orange patterned land area with a path of white arrows, and a blue body of water with a fish. The right side features a blue body of water with a white whale and a yellow and orange patterned land area.

NSW Resources acknowledges that it stands on Country which always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

Agenda

Topic	Presenter	Time
1. Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome	Sima Williamson	5 mins
2. Objectives & Outcomes	Sima Williamson	5 mins
3. Program Details <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligibility• How to Apply• Assessment Criteria• Assessment Process	Leni Baker	15 mins
5. Q&A Session	Leni Baker, Scott Lindsay, Michael Hallett, & Kevin Ruming	30 mins
6. Close	Sima Williamson	5 mins

Zoom webinar protocols



Today's presentation is best viewed on a laptop or desktop screen if possible



Microphones will be muted till the **Q&A** segment



Cameras can be turned off during the presentation. **This session is not being recorded.**



Please use the chat function to ask questions, which we will answer during the dedicated **Q&A** segment, or you may raise your hand to speak, at this time

Program Objective

The Program seeks to support the long-term sustainability of the NSW resources sector through co-investment in underexplored areas to search for deposits of critical minerals.

The Program encourages mineral exploration and discovery to identify new deposits of Group 1, 6 and 10 minerals under the Mining Act 1992, with a focus on deposits of priority metals as identified in the Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy 2024-2035.



Program Overview

The Hon. Courtney Houssos, Minister for Natural Resources, announced the Program 2 April 2025.

Activity	Timeframe
Program announced	2 April 2025
Applications opened	16 April 2025
Applications closed	30 June 2025
Assessment process	July-August 2025
Applicants notified of outcome	30 September 2025
Project activities completed	30 September 2027

Open, competitive grant opportunity

Projects must support exploration of Group 1, 6 and 10 minerals under the *Mining Act 1992*

Projects must be completed by 30 September 2027

The total funding is divided into project types:

- exploration geochemistry,
- exploration geophysics,
- exploration drilling up to 250 meters, and
- exploration drilling > 250 meters

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants

- have an ABN and be registered for GST
- **hold** a relevant title under the *Mining Act 1992*
- have land access agreements **in place** to undertake the project
- minimum 50% co-contribution

Projects/Activities

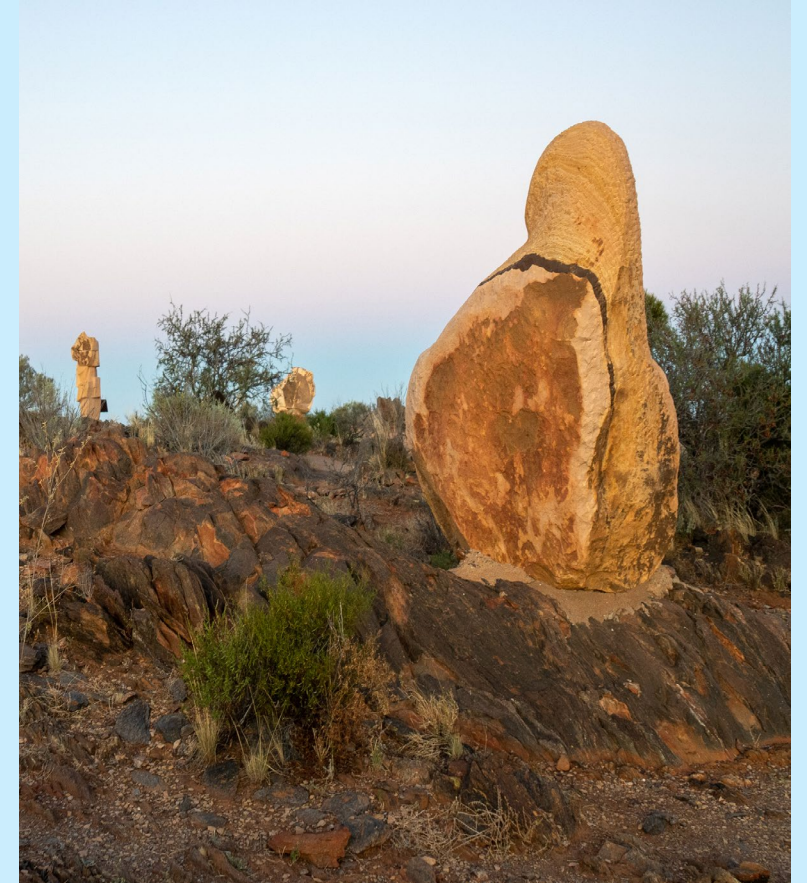
- align with the objectives of the Program
- support exploration for Group 1, 6 and 10 minerals
- **be completed by 30 September 2027.**

Locations

- Projects **must be located in NSW.**

Costs

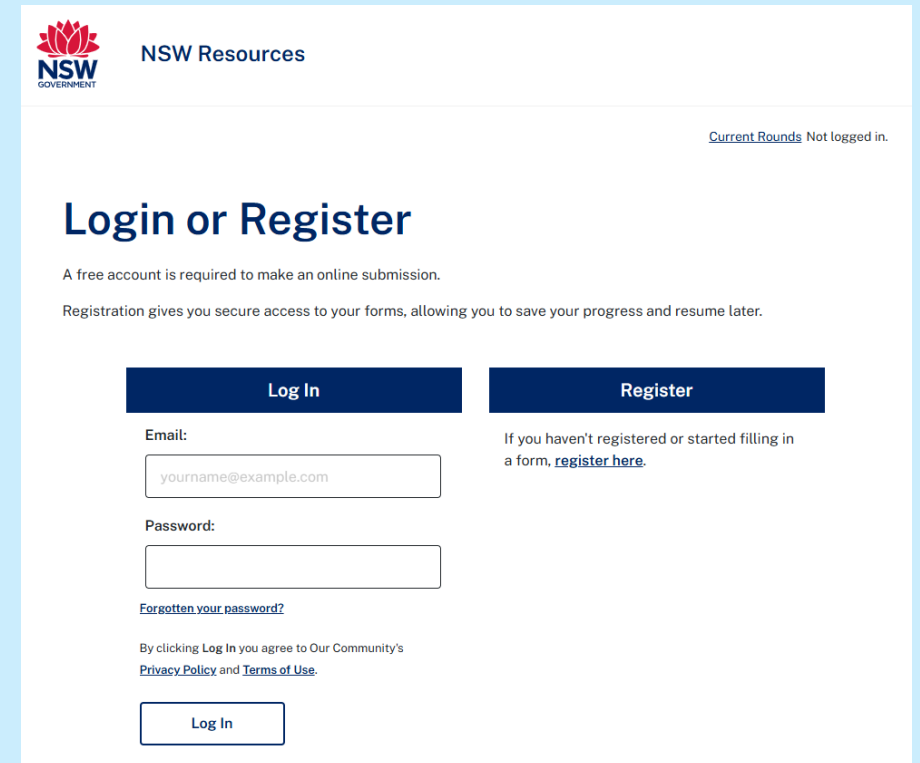
- project costs must support the objectives of the Program
- **direct third-party costs** of drilling, geophysical or geochemical survey costs as charged by a contractor



How to apply

Applications must be submitted via the Smarty Grants Portal:
<https://criticalminerals.smartygrants.com.au/CMEP1>

- Applicants will need to register for a Smarty Grants account
- The application form requires: Applicant and project details, as well as responses to the Eligibility and Assessment criteria
- There are various resources to resolve portal issues:
<https://applicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au/applicant-faq's/>
- Templates and supporting documents can be downloaded from the Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Exploration Program web site: <https://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/invest-nsw/critical-minerals-exploration-program>



The screenshot shows the 'Login or Register' page of the NSW Resources Smarty Grants Portal. The page has a white background with a blue header containing the NSW Government logo and the text 'NSW Resources'. Below the header, there is a link for 'Current Rounds' and a status 'Not logged in.' The main heading is 'Login or Register' in blue. Below this, a message states: 'A free account is required to make an online submission. Registration gives you secure access to your forms, allowing you to save your progress and resume later.' There are two main buttons: 'Log In' and 'Register'. The 'Log In' button is highlighted with a dark blue background. Below the 'Log In' button, there are input fields for 'Email:' (with a placeholder 'yourname@example.com') and 'Password:'. A link for 'Forgotten your password?' is located below the password field. At the bottom, there is a disclaimer: 'By clicking Log In you agree to Our Community's Privacy Policy and Terms of Use.' and a 'Log In' button.

NSW Resources

[Current Rounds](#) Not logged in.

Login or Register

A free account is required to make an online submission.
Registration gives you secure access to your forms, allowing you to save your progress and resume later.

Log In **Register**

Email:

Password:

[Forgotten your password?](#)

By clicking Log In you agree to Our Community's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Use](#).

Log In

Grant value and types

Applicants can submit applications for multiple projects and project types.

The maximum funding per applicant is limited to \$370,000 (ex GST).

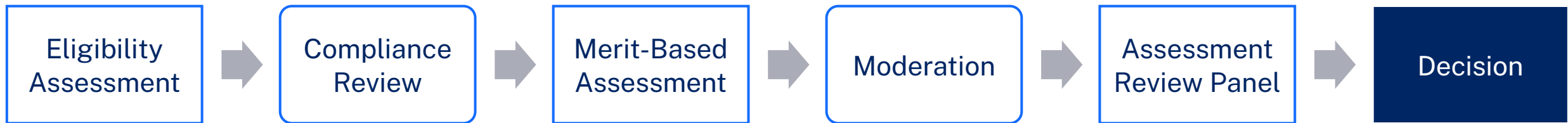
All applicants must provide a co-contribution of at least 50% of the total project cost

Project type (Grant type)	Total funding allocation	Minimum grant value	Maximum grant value
Exploration geochemistry	\$350,000	\$5,000	\$50,000
Exploration geophysics	\$500,000	\$20,000	\$70,000
Exploration drilling	\$1,650,000	\$50,000	\$150,000 for projects with a drilling depth of up to 250m \$250,000 for projects with a drilling depth greater than 250m

Assessment Criteria

- Grant will achieve value for money by advancing exploration (30%)
- Applicant has sufficient capability, experience and skills (20%)
- Deliverability and technical merit (25%)
- Consistency of the proposal with the objectives of the Program and NSW Government priorities and policies (25%)

Assessment Process



Successful applications

- Successful applicants will be initially advised via a Letter of Offer
- Acceptance of the grant offer is made by signing a Funding Deed with the Department
- Until a funding deed is executed (and the applicant has met any other funding conditions) no costs will be deemed as eligible and there is no promise of funding
- Grant payment is made on a reimbursement basis of up to 50% of eligible third-party costs for exploration drilling, geophysical or geochemical surveys
- Grant recipients will be required to submit mandatory reports

Q&A

Activity	Timeframe
Program announced	2 April 2025
Applications open	16 April 2025 (9 am)
Applications close	30 June 2025 (5 pm)
Assessment process	July – August 2025
Applicants notified of outcome	30 September 2025
Project activities completed	30 September 2027

Contact details

- Website: www.nsw.gov.au/critical-minerals-exploration-program
- Phone Number: (02) 4063 6860
- Email: NSWResources.Programs@dpird.nsw.gov.au





Schedule 2 – Groups of Minerals

Group 1 (Metallic Metals)

antimony	copper	lithium	platinum group minerals	tantalum
arsenic	galena	manganese	rare earth minerals	tin
bismuth	germanium	mercury	rubidium	tungsten and its ores
cadmium	gold	molybdenite	scandium and its ores	vanadium
caesium	indium	nickel	selenium	zinc
chromite	iron minerals	niobium	silver	zirconia
cobalt	lead	platinum	sulphur	

Group 6 (Corundum diamond, ruby and sapphire)

corundum	ruby
diamond	sapphire

Group 10 (Mineral Sands)

ilmenite	rutile
leucoxene	zircon
monazite	