

Critical Minerals National Productivity Initiative - Queensland

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT - ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Queensland
Duration	This Schedule will commence on the date the last party signs this agreement and is expected to expire on 30 June 2027.
Purpose	This Schedule will support the delivery by Queensland of a feasibility study for a common user processing facility to enhance Australia's capacity to process critical minerals and strategic materials, and strengthen Australia's sovereign capability, capacity and economic resilience ("the Project"). The feasibility study will investigate the establishment of a Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements Research Centre (the Research Centre) in Mt Isa, Queensland. The aim of the Research Centre is to build national capability in minerals research and processing in a regional context through metallurgical testing, piloting, and treatment of critical minerals and rare earth elements.
Estimated financial contributions	The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to Queensland of up to \$241,250.00 in respect of the Project. The profile for the total financial contribution is presented in Table 2. Queensland will be required to match the Commonwealth's funding contribution.
Additional terms	a. The feasibility study will be in accordance with work as described in the proposal submitted by Queensland for funding under the Critical Minerals National Productivity Initiative and additional information provided that supported the proposal requested by the Commonwealth.

Table 2: Financial contributions to QLD

(\$)	2026-27	Total
Estimated total budget	482,500	482,500
Less estimated National Partnership Payments	241,250	241,250
Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	241,250	241,250
Queensland Government	241,250	241,250

Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Milestone 1 – Project Plan Acceptance by the Commonwealth of an overarching project plan to deliver the feasibility study that sets out the expected outcomes and products, delivery times, stakeholders, procurement process and how Queensland will manage the funding and project activities.	With Milestone 3 Final Report	100,000
Milestone 2 – Progress reports Acceptance by the Commonwealth of two progress reports that provide details on work undertaken to deliver stage 1: scope and feasibility, and stage 2: conceptual design and business plan and details of any delays	With Milestone 3 Final Report	100,000
Milestone 3 – Final report Acceptance by the Commonwealth of: - A final feasibility study that must include: - Final recommendations on usage of the facility, common-user access arrangements and governance arrangements. - Financial modelling and market analysis, potential risks and challenges, and the social and economic benefits likely to be generated by the facility and outputs identified in the project plan. - Estimation of capital and operational costs, and time to commissioning the facility. - A financial report which outlines the cost of delivering the Schedule's outputs.	30 November 2026	41,250

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



The Hon Madeleine King MP

Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia

9 September 2026

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by



The Hon Dale Last MP

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines;
Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development

6 October 2026