



First critical minerals for national stockpile revealed

By Tess Ikonomou, 12 January 2026

Treasurer Jim Chalmers will discuss the first minerals to be the focus of a \$1.2 billion stockpile aimed at countering Chinese dominance when he meets with Australia's allies in the US.

The critical minerals strategic reserve is designed to break Beijing's grip on the supply of the metals needed for defence equipment such as fighter jets, and clean energy technology.

Dr Chalmers will travel to Washington DC this week to join a meeting of finance ministers from the G7 nations to discuss critical minerals.

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Jim Chalmers is heading to the US to talk critical minerals with finance ministers from G7 nations. (Joel Carrett/AAP PHOTOS)

The government will announce the metals antimony and gallium as the first to be the focus of the reserve, which Australia has argued can become a reliable supply of rare earths for the US.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is hosting the gathering for the group of advanced economies, which includes Japan, the UK, France, Germany and Canada, many of which depend on supplies from China.

Antimony is used in batteries and night vision equipment, while gallium is used for advanced semiconductors and radar systems.

Dr Chalmers said a reliable reserve would strengthen supply chains and help stabilise markets.

"The world needs critical minerals, Australia has plenty of them and our critical minerals reserve will help us weather global economic uncertainty and help to boost trade and investment," he said.



Anthony Albanese and US President Donald Trump signed a \$13 billion rare earths deal in 2025. (Lukas Coch/AAP PHOTOS)

Resources Minister Madeleine King said the stockpile would support mining and processing projects.

"The strategic reserve's initial focus on antimony, gallium and rare earths will give added certainty to Australian projects, help attract further investment and help the sector deal with potential future market disruptions," she said.



Canberra and Washington struck a \$13 billion rare earths deal in 2025 for a pipeline of projects to expand mining and processing in Australia.

The two countries committed to investing at least \$1.5 billion each to develop critical minerals projects in the next six months.

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Our results demonstrate high-grades and wide zones of gold and antimony over an 11km mineralised trend. As at August 31, 2025, we have delivered 74 individual intersections exceeding 50 AuEq g/t x m ("AuEq g/t x width in m") and 70 individual intersections exceeding 100 AuEq g/t x m from 97,553 m at Sunday Creek including results such as 1.0 m @ 2,318 g/t Au drilled within 455.3 m @ 7.2 g/t Au and 13.1 m @ 91.7 g/t Au within 331.5 m @ 6.8 g/t Au.

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