



# Southern Cross welcomes antimony grants

*Sovereign critical minerals refineries in Victoria are centre of Labor's election promises*

**By Haydn Black, 15 October, 2026**

Southern Cross Gold and the Minerals Council of Australia have welcomed an election commitment from the Carroll government outlining a A\$20 million plan to help build the nation's first antimony processing facility in northern Victoria.

Antimony is one of the Australian government's three priority critical minerals, with the nation boasting the world's third-largest reserves and Victoria in the top-ten producers of antimony globally.

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The Victorian Labor government, which is seeking a fourth term, announced the \$1 million Advancing Antimony grants program in March. Now, Southern Cross and Ballarat-based minerals technology group Gekko Systems set to share in an initial \$750,000 if the government is re-elected.

The grants will fund studies into processing options and supply chains, helping establish a business case for future investment into a 5000-tonne-per-annum open-access refinery.

Victoria is already one of the Western world's largest sources of antimony concentrate with production from Alkane Resources' Costerfield operation, and until this week, it was the only antimony provider in Australia.

That changed yesterday with Larvotto Resources commencing sales from its Hillgrove operation in New South Wales.

Victoria is keen to maintain its dominance in the space, believing its gold fields can offer more sources of the heat-resistant critical mineral, which is used in an array of renewable energy, electronics, batteries and defence technologies.



Southern Cross is defining a sizeable antimony-gold resource at Sunday Creek and will use its grants to support studies into future antimony processing, turning concentrate into antimony metal products.

### **Valuable mineral**

Southern Cross executive director Mike Hudson said Sunday Creek's antimony contributed up to 17% of the project's in situ recoverable value.

He said the funding was "a practical step towards processing that antimony into metal here in Victoria" and would help pilot-scale metallisation test work.

He added that he hoped the next state government would have the political will to build sovereign infrastructure.

Gekko, which is a well-known name in supplying minerals processing technology around the world, will lend its expertise to assessing opportunities in its home state.

Victorian resources minister Jaclyn Symes said the studies would identify how Victoria could scale up a new critical minerals processing industry, potentially creating 7000 jobs.

Her party has also announced a prefeasibility for a rare earth processing facility.

### **MCA welcomes commitment**

MCA Victoria executive director James Sorahan said the grants were a crucial first step in securing an antimony processing facility in Victoria.

"The grants help Victoria build on its competitive advantages in education, research and manufacturing strengths to be a leader in minerals processing technology," Sorahan said

"Backing research and pilot plants combined with reducing environmental impacts supports the state's circular economy goals and Victoria's expertise in education, METS and manufacturing.

"The next step is for whoever forms government after next month's Victorian election to ensure competitive tax, energy costs and permitting timeframes."

The MCA sees Victoria as able to emerge as a global hub for the production of mineral sands and rare earths.



Labor has also adopted an MCA recommendation to return 100% of all antimony and rare earth royalties to the regions.

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies released a wish list for the next Victorian government with six priorities, including a request to update the state's geological databases with sufficient detail for modern exploration targeting of minerals like rare earth elements, copper, and antimony.

### **Election on a knife's edge**

According to Election Tracker's weighted summary of recent public opinion polls, the election is a three-horse race, with Labor on 25% of the vote, the Liberal-National coalition 29%, and One Nation 23%. The Greens trail with 15%.

Commentators suggest the potential for a hung parliament is very real.

The coalition is yet to outline any substantial mineral-focused policies, with its most notable resource pledge a lifting of the ban on onshore gas exploration.

One Nation's policy document contains a section on energy resources with plans to repeal the nuclear power ban, allow uranium exploration and unshackle fossil fuels by trashing carbon emission regulations. Conversely, the Greens want to extend the gas ban to offshore drilling and limit any new developments in the state.

The general election is scheduled to be held on November 28.

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## **ABOUT SOUTHERN CROSS GOLD CONSOLIDATED**

Southern Cross Gold Consolidated Ltd (SXGC) is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) and has CHESS Depositary Interests (CDIs) listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

We explore for gold and antimony in the Victorian Goldfields. Our 100% owned flagship project at Sunday Creek is the best new grassroots discovery in Australia with a globally leading high-grade hit rate for this stage of the project's development.



Our results demonstrate high-grades and wide zones of gold and antimony over an 11km mineralised trend. As at September 2, 2026, the project has delivered a total of 98 composite intersections exceeding 100 g/t Au, 83 composite intersections between 50-100 g/t Au and 111 individual intersections exceeding 10% Sb by applying a 1 m (down hole length) @ 5 g/t AuEq lower cut.

Our corporate objectives are to discover and develop large, long-life, sustainable assets which create value for shareholders and all stakeholders in the community.

The team has made numerous discoveries and has demonstrated success in advancing these towards mining.

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