

From: Ryan Winn <ceo@sta.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2026 10:04 AM
To: ASCEPT Secretariat
Subject: INVITATION | Parliamentary Friends of Science event



Dear Jessica,

The Parliamentary Friends of Science Co-Chairs, **Deputy Prime Minister Hon Richard Marles MP** and **Shadow Minister for Science Aaron Violi MP**, invite you to the following event:

Tuesday 11 August 2026

07:45am - 09:00am AEST

Reps Committee Room 1R1, Australian Parliament House, Canberra

Digging into Australia's critical minerals future

Australia's critical minerals ambitions rely on a bedrock of scientific knowledge, but its resilience is at risk of eroding.

Critical minerals are increasingly strategic assets on the world stage, and Australia's geological endowment, paired with our deep R&D expertise, is an opportunity we can't afford to squander. The Government's \$3.4 billion, 35 year Resourcing Australia's Prosperity initiative is mapping our national potential for critical minerals and strategic materials, yet the geoscientists needed to deliver it are disappearing.

All three geoscience occupations are facing a national shortage, with 31% of Australia's geoscience professionals projected to retire by 2031. So what do we need to do as a nation to secure our competitive advantage, and do we have the geoscience expertise to realise our ambition?

This event will bring together leading geoscientists and technology experts to brief parliamentarians across the full critical minerals pipeline, covering:

- *Geology education: building the pipeline of skilled geoscientists Australia needs to sustain a resilient resources sector*
- *R&D for exploration: the science underpinning discovery of new critical mineral deposits*
- *R&D for processing: the innovation required to refine and add value to Australia's mineral resources onshore*
- *Environmental impact and social licence: ensuring critical minerals development earns and retains community trust*
- *International collaboration: insights from the Australia-US Critical Minerals agreement (DISR), and how critical minerals security is shaping Australia's broader international diplomacy and trade relations*

The session will open with a scene setting overview from Australia's former Chief Scientist, Dr Cathy Foley, followed by a moderated discussion giving parliamentarians the opportunity to hear directly from Australia's geoscience experts and interrogate the science, workforce challenges, and evidence-based policy settings Australia needs to become indispensable in global supply chains and capitalise on the opportunities afforded by our geoscience capability and mineral endowment.

Dress code: Business

Space is limited and the event will book out quickly. STA members may register one representative. [REGISTER NOW](#)

RSVP by COB Friday 31 July.

Please contact events@sta.org.au with any questions.

Ryan Winn
CEO, Science & Technology Australia

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