

13 May 2025

ANSTO's new critical minerals facilities opened

AR3 pilot processing to commence in June 2026

Highlights:

- **Federal Government officially opened ANSTO's critical minerals piloting facility in Sydney on 8 May 2026:** AR3 selected as the first industry partner to utilise the new world-class pilot rare earth processing facility, marking a significant milestone in Australia's critical minerals sovereignty.
- **Pilot-scale processing to commence June 2026:** ~30 tonnes of Koppamurra ore is now at ANSTO's Sydney facility, ready for processing through a continuous pilot-scale circuit and production of Mixed Rare Earth Oxide (MREO).
- Engage with this announcement at the AR3 [investor hub](#).



Image 1: Travis Beinke, Managing Director & CEO of AR3 attending the official opening of ANSTO's new critical minerals processing facilities. From left to right: Shaun Jenkinson, CEO ANSTO, Travis Beinke, MD & CEO Australian Rare Earths, The Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia, Michael Quigley, Board Chair ANSTO, Cr Jack Boyd, Mayor Sutherland Shire Council

AR3 Managing Director and CEO, Travis Beinke, said:

“It is an honour to be the first industry partner to access ANSTO's new world-class facility. This hub is a powerful endorsement of the role strategic projects like Koppamurra can play in building critical minerals sovereignty for Australia and its allies.

By utilising ANSTO's facility, we are saving millions of dollars and significant time; capital that will instead be directed toward advancing Koppamurra towards commercialisation.

With the Pre-Feasibility Study nearing completion together with the imminent commencing of pilot operations and our Mining Lease application progressing, 2026 is shaping as a defining year for AR3 and for the development of a new, secure Australian rare earth supply chain.”

Australian Rare Earths Limited (ASX: AR3) is pleased to announce its participation in the official opening of new critical minerals facilities at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's (ANSTO's) Sydney facility and to confirm that pilot-scale processing of Koppamurra ore is expected to commence next month.

The facilities are designed to assist western allies develop new critical minerals sources and challenge the dominance of Chinese supply chains. As previously reported, **AR3 was selected as the first industry partner to utilise the facility**, with approximately 30 tonnes of ore from the Koppamurra Rare Earths Project now on-site at ANSTO and ready for processing.

Pilot Program Overview

The pilot program will process Koppamurra ore through a continuous pilot-scale circuit, bridging the gap between laboratory test-work and full-scale operations. Processing involves the extraction of rare earths from clay to produce a Mixed Rare Earth Oxide (MREO) product. Samples of this product will be provided to potential customers around the world to assist in securing future offtake and investment agreements.

The pilot will also generate a processing roadmap and engineering data that will directly inform the final design of the Koppamurra Project and support bankable feasibility studies. Importantly, ANSTO's new facility provides AR3 with world-class pilot processing capability, freeing capital to accelerate Koppamurra's development, delivering material savings in both capital expenditure and development time.

The pilot program is co-funded as part of AR3's \$5 million grant from the *Australian Government's International Partnerships in Critical Minerals (IPCM)* program.

2026 Near-Term Catalysts

- Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) release later in Q2 2026
- Pilot plant commencement June 2026
- MREO samples provided to potential offtake and strategic partners
- Mining Lease application targeted later in 2026



Image 2: Travis Beinke and The Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia at ANSTO's newly opened pilot-scale rare earth processing facility.

The announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of Australian Rare Earths Limited.

For further information please contact:

Australian Rare Earths Limited

Travis Beinke
Managing Director and CEO
T: 1 300 646 100

Media Enquiries

Jessica Fertig
Tau Media
E: jessica@taumedia.com.au

Engage and Contribute at the AR3 investor hub: <https://investorhub.ar3.com.au>

About Australian Rare Earths Limited

Australian Rare Earths (AR3) is a diversified critical minerals company, strategically positioned to meet the growing global demand for uranium and rare earth elements:

- *AR3's Koppamurra Rare Earths Project in South Australia and Victoria is a significant deposit of light and heavy rare earths, which has secured important Australian government support through a \$5 million grant to accelerate development. With support from global advanced industrial materials manufacturer, Neo Performance Materials, AR3 is progressing toward a Pre-Feasibility Study and a demonstration facility, solidifying its role in diversifying global rare earth supply chains for the clean energy transition.*
- *AR3's large ~8,000 km² Overland Uranium Project in South Australia shows strong uranium discovery potential, with initial drilling identifying opportunities for substantial near-surface and deeper deposits.*

With strategic projects and strong government support, AR3 is poised for significant growth in the critical minerals market.