



PACE Minerals Program

Geological Survey of South Australia (GSSA)

Industry Briefing | 30 July 2026

Presenters

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Government of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

Acknowledgement of Country



As guests on Aboriginal land, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) acknowledges everything this department does impacts on Aboriginal country, the sea, the sky, its people, and the spiritual and cultural connections which have existed since the first sunrise. Our responsibility is to share our collective knowledge, recognise a difficult history, respect the relationships made over time, and create a stronger future.

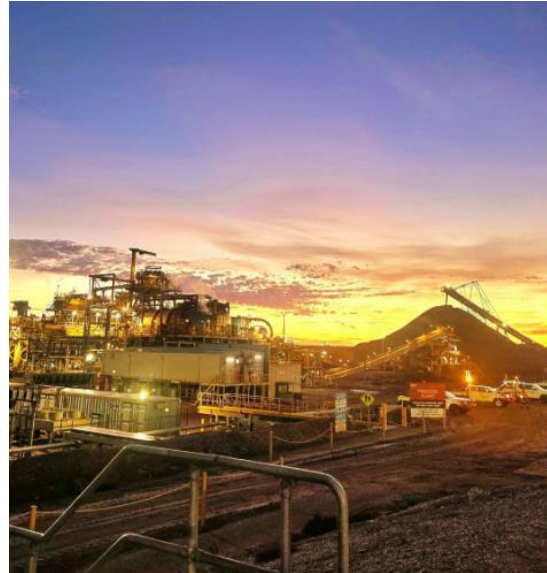
We are ready to walk, learn and work together.



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The Big Idea

- Discovery drives prosperity
- South Australia has the resources the world needs
- Accelerate discoveries
- De-risk early-stage exploration
- Attract dynamic partnerships and global investment





What is *PACE* Minerals?



***PACE* is South
Australia's
co-investment engine
for mineral discovery**



**\$12.4 million
program for
4 years**



**Co-funding for
exploration and
innovation**

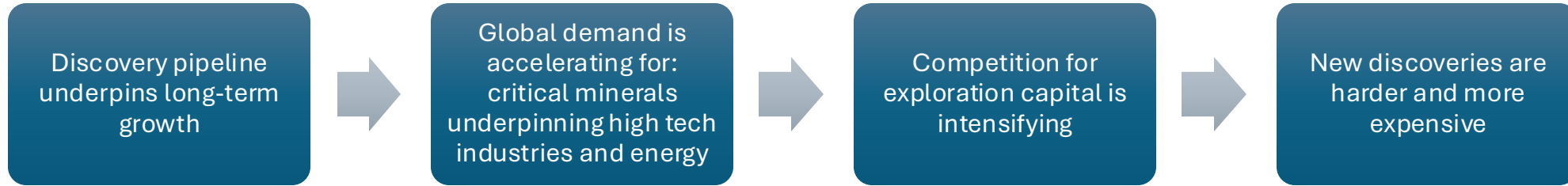


**4 competitive
funding rounds**

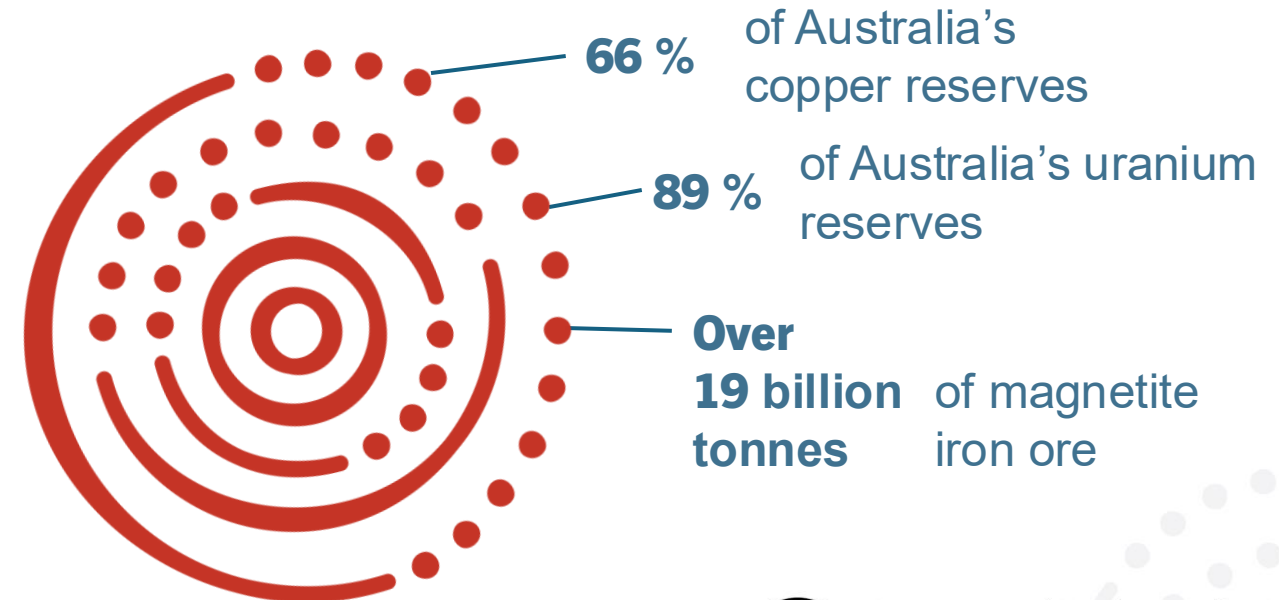


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Why *PACE* Minerals Matters



- South Australia's globally significant resource base underpins investment, processing and energy opportunities.
- South Australia has proven gold, silver, graphite, zircon, titanium and high purity aluminium resources. Prospective for critical minerals – platinum group elements, rare earth elements, nickel, lithium, magnesium and manganese.





Is the Project Exploratory?



PACE is designed to fund projects that have a genuine chance of leading to **new discoveries**, not resource evaluation or near-mine development activities.

Applicants should be confident that their proposal:

- tests a new exploration concept
- investigates a new target
- explores frontier or underexplored terrain
- addresses a significant geological uncertainty or knowledge gap.

Projects focused on resource definition, mine development studies, metallurgical testing, or incremental expansion of known mineralisation are unlikely to be competitive.





Does the Proposal Address a Key Knowledge Gap?



This is one of the strongest themes in the *PACE* Guidelines.

Applicants should clearly identify:

- what geological knowledge gap exists
- why it is important
- how the proposed work will reduce uncertainty
- what new geological understanding could be generated.

Strong applications will demonstrate clear benefits to South Australia's geoscientific knowledge base.





Discovery Potential

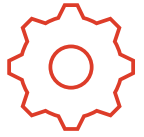


Applicants should be able to demonstrate:

- why the geological model is compelling
- why the exploration target is prospective
- the likelihood of generating new targets or discoveries
- how success could stimulate future exploration investment.

The emphasis is accelerating mineral discovery and increasing exploration activity across South Australia.





New Information and Technology



PACE specifically seeks projects that:

- apply new technologies
- trial innovative exploration methods
- use advanced geophysical, geochemical or AI/data science approaches
- improve the quality or density of existing datasets.

Applicants should be able to explain why their approach is different from standard exploration practice and what benefits it may deliver.



Third-Party and Public Benefits



A unique feature of *PACE* is its focus on broader public benefit.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate:

- how the data generated can be used by others
- potential benefits to the wider exploration industry
- opportunities for knowledge sharing
- potential commercialisation of new technologies or methodologies.





Collaboration Opportunities



Projects are likely to be stronger where they involve:

- research organisations / universities
- multiple tenement holders
- technology partners.

The Guidelines place considerable emphasis on collaboration and cross-sector partnerships.



PACE Minerals. Proven. Evolved Objectives.



- **Accelerate** mineral discovery.
- **Encourage** application of new and **innovative technologies** leading to future discovery.
- **Increase greenfield mineral exploration collaboration** and activity.
- Generate new geoscientific datasets to stimulate exploration, contributing to a **sustained \$350m in annual exploration expenditure.**
- **Build South Australia's international profile** and attract new investors to the state's mineral sector.



✓ What *PACE* Minerals Funds



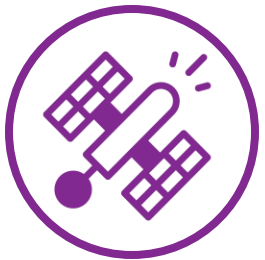
Exploration drilling

- Single deep hole and multiple hole drilling programs in frontier terrains, or testing new concepts.



Geophysical and geochemical programs

- Focusing on application and innovative technology and concepts
- Providing significant improvement in the density or quality of data at a district or regional scale.



Regional geophysical or remote sensing programs

- Bringing together multiple tenement holders to acquire regional surveys, saving on mobilisation costs and driving collaboration.



✓ What *PACE* Minerals Funds



Data-driven geoscience and spatial analytics

- Improving data science and analytical approaches for resolving new targets in mineral exploration; e.g. artificial intelligence integrating spatial and geological information.



Groundwater - incidental

- Sampling and testing of groundwater directly encountered during mineral exploration – groundwater identification and testing to EPA prescribed guidelines.



Research collaboration

- Research collaboration and technology development projects that support exploration drilling and geophysical and geochemical programs that will benefit mineral exploration and accelerate discovery.



Round 1

Important Dates for 2026



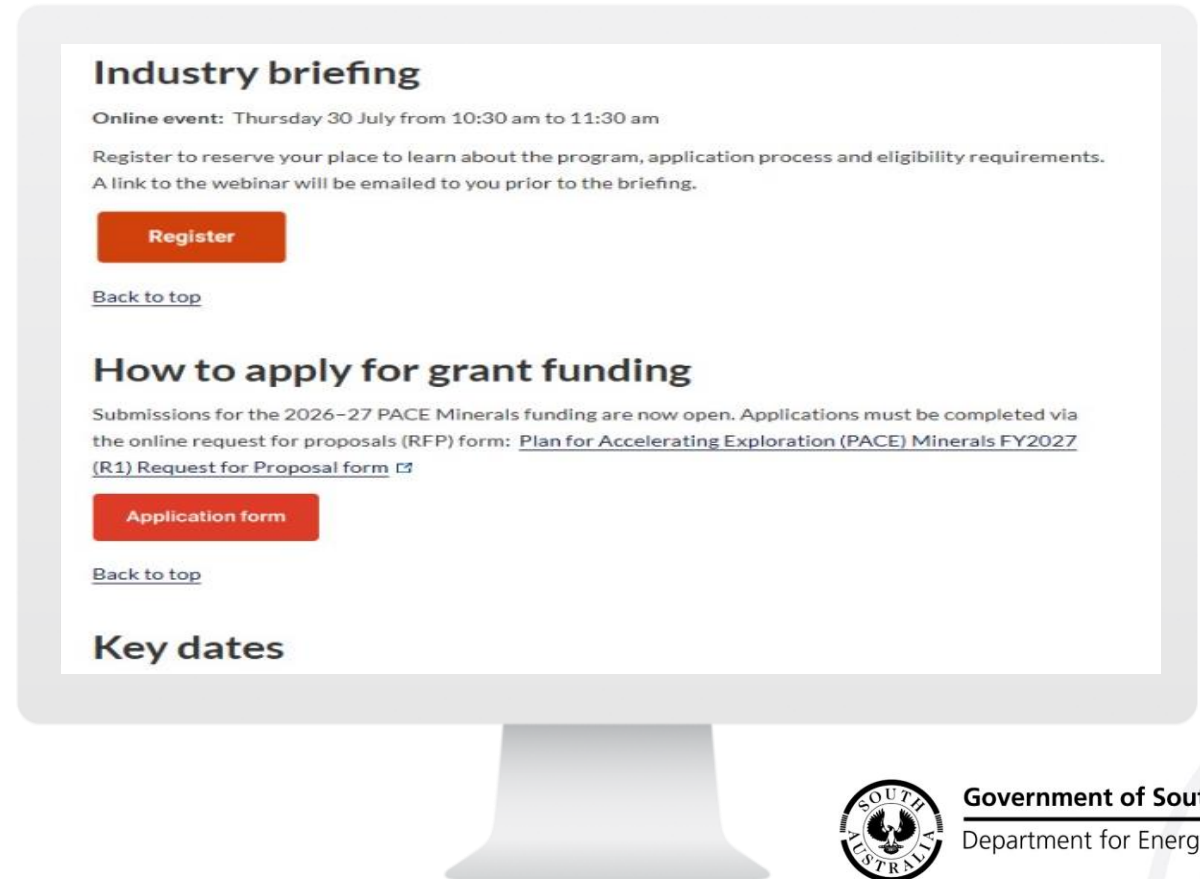
Proposal Submission Process



- Visit the [PACE Minerals](https://energymining.sa.gov.au/pace) webpage

energymining.sa.gov.au/pace

- Use the online form to submit your proposal

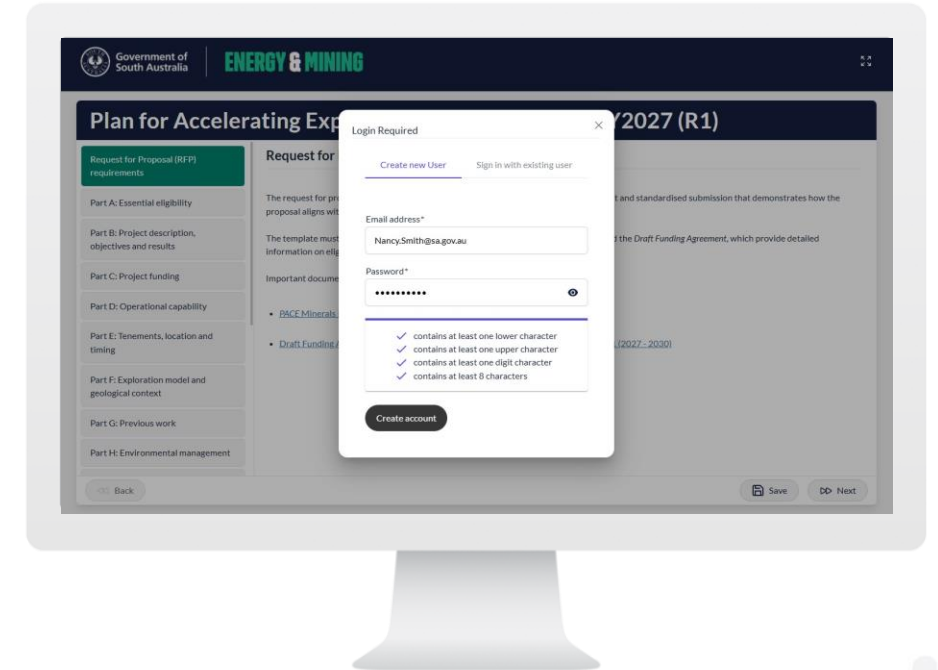


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Essential Tips for Your Application



- On the opening page, each Applicant is requested to set up a sign-in.
- A sign-in allows you to save your application progress and return to complete it if required.
- You will need to fill in each section and at any time you can save what you have entered.
- There will be a checklist at the end of the steps identifying sections that have not been completed.
- Any entry boxes with the mandatory asterisk requires an answer to progress to the next page.
- Ensure you keep to the word count for relevant questions.



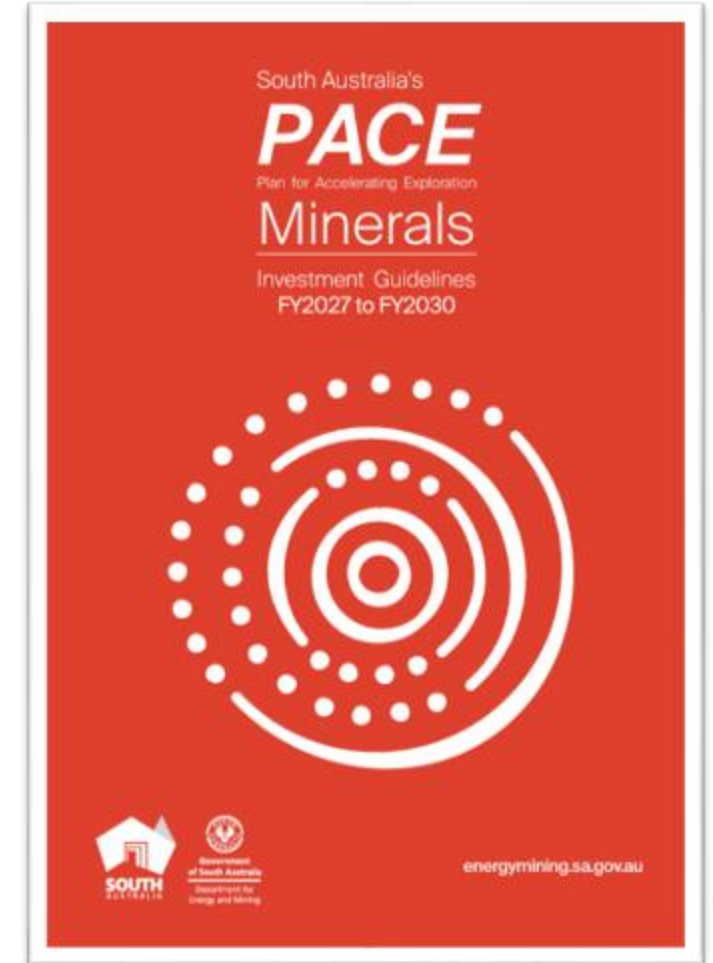
Part A: Essential Eligibility Criteria



Failure to meet these essential requirements will result in the proposal **not progressing** to merit assessment.

Mandatory:

- ☑ Valid legal entity with ABN and GST registration.
- ☑ Demonstrated financial viability.
- ☑ Exploration Licence (EL) holder or authorised operator.
- ☑ Willingness to share project findings and data.
- ☑ Proposal relates to eligible exploration activities.
- ☑ Proposal has not commenced before grant approval.
- ☑ Compliance history disclosed.
- ☑ Enter into a Funding agreement on obligations for the funded activity



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Funding and Co-Contribution Requirements



Applicants should be aware of the funding model:

- *PACE* could fund up to 50% of eligible direct costs
- funding caps vary by activity type
- maximum funding per proposal is \$350,000
- payment is largely linked to delivery and reporting outcome

For exploration drilling, co-funding is available **for up to 50%** of direct costs, to a maximum of **\$350,000**.

For geophysical or geochemical programs, **co-funding up to 50%** of direct costs, to a maximum of **\$150,000**.

For regional geophysical or remote sensing programs, **co-funding up to 50%** of direct costs, to a maximum of **\$300,000**.

Research collaboration proposals not already covered by other activities in the Proposal – **co-funding up to 50%** of direct costs, maximum of **\$200,000**.

Groundwater testing – **co-funding up to 50%** of direct costs, to a maximum of **\$50,000**.

Innovation in the field of data science such as new AI/ML analytics that integrate spatial and geological information e.g. geophysical/geochemical/ structural data to resolve new targets **co-funding up to 50%** of direct costs, to a maximum of **\$50,000**.

For a Proposal with more than one exploration activity, the maximum value of *PACE* Minerals co-funding available is **\$350,000** for that Proposal.



Project Delivery Capability



Applicants should be confident they can deliver the project and provide evidence of:

- qualified and experienced personnel
- technical expertise
- financial capacity
- environmental management capability
- stakeholder engagement experience.

The proposal should convince DEM Assessment panel that the project can be completed successfully within the proposed timeframe.



The Assessment Process



- An expert panel will evaluate proposals against the approved program guideline objectives.
- The Panel will provide recommendations for funding to the Minister for Energy and Mining who will approve proposals for co-funding grants.
- The South Australian government is under no obligation to release any details relating to the assessment of Proposals.
- There will be no right of appeal.



Final Report Submission - Process



- Submission of a *PACE* Final Report
- Your *PACE* reports will be required through DEM's Mining and Exploration Regulation System (MERS).
- Separate Annual Technical Reports (ATR) schedules specifically for *PACE* reports will be setup in MERS based on agreed milestones in the funding agreement.
- *PACE* reports will be visible on company Dashboards in MERS.
- DEM can vary schedules if programs are completed early or variations to the funding agreement are approved.
- Further details will be provided in the FAQs.





The Three Most Important Questions Before Applying



An applicant should be able to answer **'yes'** to all three:

- Will this project significantly improve geological knowledge and address an important knowledge gap?
- Does it have a credible chance of leading to new discoveries or stimulating future exploration investment?
- Will the resulting data, knowledge or technology provide benefits beyond the applicant's own tenements?

If a proposal can strongly demonstrate all three elements, it will align closely with the intent of the *PACE* Minerals program.





Question time

Email: DEM.PACEMinerals@sa.gov.au

Visit the website for
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

This presentation will be uploaded onto
the [PACE Minerals](#) website.



ACCELERATE
DISCOVERY



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END OF INDUSTRY BRIEFING PRESENTATION