



# Strengthening Our Aluminium Industry

From mine to market, growing regional Australia for over 65 years

July 2025

# Our Members



# Mine to Metal Process



Australia is one of the very few countries globally which has **bauxite mining**, **alumina refining**, **aluminium smelting** and **aluminium extrusion** industries.

# Australia's Highest Earning Manufacturing Export

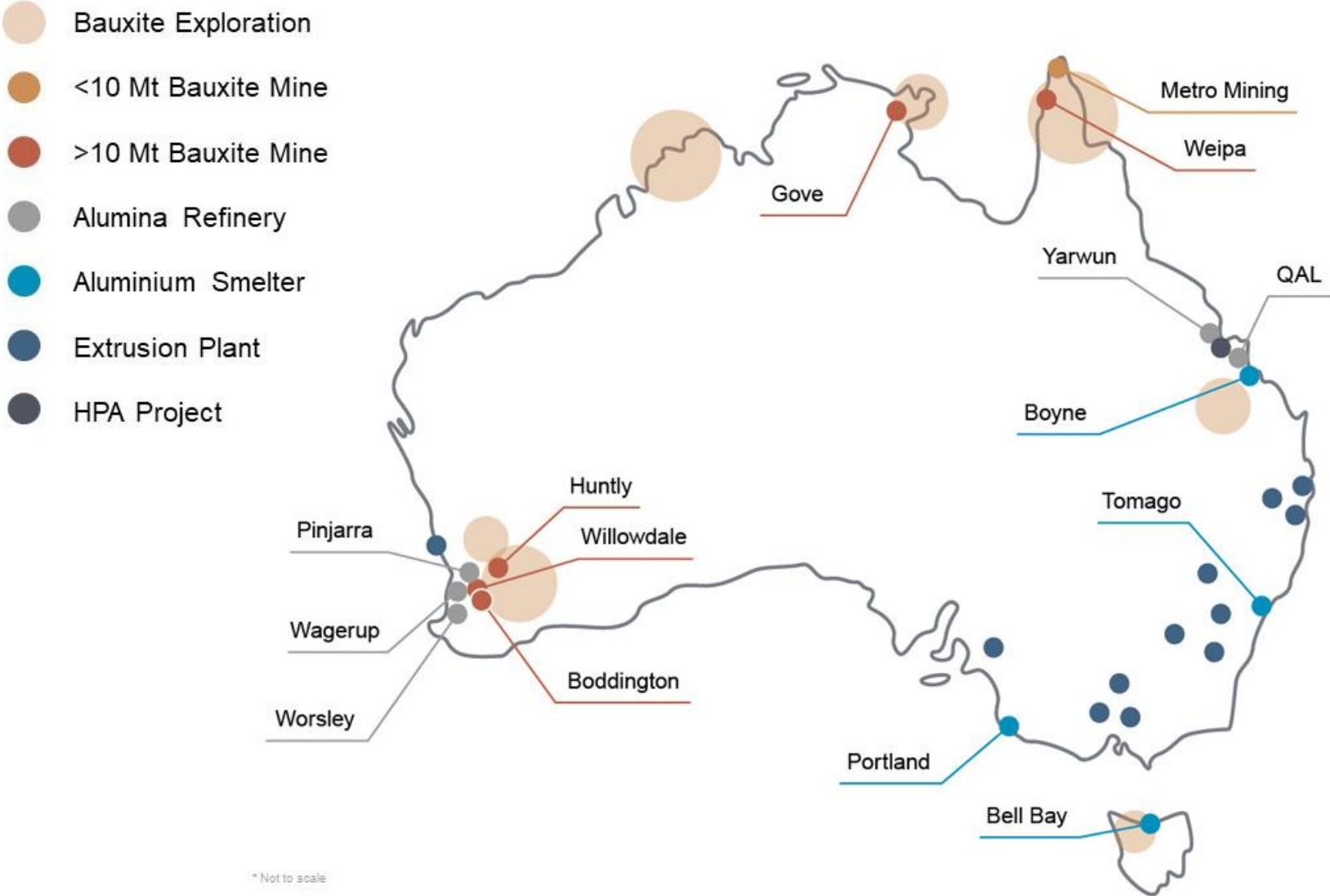
- **Australia** is one of the world's largest producers of bauxite.
- **Australia** is the world's largest exporter of alumina.
- **Alumina and aluminium ores (bauxite)** are Australia's 2nd largest non-energy resources export.



**Bauxite \$2.5B**    **Alumina \$10.4B**    **Aluminium \$7.0B**

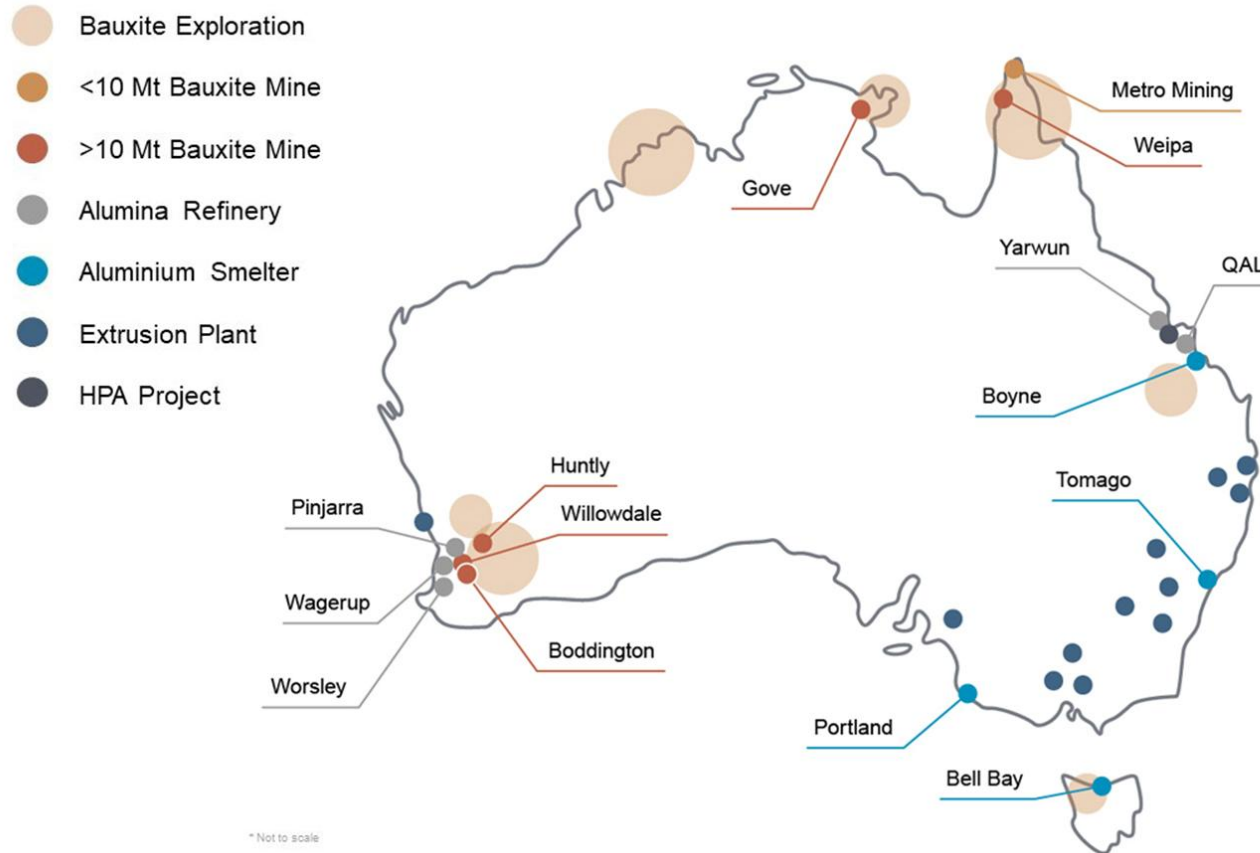
<b>100.2 MT:</b>	<b>17.5 MT:</b>	<b>1.58 MT:</b>
58 MT Domestic consumption	3 MT Domestic consumption	0.08 MT Domestic consumption
43 MT Export	15 MT Export	1.5 MT Export

# Our Presence in Regional Australia



# Our Contribution to Regional Australia

An efficient and effective regulatory process is required to capitalise on Australia's natural advantages from mine to market



**>20,000** direct FTE



**>75,000 total FTE\***



**Wages 160%**  
manufacturing average



**>\$15b** export revenue



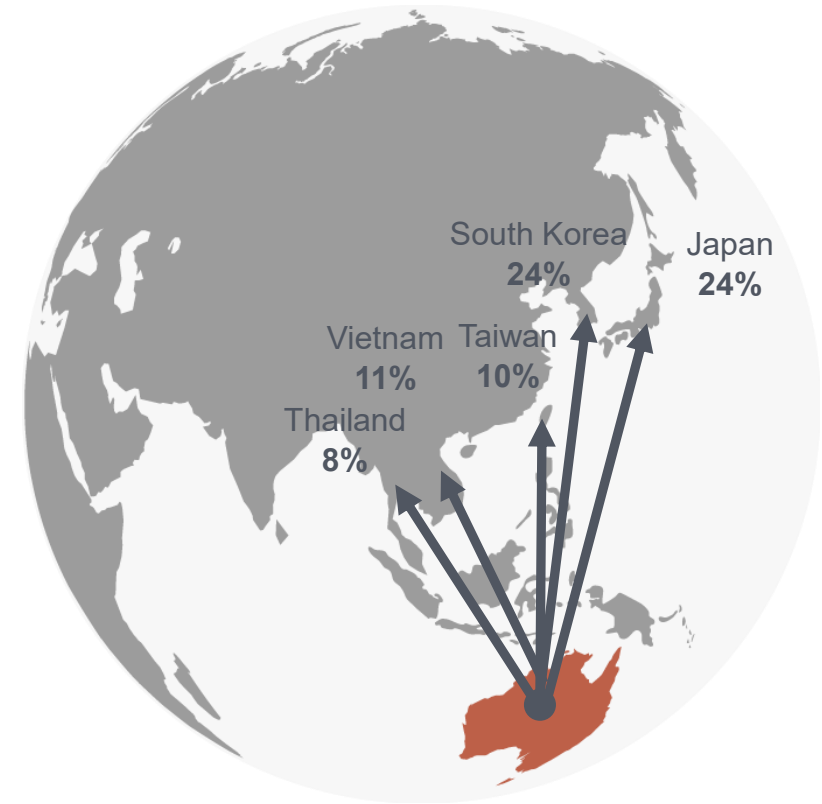
**\$18b\*** in value add



**Vertically integrated**

# Meeting a Global Demand for a Clean Energy Future

- Current global demand for aluminium is approximately 100 million tonnes per year.
  - This is met through  $\frac{2}{3}$  primary aluminium and  $\frac{1}{3}$  from recycled aluminium.
- International Aluminium Institute forecasts this will **increase to 190 Mt by 2050 under a 1.5-degree, high substitution, global scenario**
  - 55:45 primary: recycled aluminium.
  - This will require ~500 Mt bauxite / 200 Mt alumina to meet the primary need
- Aluminium is **critical** for **renewable energy generation and storage** and **lightweighting**.



# Future Focused to Capture Global Opportunity



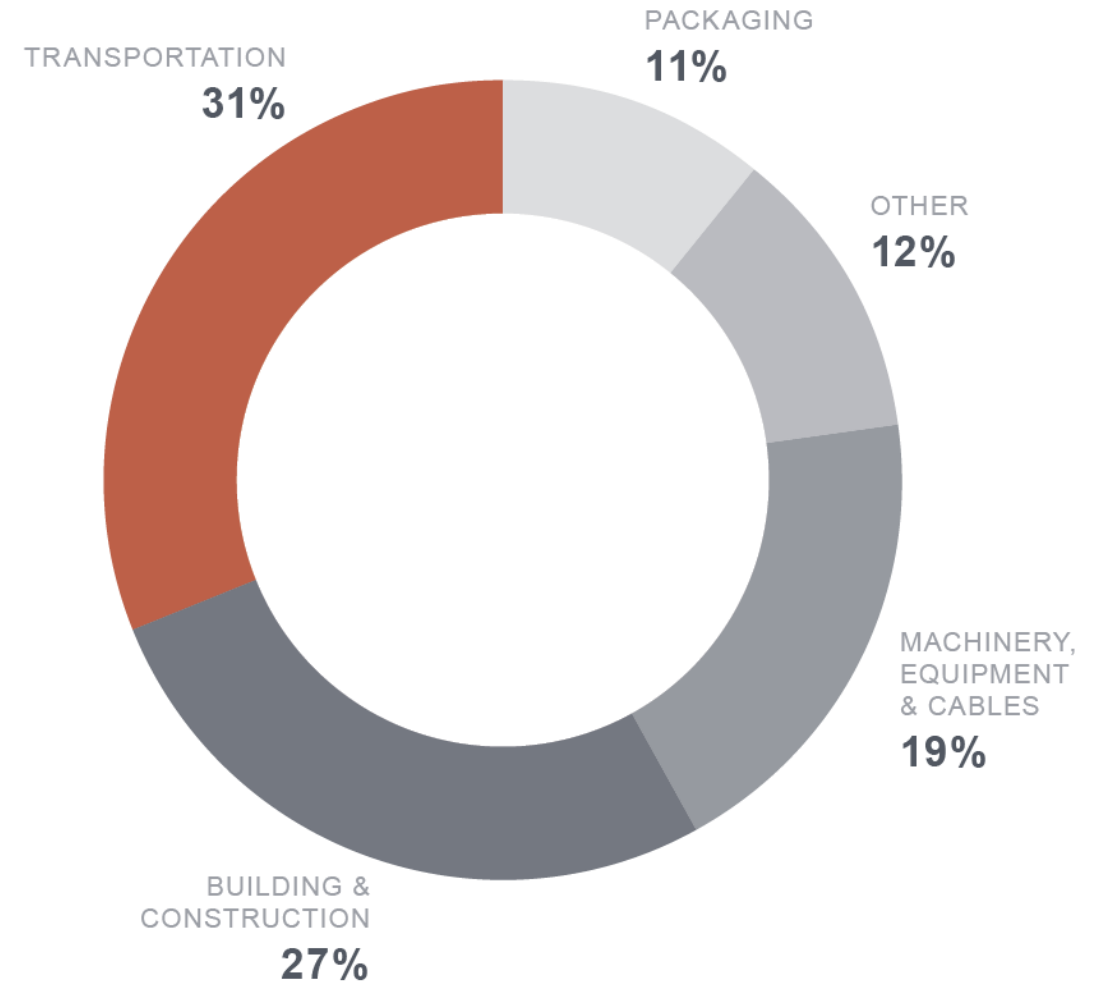
Australia can cater for increasing demand for primary aluminium across Transport, Building & Construction, and Machinery, Equipment & Cables.



Consumer packaging is the smallest use. While consumers cannot see it, there is more aluminium in machinery and cabling than there is in soft drink cans.



Aluminium use in cars will increase to about 250kg per car by 2025. Every 100kg used in a car\* can save ~2 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e over the life of a vehicle.



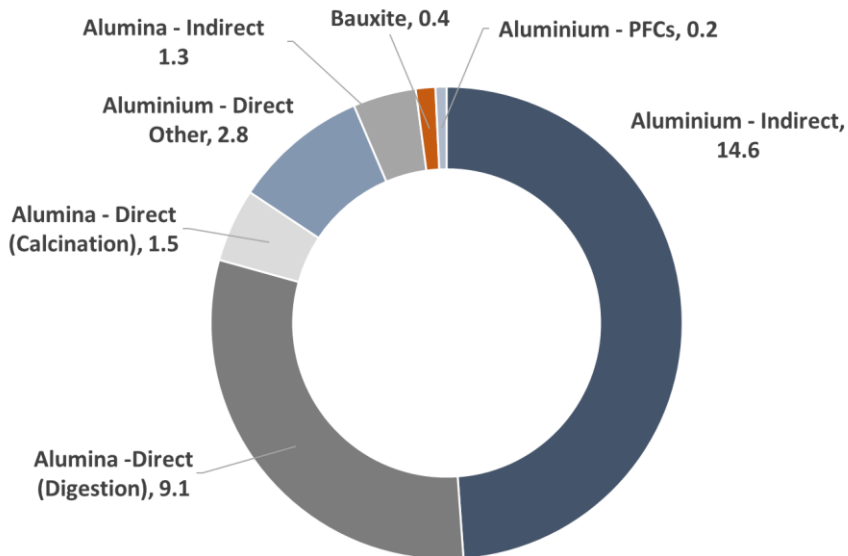
\*Average family petrol car. Higher for commercial / high use vehicles  
Source: International Aluminium Institute (<https://www.world-aluminium.org/>)



# Decarbonisation of electricity supply presents the biggest opportunity

- Total emissions ~30.0 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, which is ~6.9 % of national emissions

59%



- Aluminium smelting accounts for almost 59% of these emissions.
- The biggest contributor to these emissions is **emissions from electricity** used in aluminium smelting which accounts for around 45% of total emissions at 14.6 Mt.
- While the aluminium industry continues to invest in emission reduction technologies, the greatest decarbonisation impact rests in decarbonising the Australian grid.
- Low cost, low carbon electricity will support electrification of **alumina refineries**.

# Partnering for Technology Solutions

Australia is leading the development of brownfield alumina decarbonisation technologies



Australian Government  
Australian Renewable  
Energy Agency

**ARENA**



## Hydrogen Calcination

In 2021, Rio Tinto commenced a technical feasibility study investigating the use of renewable hydrogen as part of the strategy to decarbonise alumina refining at Rio Tinto's Yarwun alumina refinery in Gladstone. This was partially funded by ARENA.

In 2023, Rio Tinto and Sumitomo Corporation signed an agreement to build a first-of-a-kind hydrogen plant in Gladstone as part of a A\$111.1 million program aimed at lowering carbon emissions from the alumina refining process. The Yarwun Hydrogen Calcination Pilot Demonstration Program is partially funded by Australian Government through ARENA and CQ Hydrogen Hub and is aimed at demonstrating the viability of using hydrogen in the calcination process. Construction started in 2024. The hydrogen plant and calciner are expected to be in operation by 2025.



## Electric Calcination

Electric pressure calcination can produce pure, uncontaminated steam exhaust, which can be captured and reused, reducing demand for steam from natural gas boilers. Electric calcination could potentially reduce Australian alumina refining emissions by 40% when powered by 100% renewable electricity.

Alcoa is undertaking a \$19.7 m project in conjunction with ARENA (\$8.6m) and the WA Govt (\$1.7 M) to test this process.

The project also aims to improve understanding of load flexibility and the provision essential systems services to the SWIS.

# Transition Opportunities

**We want a future where Australia's world-class energy resources are translated into internationally competitive, low emission, reliable energy.**

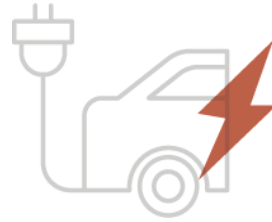
- A decarbonising grid reduces emissions but strains the system.
- The rapid pace of transition in the NEM is challenging but highlights the important role of smelters.
- Smelters' stable demand supports supply investment and provides a co-dependency with generators.
- Smelters' interruptibility provides a shock absorber to the system.
- Low cost, low carbon electricity will support electrification of alumina refineries.
- 22 million Australians who use the NEM rely on our smelters to back up unreliable electricity supply, particularly on extreme weather days when network demands are pushed beyond capability.



# What Does The Next Decade Look Like?



- While traditional industrial uses of aluminium will dominate demand, new investment in energy and space technology will progress over the coming decade.
- New aluminium products including high purity alumina, aluminium alloys and aluminium salts are continuing to be developed to meet emerging technology needs.



- Aluminium is a critical metal in deployment of increased renewable energy generation and energy storage.
- With the need to reduce weight to increase journey length between chargers, aluminium will be a major component of future EV transport solutions. The growth potential in electric vehicles globally cannot be overstated.



- Government and industry have an opportunity to work together across domestic issues to capitalise.
- Strengthening our national manufacturing capabilities now will put Australia in the strongest possible position to meet growth forecasts.
- Bauxite, alumina and aluminium should all be included in Australia's critical minerals strategy.

# Summary

## INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

- Aluminium is one of the few commodities which you can buy in Australia which was mined, refined, smelted, extruded and distributed here.
- Australia is also one of the few countries where all these steps take place. Efficient deployment of technological changes will support the transition of existing sectors and enable a greater manufacturing sector in the future.

## FUTURE FOCUSED

- Aluminium is required in the global transition to a clean energy future.
- Meeting the continued and increased global demand for primary aluminium will require Australian bauxite, Australian alumina and Australian aluminium.
- Australia is leading the development of global alumina technologies, delivering low carbon alumina to the world.

## SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S ENERGY CHALLENGES

- The rapid pace of transition in the NEM is challenging but highlights the important role of smelters.
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