

EGRU Engagement Day

An afternoon of presentations from EGRU researchers and project partners. The presentations will feature education initiatives, and new research, concepts and technologies to advance critical mineral exploration and extraction.

PROGRAM

Friday 6 March 2026

Engineering Innovation Place
Room 117, Building 506
James Cook University

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 - 13:40 **Welcome & EGRU update**
Associate Professor Ioan Sanislav - Head, Economic Geology Research Centre

13:40 - 14:05 **Developing the Pipeline: QMEA's role in educating the future critical minerals workforce in Townsville and North Queensland**
Catie Streng - STEM Engagement Educator, Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy

14:05 - 14:15 **Optimising vanadium extraction and processing**
Dr Helen McCoy-West - Senior Lecturer, JCU

14:15 - 14:30 **Fingerprinting Australia's REE resources and processing pathways**
Dr Anne Kaufmann - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, JCU

14:30 - 14:45 **Sustainable REE extraction from Australian ores**
Dr Rosilene Welter - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, JCU

14:45 - 15:05 BREAK

15:05 - 15:20 **Applying trace element and isotope geochemistry to identify critical minerals**
Dr Utpalendu Halder - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, JCU

15:20 - 15:35 **Tracing magmatic and hydrothermal processes of strategic metal enrichment**
Dr Alica Hoess - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, JCU

15:35 - 15:50 **From the deep Earth and machine learning in seismology to geophysical tools for exploration**
Dr Stuart Russell - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, JCU

15:50 - 16:05 **A tectonic and geodynamic framework for the Proterozoic**
Dr Youssef Ibrahim - Lecturer, JCU

16:05 - 17:00 DRINKS & SNACKS
Rooftop Bar, Building 502