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MEDIA RELEASE

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Cobalt Blue and Ecocycle Sign MOU to Advance Black Mass to Critical Minerals Processing

Cobalt Blue and Ecobatt (a subsidiary of Ecocycle) have announced a strategic partnership to advance Australia's battery recycling industry and further develop the country's critical minerals supply chain for domestic use or export.

Ecocycle is a leading Australian battery recycler, operating a nationwide collection network and state-of-the-art processing facility in Victoria. The facility, modelled on global best practices, recovers valuable materials from recycled batteries, which can be repurposed in new battery production or other applications.

Cobalt Blue is a technology-driven mining and mineral processing company focused on sustainable solutions. The company operates a demonstration-scale refinery and Technology Development Centre in Broken Hill (NSW), where it has developed a proprietary metallurgical flowsheet to extract critical minerals from various feedstocks, including black mass. Cobalt Blue is advancing the development of the [Kwinana Cobalt Refinery](#) in Western Australia, which will be Australia's first critical minerals refinery dedicated to producing materials for the global lithium-ion battery supply chain. The company is also exploring global opportunities for reprocessing mine waste through its [ReMine+](#) initiative.

Ecocycle has recently provided samples of black mass from recycled batteries to the Broken Hill Technology Development Centre, where cobalt, nickel, and manganese—critical components of lithium-ion batteries—were successfully recovered. Through this MOU, Cobalt Blue and Ecocycle have agreed to collaborate further, exploring opportunities to scale-up black mass processing and recover valuable critical minerals for growing domestic and international markets.

Cobalt Blue and Ecocycle are both partners in the [Minerals to Megawatts Cooperative Research Centre \(CRC\)](#), a ten-year (2025-2035) nationwide coordinated initiative that aims to enhance Australia's renewable technology competitiveness and sovereign capability through the development of high-value technologies, such as lithium-ion batteries. Through this collaboration, Cobalt Blue intends to provide high-purity cobalt, nickel and manganese products to participants in the CRC. Projects under development include a collaborative cathode precursor facility planned for Brisbane (Queensland).

According to the Battery Stewardship Council, up to 400 million batteries may be in use in Australia, but less than 5% are recycled (not including Lead Acid Batteries). Many of the used lithium-ion batteries find their way from kerbside bins to landfills. The risk of fire and damage from improperly stored batteries is a widespread issue, affecting recycling facilities, households, and companies across Australia.

Joe Kaderavek, CEO of Cobalt Blue stated:

"This MOU with Ecocycle represents a significant step forward for Australia's battery recycling ecosystem. Our advanced processing capabilities, combined with the supply of black mass from Ecocycle, will enable us to explore and evaluate opportunities around processing domestic black mass into critical minerals to re-enter the battery supply chain. This will address environmental concerns, capitalise on growing demand for critical minerals, reduce reliance on foreign supply chains, create new jobs, and strengthen Australia's position overall as a leader in clean energy technologies".

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Additional Information:

17 December 2024: [Kwinana Refinery Update + Black Mass Agreement](#)

9 December 2024: [Cobalt Blue and Mount Isa City Council Sign MOU to Develop Sulphuric Acid Supply Solution](#)

9 October 2024: [Kwinana Cobalt Refinery Update](#)

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