Driving Innovation: R&D Funding and CRC Partnership Strengthen Jupiter's Development Pathway

Critica Limited (ASX: CRI) (**Critica** or the **Company**) is pleased to advise it has submitted a claim for a $1million cash refund under the Australian Government's Research and Development (**R&D**) Tax Incentive Program for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

In parallel, Critica has applied to become a **Tier 1 partner** of the **Critical Metals for Critical Industries Cooperative Research Centre (CMCI CRC)**. This collaboration supports Critica's **hydrometallurgical pilot and process-development programs** for the **Jupiter Rare Earth Project** in Western Australia—one of Australia's largest clay-hosted rare earth resources. Further details of the CRC program will be announced upon conclusion of the grant application process.

Participation in the CRC is part of Critica's broader strategy to leverage government-supported R&D frameworks that accelerate downstream technology development and strengthen Australia's rare-earth value chain.

CEO, Jacob Deysel, commented:

"The R&D refund further enhances our cash position as we continue to advance the Jupiter Project through structured, results-driven testwork and pilot programs.

Joining the CMCI CRC reflects our commitment to building Australia's next rare earth business—one that is technically credible, commercially focused and aligned with the nation's critical-minerals future.

Through the CRC we expect to refine and pilot hydrometallurgical process routes to produce Mixed Rare Earth Product (MREP) from beneficiated Jupiter ore, supporting a sustainable, high-value Australian rare earth supply chain.".

About CMCI CRC

The CRC is a collaboration between government, industry and academia to accelerate the delivery of industry and government objectives by providing viable and profitable refining initiatives for Australian-produced critical metals and global IP development; and accelerating the establishment of Australia's sovereign refining industry base. For further details in relation to the CMCI CRC refer to the website at https://www.cmcicrc.com/

Authorised by the Board of Critica Limited.

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ABOUT CRITICA

Critica Limited (ASX: CRI) is advancing the Jupiter Project in Western Australia - recognised as Australia's largest clay-hosted rare earths resource and the nation's largest magnet-REE resource base. Jupiter is magnet-REE dominant (Nd, Pr, Dy, Tb), the value drivers for EV, renewable and defence supply chains. Breakthrough beneficiation testwork has demonstrated ~95% mass rejection with an ~8× grade uplift into a magnet-REE-rich concentrate, underscoring the potential for a simple, capital-efficient flowsheet. With exceptionally low U/Th content, Jupiter presents a distinctive development profile.

Critica is pivoting from explorer to developer with a clear mine-to-magnet roadmap: scale beneficiation and leach to pilot, finalise MREP specifications, progress development studies and approvals, and advance product qualification and offtake with Western-aligned partners.