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"How do we do what the Chinese did, set up an industry downstream to make sure we capture as much value as possible?"

Australia's tech metal players have called for more value-adding for their materials which are used in new products from batteries to solar cells.

Staff reporter | 20 Apr 2017 | 6:49 | News



Export is usually the end of the line for Australia's materials

Company bosses from Australian Vanadium (AU:AVL), Arafura Resources (AU:ARU) and Northern Minerals (AU:NTU) told ABC Radio there should be a greater focus on downstream processing within Australia.

Arafura managing director Gavin Lockyer said Australia was the perfect place for downstream processing with its established regulatory environment.

Arafura has a rare earths resource in the Northern Territory and is currently piloting phosphate extraction.

But Northern Minerals' George Bauk said governments needed the

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political will to maximise value.

"How do we do what the Chinese did, set up an industry downstream to make sure we capture as much value as possible?" he said.

Northern Minerals this week approved an A\$56 million (US\$42 million) three-year pilot plant project for its Browns Range deposit as it aims to become a globally significant dysprosium producer outside of China.



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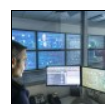
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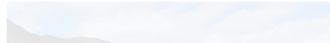


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