

# Accelerate

2025 ————— MAGAZINE



**German-  
Australian  
impact**  
through trade, industry  
and collaboration

[www.germany.org](http://www.germany.org)





**H.E. Beate Grzeski**  
Ambassador of the Federal  
Republic of Germany to Australia

Dear reader,

I warmly invite you to explore the German-Australian Chamber for Industry and Commerce's Accelerate Magazine, which highlights the growing economic partnership between Germany and Australia — from critical minerals and clean energy to innovation and advanced manufacturing. The stories in this magazine reflect our shared commitment to resilient, sustainable, and future-oriented industries.

The Embassy sees itself as an important pillar of German foreign trade promotion – in proven cooperation with the AHK Australien and Germany Trade and Invest. As a point of contact for companies in Germany and Australia, for associations

and for government agencies on many issues relating to German-Australian economic relations, we promote bilateral economic relations.

We encourage you to reach out and work with us in strengthening the bridge between our two economies.



**Dr Jens Goennemann**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Dear reader,

Australia is a compelling success story of many cultures coming together to form a thriving nation—Germany being just one of them. From AHK Australien's vantage point, it is particularly gratifying to witness German businesses flourishing Down Under.

In my role at the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC), my team and I naturally take a keen interest in the nation's manufacturing landscape. It's encouraging to see so many German manufacturers making significant contributions already to Australia's economy through innovation, investment, and collaboration.

Germany's industrial strength has been forged over nearly two centuries, and manufacturing remains central to its global competitiveness today. While Germany was once rich in natural resources—and still holds some reserves—it eventually became more economical for example to import coal from Australia than to mine its own deep-seated seams.

As mining jobs declined in Germany a few decades ago, manufacturing as the ability to make things emerged as a crucial pillar supporting ongoing prosperity and growth.

Australia and Germany share many overlapping interests. One particularly promising opportunity lies in creating value onshore, rather than simply extracting and exporting raw materials. By combining Australia's ingenuity and renewable energy potential with Germany's industrial expertise, we can unlock mutual benefits through targeted investment and capability-building—right here in Australia.

With your involvement, we look forward to continuing to champion these and other conversations and deepening the collaboration between our two nations.



**Tea Dietterich**  
Chairwoman of the  
Advisory Committee

Dear reader,

There is a unique strength in the collaboration between Germany and Australia. When German precision, industrial expertise, and long-term vision meet Australian creativity, adaptability, and openness, the result is a partnership that delivers tangible value and lasting impact. Together, our two nations continue to demonstrate how cooperation across borders drives innovation, prosperity, and sustainability.

As Chair of the Advisory Committee of AHK Australien, I have the privilege of working with senior business leaders who provide strategic guidance to the Chamber's Board. Our focus spans government advocacy, sustainability and green technology, international supply chains, national security, the geopolitical landscape, and opportunities leading up to Brisbane 2032. The Advisory Committee helps shape dialogue, set direction, and strengthen the partnership between German and Australian businesses.

A continued priority is to attract more Australian companies to join the AHK network and benefit from its unique

bilateral platform. Equally important is our commitment to expanding the Chamber's regional presence across key states. Through active advocacy at federal and state levels, the Advisory Committee engages with ministries and stakeholders to advance our members' interests and deepen industry-government collaboration.

As founder and CEO of 2M Language Services, a multinational Language AI firm, I see every day how bridging cultures, languages, and technologies enables global success and compliance. The Chamber's role in fostering these connections has been invaluable for companies like ours and for the broader bilateral business landscape.

Europe also remains a vital partner for Australia. As negotiations progress toward a European-Australian Free Trade Agreement, new opportunities will emerge to deepen economic cooperation, support sustainability goals, and strengthen our shared values in innovation and trade.

It is a privilege to contribute to this thriving partnership and to witness the continued value that Germany and Europe bring to Australia's growth story.



**Marko Walde**  
Executive Director

Dear reader,

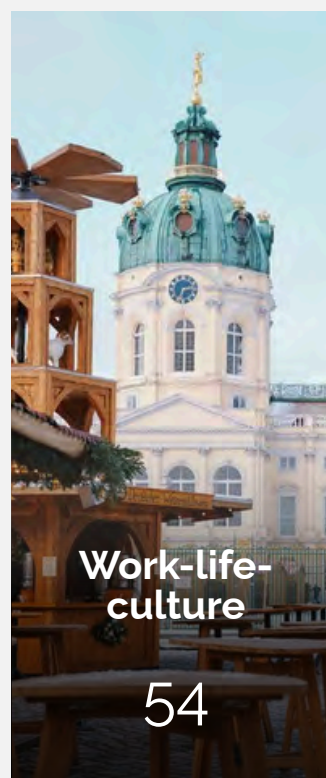
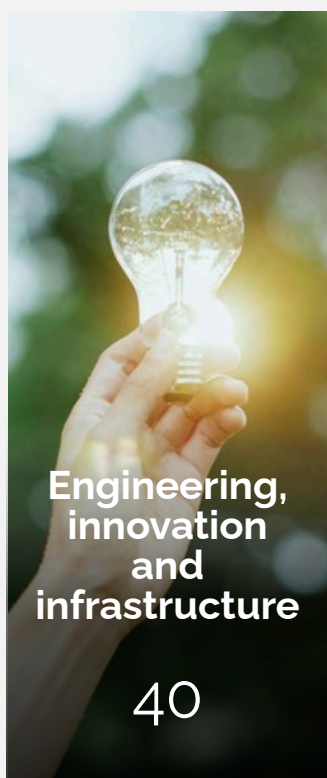
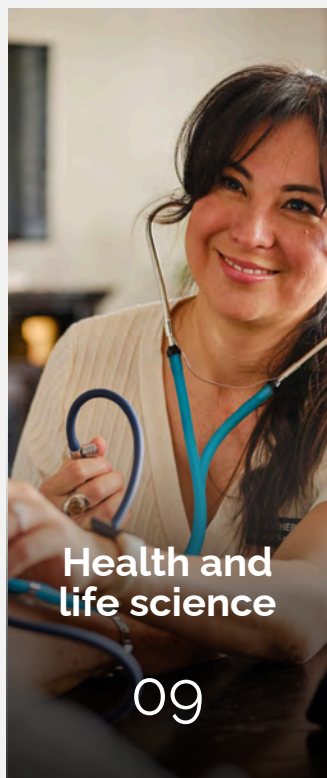
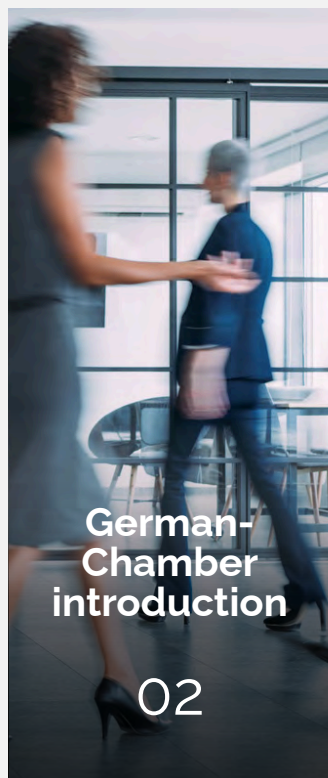
With the German-Australian Chamber (AHK Australien) operating in Australia for nearly 50 years, we have seen bilateral business relations continue to grow from strength to strength. We look forward to celebrating our half-century existence in Australia in 2027 and already extend our invitation for you to join the festivities then.

Australia and Germany are built on similar values, which sets the perfect foundation for collaborating as like-minded partners. We're talking about tackling the energy transition together, further expansion in the critical minerals sector, learning from each other's health and life sciences sectors, and enhancing projects for Brisbane 2032 through international expertise.

As you read on, you will find that collaborations already are happening across multiple sectors – enhancing Australia's economy and strengthening the ties across both countries. We, as the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, continue to build bilateral business relations, beneficial to both countries.

I look forward to strengthening bonds and building bridges across industry and government here in Australia.

# In this edition







## Corporate services success story: Bringing German business to Australia

In a world marked by shifting alliances, supply chain vulnerabilities, and rising strategic competition, the partnership between Australia and Germany has become increasingly significant. Germany, as the largest economy in Europe and a leading voice in the European Union, offers Australia a critical gateway into the EU single market. At the same time, Australia provides Germany with a reliable, like-minded partner in the Indo-Pacific, a region central to future global stability and economic growth.

Bilateral trade is beneficial for both sides:

**For Australia:** Germany offers access to the EU market, advanced technologies, and investment flows critical for industrial diversification and clean-energy leadership.

**For Germany:** Australia delivers reliable resources, a trustworthy partner in the Indo-Pacific, and collaboration on energy security, climate, and defence.

Together, the relationship enhances economic resilience, energy security, and geopolitical stability, making it strategically significant in a time of global uncertainty.

Germany and Australia are important trade partners. Germany is Australia's 10th largest importer outside Europe—with two-way goods and services trade valued at approximately EUR 15.4 billion in 2024. Especially industrial capabilities in advanced manufacturing, automotive, renewable energy (notably green hydrogen), medical technology, and agri-food thrive on this strong connection and collaboration.

### Assisting German businesses on shore

As the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, it is our mission to support German companies in Australia from their first initial thought of expansion to putting down roots Down Under. Entering a new market abroad is both an exciting opportunity and a complex challenge. Distance, unfamiliar regulations, and especially cultural differences and diverse business mentalities can easily turn initial enthusiasm into uncertainty. Companies often underestimate how much local nuances, communication styles, and business etiquette influence negotiations, partnerships, and customer trust. That is why having reliable guidance is essential. The right local partner, like the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, acts not only as a bridge to the market but also as a trusted advisor who understands both worlds, Germany and Australia. By carefully selecting a trustworthy partner who aligns with your goals, companies can move forward step by step, addressing each requirement methodically—whether legal, operational, or cultural. This structured approach reduces risks, saves valuable resources, and creates a sustainable foundation for long-term success. Ultimately, entering a foreign market becomes less about leaping into the unknown and more about progressing with confidence, one milestone at a time.

## Reliability every step of the way

### Webinars and events explain Australian business world:

For many companies, the path to Australia begins with a simple question about the market, local regulations, or tax-related issues. Often, this first inquiry leads to a complimentary online consultation or participation in one of our regular German-language Webinars on Market Entry, featuring expert speakers. Businesses familiar with other AHKs worldwide already know the value of these first steps: a trusted connection to the German economy abroad and reliable guidance when exploring new markets. Like Advancis Software & Services GmbH, a medium-sized German software company in the field of security technology, which discovered Australia as an exciting market.

“Over the past year, the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce has supported us with in-depth information on local legal frameworks, valuable recommendations for establishing a presence in the region, as well as concrete contacts, for example with law firms. Especially in this early phase, it is extremely helpful to have a competent partner at your side who provides guidance, facilitates market entry, and points out potential pitfalls. Many thanks for your support!

**(Advancis Software & Services GmbH)**

### Business delegations to test the waters:

A particularly active and cost-effective way to explore the market is through business delegations with industry focus organised by the AHK, often combined with visits to major industry-focused trade fairs in Australia. These well-organised, guided programs provide the first valuable connections to Australian businesses, associations, and government representatives, helping companies assess the relevance of the Australian market and its potential for long-term success. Many of our incoming delegations from Germany are supported through the Market Entry Programme or the German Energy Solutions Initiative, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The Programme and Initiative supports German small to medium-sized enterprises (SME) to explore foreign markets and build their first connections in countries abroad.

“The delegation trip to Australia with the German-Australian Chamber of Industry & Commerce was an incredibly rewarding experience. The organisation by the team was outstanding – from the insightful site visits and inspiring conversations to the well-curated business meetings. I had the chance to meet great new partners and gain valuable insights into the huge potential of the Australian construction and restoration sector. What impressed me most was the open, pragmatic and innovative mindset with which Australian companies approach sustainable building concepts. I'm really looking forward to being back in Australia in November to continue the conversations, strengthen partnerships and take the next steps towards collaboration."

**(SB5ÜNF GmbH)**

### Market studies to deepen understanding:

When entering a new market, there are countless questions that need to be answered to make the right strategic decisions and ensure long-term success. Market studies can be key to successful planning for foreign market entry, helping to avoid strategic missteps. They assist in reducing risks and maximising market opportunities. A market study provides a comprehensive, strategic overview of a market.

“The market study conducted by AHK was extremely insightful and will significantly influence Fischer's market expansion strategy. The AHK team provided valuable insights into customer expectations and the current performance of Fischer products. Particularly noteworthy is their network, which opens doors to new opportunities and partnerships.

**(fischerwerke GmbH & Co. KG)**

### Business partner matching to tap into the market:

Some companies pursue a global strategy of working with experienced local partners who are well-connected within their industry. These partners often provide far more than distribution—they can also deliver maintenance, customer service, and direct on-the-ground support. To meet this need, the AHK offers its Business Partner Matching service, helping German companies find reliable partners who represent them professionally and in line with local business culture. Using the AHK's neutral position, expertise, and strong network, this approach is both efficient and effective.

### Business incorporation – a commitment to Australia:

Incorporating a business demonstrates a company's clear commitment to the Australian market. While the legal and administrative steps of establishing an entity can be guided efficiently, the day-to-day management in Australia often differs from the structured frameworks familiar in Germany. Many companies begin lean, with minimal staff, allowing space to grow sustainably over time. The Business Presence Service offered by the AHK supports subsidiaries in this crucial early phase, providing flexible assistance exactly where and when it is needed, enabling companies to focus on building their market presence at a measured pace. Impreg Australia, a leading manufacturer for UV-CIPP Liner Solutions is one of many companies that recognized the importance of being available within their clients' time zone. For many years, they have relied on the AHK's services – from customer satisfaction surveys to the organization of events and trade fairs – ensuring they remain close to their clients and the market.

“The business partner service provided by the German Chamber of Commerce provided the introduction and business connection between Elried Markierungssysteme GmbH and Matthews Australasia. The opportunities this introduction has provided have led to a successful partnership being developed by our two organisations that is already demonstrating new Elried innovations in coding technologies to Matthews Australasia customers. I am very confident this will lead to a successful long term partnership in Australasia.

(Matthews Australasia)

“The ongoing support since 2021 we've received in our daily business operations, business development, and marketing has been invaluable. The AHK Team has consistently aligned with our goals, provided proactive solutions, and contributed meaningfully to the growth and success of our company. Their dedication and professionalism make them a trusted partner in our continued journey.

(Impreg Australia)



Active bilateral collaboration between Germany and Australia will only grow in its importance. With an ever-growing population in Australia and Brisbane 2032 putting the country in a global spotlight, Australia is no longer an afterthought for many businesses worldwide. The associations of high-quality, innovation and reliability that people have with Germany set a strong foundation for trusted brands in the markets. As we observe, many German companies thrive in a very competitive but also very rewarding Aussie market: Aldi, DHL, Allianz, Adidas, Würth, Bosch, Mercedes and many more.



# Connected futures

## The role of membership and networks in German-Australian collaboration

The relationship between Germany and Australia is one of enduring strength and mutual benefit. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1952, the two nations have cultivated a dynamic partnership that spans trade, investment, and shared innovation. Over the decades, this connection has grown steadily, with trade volumes and corporate engagement increasing year after year.

Today, Australia is home to approximately 600 German subsidiaries. These companies operate across a wide spectrum of industries, including automotive, advanced manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, mining technologies, and digital services. Their presence is a testament to the trust and opportunity that Australia offers, and to the commitment of German businesses to contribute meaningfully to the local economy.

### A robust economic exchange

The economic relationship between Germany and Australia is substantial. Two-way trade now exceeds 28 billion Australian dollars, with imports from Germany accounting for 23 billion. The strongest sectors include vehicles and parts, machinery and equipment, transport services, pharmaceuticals, and medical technology. New South Wales and Victoria lead in import volumes, while Queensland and Western Australia are showing strong growth, driven by infrastructure development and demand in the resource sector.

This exchange is not limited to goods and services. German companies are investing in local operations, creating jobs, and bringing world-class expertise to Australian industries. Their contributions are helping to modernise infrastructure, improve healthcare, and advance sustainable technologies.

### The influence of the Mittelstand

A unique and powerful aspect of Germany's business presence in Australia is the strong representation of the Mittelstand. These small and medium-sized enterprises are known for their deep specialization, long-term strategic thinking, and commitment to quality. Many of them have chosen to establish subsidiaries in Australia, bringing their global experience and technical excellence to a new market.

These companies are not just exporting products. They are offering solutions tailored to Australian needs, whether in automation, clean energy, or precision engineering. Their presence enriches the local business landscape and fosters innovation across sectors.

### Networks that enable success

Operating successfully in a geographically distant and culturally distinct market requires more than just market entry. It demands connection, collaboration, and a deep understanding of local dynamics. This is where the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, plays a vital role.

Membership in AHK Australien provides German companies with access to a powerful network of peers, partners, and policymakers. Through a variety of exchange and networking formats, the Chamber helps companies navigate the Australian market and build lasting relationships.

These formats include topical events focused on environmental, social and governance issues, artificial intelligence, the energy sector, mining, and health & life science. Regular engagement with government officials ensures that members stay informed and influential. Roundtable formats known as Circles bring together professionals such as chief financial officers, marketing managers, and human resources experts to share insights and best practices.

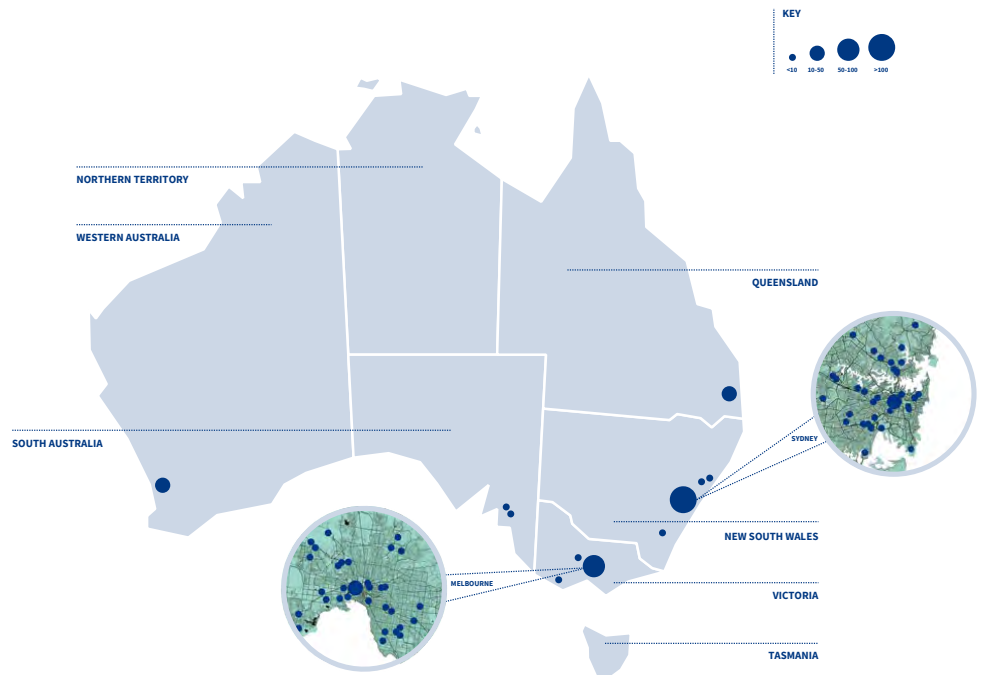
The Chamber also serves as a platform for cross-sector collaboration, helping companies from different industries connect and co-create solutions. By tying together topics and members, AHK Australien promotes German expertise and supports positive business outcomes.

### A shared vision for progress

As global challenges reshape the business landscape, the partnership between Germany and Australia is more relevant than ever. German companies in Australia are not only adapting to change, they are leading it. Their focus on sustainability, innovation, and long-term value creation aligns closely with Australia's strategic priorities.

With strong institutional support, a thriving network of peers, and a shared vision for progress, German businesses in Australia are well-positioned to deepen their impact and continue driving bilateral success. The relationship between Germany and Australia is not just a trade corridor. It is a bridge of ideas, values, and shared ambitions.

### Our members in Australia



## Collaboration highlights

### Volkswagen x Jungheinrich

Jungheinrich Australia has strengthened its long-standing partnership with Volkswagen Group Australia by integrating the all-electric Volkswagen ID. Buzz Cargo into its service fleet, marking a significant step toward sustainable mobility. This milestone was celebrated during the grand opening of Jungheinrich's new Melbourne Branch on 31 July 2025, where Managing Directors Axel Knigge and Karsten Seifert officially handed over the first two vehicles.

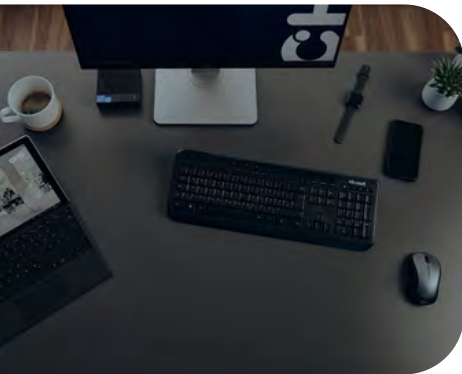
The collaboration between these two German industrial leaders reflects their shared commitment to innovation and environmental responsibility. As part of the AHK (German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce) network, Jungheinrich and Volkswagen have deepened their relationship, leveraging the platform to drive forward sustainable logistics solutions in Australia.

Jungheinrich aims to convert 50% of its global fleet to battery electric vehicles (BEVs) by 2030, with the ID. Buzz Cargo playing a key role in this transition. The van offers a 431km range, fast charging, and economic benefits such as reduced maintenance and extended service intervals. Custom-designed vehicles also celebrate Jungheinrich's 70-year legacy and Volkswagen's history in electric transport.

This partnership not only enhances operational efficiency but also sets a benchmark for low-emission commercial fleets, reinforcing both companies' leadership in sustainable innovation across the supply chain.



## CHG-MERIDIAN x German International School Sydney



German International School Sydney has partnered with fellow AHK member, CHG-MERIDIAN, to equip staff with best-in-class laptops and improve the sustainability of their IT strategy. The two members first connected at an AHK networking event and have formed a successful partnership.

Having the right technology is essential for a modern learning experience. With new laptops, teachers benefit from increased productivity, stronger data security, and access to the latest digital tools. Instead of purchasing outright, GISS chose CHG-MERIDIAN's leasing model, which ensures regular device upgrades and a steady refresh cycle—keeping classrooms efficient and future-ready.

Sustainability also plays a central role. Leasing technology has a lower carbon footprint compared to traditional purchasing, helping the school actively reduce its environmental impact. This approach aligns with GISS's broader mission to support wellbeing not only for its community but also for future generations and their environmental footprint.

By spreading technology costs over time, securing sensitive data during upgrades, and adopting a climate-friendly IT model, GISS is setting a benchmark for schools in Australia. With CHG-MERIDIAN as a trusted partner, the school is equipped to thrive in an ever-changing digital world.

## Grenke Australia x MDS architects and designers



The way we work has shifted dramatically. Hybrid models, flexible hours, and changing team dynamics mean offices can no longer be static spaces. Workplaces now need to inspire, adapt, and support both productivity and wellbeing—while reflecting the values of the people who use them.

This was the challenge MDS architects & designers embraced when partnering with grenke to create their new 262sqm Carbon Zero Melbourne office. Instead of simply providing desks, the fit-out was designed to nurture collaboration, creativity, and community culture, while remaining flexible enough to grow and change with the business. Features like modular planter partitions, sit/stand desks, and a recycled timber communal table—doubling as a table

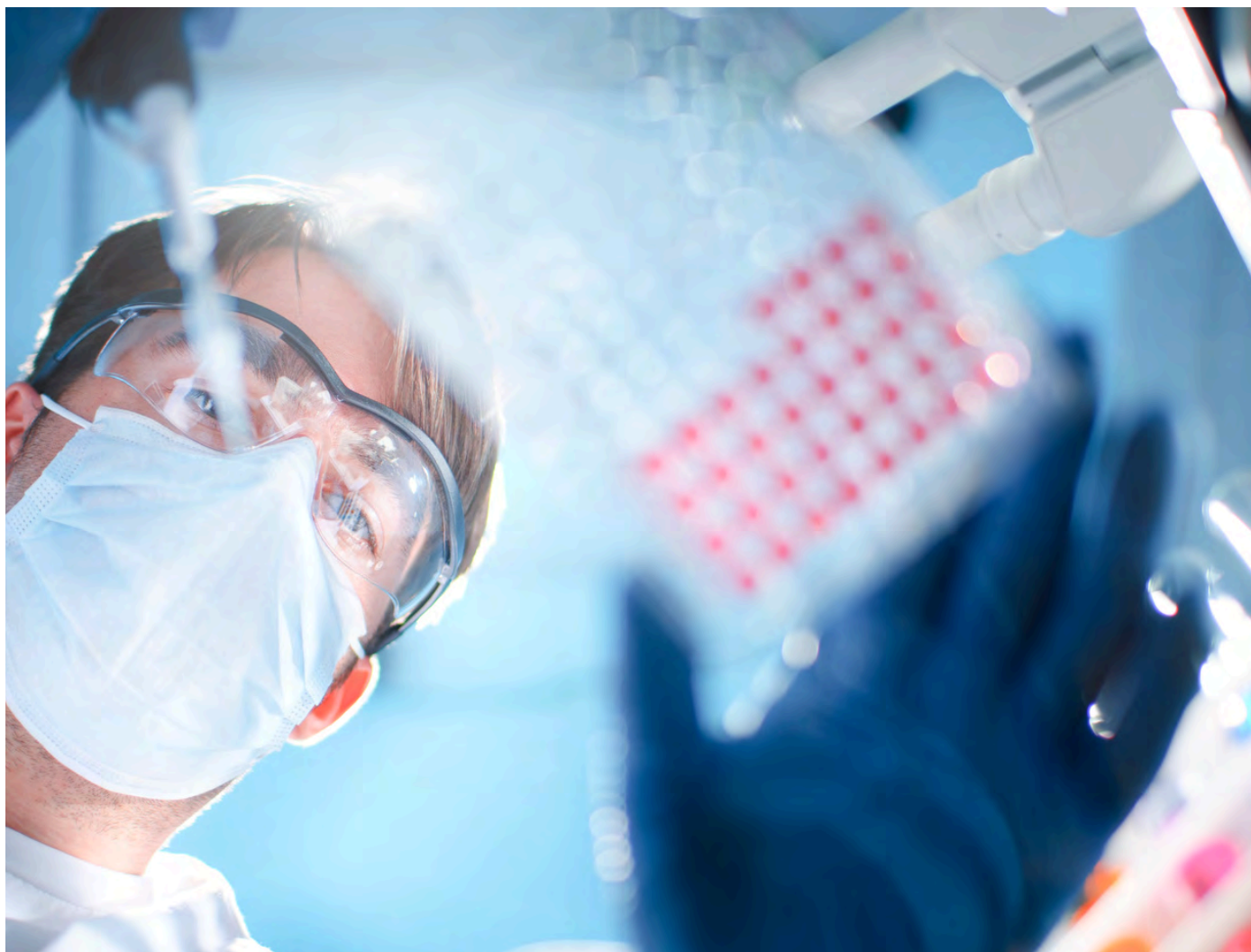
tennis table—make the space adaptable, engaging, and people-centred.

Sustainability was at the project's core. A typical office fit-out generates around 190kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per m<sup>2</sup>, but this project achieved just 80kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per m<sup>2</sup>—a reduction of more than 50%. Across the office, emissions were cut to approximately 14 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, plus 7 tonnes for economic flow, before offsets. By incorporating recycled timber, reusing furniture, low-VOC finishes, and biophilic design, the fit-out not only minimises impact but also stores carbon through sustainable materials.

The result is a Carbon Zero office—a future-ready workplace built for flexibility, wellbeing, and a lighter footprint.

# Health and life science





## Sector overview



Australia is one of the most important healthcare markets in the Asia-Pacific region and offers German companies numerous business opportunities to engage and invest. High health spending, an ageing and affluent population leading to a rising demand for health services, universal health coverage, and a highly educated workforce, turn Australia into an important and promising market for healthcare companies. Innovative medicines and modern medical technology are viewed positively by the population, and digital health products are generally welcomed, especially due to the geographical dispersion of patients, which promotes the use of telemedicine and new digital treatment methods. A high import rate, wide regulatory harmonisation, and continued regulatory alignment with important other markets such as the EU or the US contribute to an attractive market environment for international organisations. Australia is a strong market for patented medicines, but generics and biosimilars are catching up thanks to the government's cost containment strategies and short market exclusivity periods.

# “German-founded companies have made valuable contributions to the Australian healthcare ecosystem for nearly 100 years and hold important patents and expertise.”

Healthcare is the most important industry in Australia, with health expenditures totaling AUD\$252.5 billion or 9.9 % of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022/23. The expenditure reflects a commitment to a good and well-funded healthcare system with a specific focus on improved primary care, a better Medicare system, and affordable medicines. Specific (bio)medical research funds and bilateral agreements further highlight the strong support and investment in the sector. Australia is a leading location for clinical trials, competing strongly with other globally important locations.

However, despite outlined efforts to financially bolster the healthcare industry and research, very limited local production and manufacturing for pharmaceutical products and ingredients, as well as medical technology devices, have created a high dependency on overseas imports. Over 90% of the demand for medicines and an estimated 95% of the medical device market is supplied by imports, which requires strong and trusted relationships. Global companies, however, face stringent and lengthy approval and reimbursement processes, which have hampered further growth and investment and attenuated Australia's attractiveness as a first launch country for innovative products. Paired with the drive for the lowest possible cost when procuring therapies, supply chain and manufacturing challenges around the globe, Australia finds itself in a situation of vulnerability and reliance on external partners to continue to supply essential and innovative treatments to the Australian population. The lowest-cost funding model not only makes it difficult for German companies to sustainably bring the latest medical innovations to Australia, but equally impacts perceptions of risk and expected returns-on-investment that serve as barriers to foreign investment in domestic manufacturing and research.

Germany and its industry are well-renowned in the world and enjoy a reputation for quality, efficiency, and sustainability. This is no different in the healthcare and life sciences sector, where German companies and brands have a significant impact on the advancement of innovative and effective medicine, medical devices, research, and health and community care. Germany is the home of many important companies in the life sciences sector operating globally, and Australia is an interesting and relevant market for them to engage with. As a result, many key players in the Australian health and life sciences industry are



hailing from Germany and have brought and continue to bring in high-level skills and expertise, as well as important and life-saving products, services, and projects in the country to ensure the health and well-being of the Australian population.

German-founded companies have made valuable contributions to the Australian healthcare ecosystem for nearly 100 years and hold important patents and expertise. The impact of these organisations stretches beyond the traditional healthcare sector into rural healthcare, biosecurity and crop science. Examples are numerous.

Boehringer Ingelheim has been the supplier of Australia's national Foot-and-Mouth-Disease (FMD) antigen bank for over two decades and is thus protecting Australia's important red meat and livestock industry. Bayer Pharmaceuticals has a strong focus on precision medicine and cell and gene therapies, providing the first PBS-listed pan-tumour precision medicine treatment. Both companies have also been long-term supporters of the rural health initiative 'Heart of Australia'. Merck Healthcare has made important contributions to meet areas of unmet need in rare cancer treatments with innovative therapies, as well as being a leading fertility specialist helping Australians to fulfil the dream of parenthood. B. Braun and Fresenius Medical Care are key providers in renal care in Australia, with numerous dialysis centres available to Australian patients. Dräger provides pivotal medical technology and devices for intensive and emergency care, operating rooms, as well as crucial safety equipment to the mining industry.

# Transforming stroke care in Australia

**“Each year, 45,000 Australians suffer a stroke, leading to nearly 7,000 deaths and costing society over \$15 billion.<sup>1</sup>”**

In a very real sense, stroke is a national public health crisis in Australia. That’s why Boehringer Ingelheim is partnering with hospitals, healthcare professionals, and the stroke community to transform stroke care nationwide.

## Why every second matters

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to the brain is blocked, killing 1.9 million brain cells per minute<sup>2</sup>. However, a third of Australians don’t receive timely treatment that can save lives and avoid lifelong disabilities<sup>3</sup>; and this is particularly the case in rural and remote areas.

## Boehringer’s game-changing intervention

Boehringer Ingelheim’s Angels Initiative is a non-promotional healthcare intervention delivered in partnership with Australia’s stroke community to broaden access to quality stroke care across Australia.

The starting point for any change is a clear goal. That’s why Boehringer helped coordinate the development of the National Stroke Targets 30/60/90 under the Australian Stroke Coalition; which has been endorsed by state and territory governments.



To achieve these targets, Boehringer is partnering to help drive improvements across the care continuum from raising awareness of early stroke signs right through to helping individual hospitals improve their performance.

As stroke experts say, ‘time is brain’. So early detection of stroke is critical for patients to have the best chance of survival and a disability-free life. That’s why Boehringer supports public education of the FAST signs of stroke – so everyone can do their part to save lives.

Working directly with hospitals, Boehringer’s Angels consultants help stroke and emergency care units measure their performance and identify opportunities to make improvements through realistic stroke simulations — all with a view to achieving the national targets.

Finally, tackling the inequities of care between regions and cities is critical. So Boehringer, through coordinating national telestroke roundtables, is supporting the delivery of virtual metro-based stroke neurology services in regional treatment centres.

## A bright future

Boehringer is working with the stroke community to scale up these interventions; helping spread their benefits across the health system. The company won’t rest until all Australians have access to world-class stroke care, no matter where they live.

MPR-AU-100150

1. Stroke Foundation (2024) The Economic Impact of Stroke, p. 12
2. Deloitte Access Economics, (2020) No Postcode Untouched: Stroke in Australia 2020 (Stroke Foundation), p. 2
3. Stroke Foundation (2023) National Stroke Audit, Acute Services Report 2023, p. 8



# Merck's collaboration with Indigenous communities and Professor Peter Timms

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, founded in 1668, is a leading science and technology company that exemplifies the innovative spirit of German-Australian collaboration. With a focus on Healthcare and Life Science, Merck has forged partnerships that enhance scientific research, industrial innovation, and community engagement across Australia.

Operating from Macquarie Park, NSW, and Bayswater, Victoria, Merck has positively impacted millions of lives since 1967. A key collaboration with Professor Peter Timms of the University of the Sunshine Coast aims to protect Australia's endangered koala population from chlamydial disease. Professor Timms' groundbreaking vaccine, recently approved by veterinary regulators, has demonstrated a 64% reduction in chlamydial-related deaths among vaccinated koalas, showcasing the vital role of scientific research in wildlife conservation.

Merck's commitment to innovation extends to academic partnerships with institutions like the University of Melbourne, Griffith University, and UNSW. These collaborations support various projects, including internships and consultative process improvements. Notably, the partnership with SMART - CRC (Co-Operative Research Centre) focuses on advanced regenerative therapies, underscoring Merck's dedication to impactful change in biotechnology.

In addition to wildlife conservation, Merck is enhancing STEM education within Indigenous communities through its partnership with DeadlyScience. The DeadlyLabs initiative, piloted in the Northern Territory, merges traditional



Indigenous knowledge with scientific methods, engaging young learners in hands-on experiments like soap-making. This program not only empowers Indigenous students but also highlights potential career pathways in STEM fields.

Merck is also a proud supporter of the Australian Academy of Science Falling Walls Program, which provides a platform for talented researchers and innovators to showcase their groundbreaking ideas. This partnership fosters career-enhancing opportunities for young Australian scientists.

Furthermore, in support of the Australian Cancer Plan, Merck has joined forces with the non-profit research organisation Omico to leverage a national population screening and clinical trial network, facilitating quicker connections for patients with company-sponsored cancer trials. Since the beginning of the collaboration, Josie Downey, Managing Director of Merck Healthcare has stated "I'm proud to say that we have more than doubled our clinical trial sites and tripled our oncology trial program locally,"

Rebecca Lee, Managing Director of Merck Life Science, expressed pride in these initiatives, stating, "Merck is proud to celebrate Professor Timms and his transformative contributions to wildlife conservation. His dedication embodies the spirit of collaboration that drives meaningful change for both the environment and global health."

Through these diverse collaborations, Merck in Australia is making significant strides in wildlife conservation, education, and healthcare, highlighting the potential of German-Australian partnerships to drive impactful change.

"We were determined to do the hard yards to move from research to this vital next stage – a high-quality, veterinary-approved product that can now be used in wildlife hospitals, veterinary clinics, and in the field to protect the nation's most at-risk koalas." - Professor Peter Timms.

Keep in touch:  
[merck.com.au](https://www.merck.com.au)

# Bauerfeind: Precision in motion, care in action



**“The German-Australian health and sports technology relationship has never been more critical.”**

A current highlight of our work is our collaboration with the University of Melbourne on a randomised controlled trial into conservative treatment of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries: The Embrace Study. ACL injuries are a significant challenge in community and professional sports, and this landmark study is testing non-surgical pathways supported by German bracing technology.

While elite teams showcase what is possible at the highest level, our vision has always been to make the same support available to everyday Australians. Over the past couple of years, we have rolled out across the Rebel store network nationwide. Within just a short time, Bauerfeind has become one of the fastest-growing brands in the health and wellbeing category, giving everyone from weekend warriors to everyday gymgoers direct access to the same support trusted by their sporting heroes and clinical professionals.

Operating in Australia with a local team matters to us because sport is part of our national identity. Helping Australians stay active, recover from injury, and pursue their goals – whether that’s playing State of Origin, running a local marathon, or simply relieving pain and getting back to day-to-day life – aligns with Bauerfeind’s purpose worldwide.

The German-Australian health and sports technology relationship has never been more critical. Australia provides a vibrant environment for clinical research and sports science, while Germany offers world-class manufacturing and product development. Together, we can accelerate innovation that supports elite athletes and contributes to the health of communities, particularly given a climate where healthcare costs are skyrocketing.

At Bauerfeind, we are proud to play our part in that story. From RCT research with Australia’s leading universities to partnerships with its most iconic teams, and now into the hands of everyday Australians through Rebel, we remain committed to building a bridge between our century of innovation and the people who need it to achieve a more active and pain-free life.

**Walid Yassine**  
Managing Director Bauerfeind Australia



German engineering is world-renowned for its precision, reliability, and innovation. At Bauerfeind, these qualities are the foundation of our work in Australia, where we support cutting-edge research and the highest levels of athletic performance while making those same advancements accessible to everyday Australians.

Our medical supports and compression products have been manufactured in Germany since 1929 and distributed across over 40 countries. In Australia, they have become a trusted part of healthcare pathways and elite sport alike. From hospitals and clinics to professional teams across the NRL, Rugby Union, AFL, and beyond, Bauerfeind products are helping Australians recover faster, perform better, and remain active longer.

# Health spotlight

## Market access and reimbursement for new medicines

### Pharmaceutical companies in Australia currently face significant challenges in market access and reimbursement for new and innovative medicines.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is central to Australia's universal healthcare system, enabling patients to access affordable basic and innovative medicines. The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a vital instrument to ensure the benefits and comparative value of health technologies and inform government funding decisions.

The HTA process for the PBS has undergone a comprehensive review over the last two years, and the final report was submitted to the Government in 2024 with 50 recommendations. The PBS constitutes a monopoly-like purchasing power for medicines, and failure to be listed on the PBS strongly impacts the market viability of new medicines. The current timeline from registration to reimbursement of on average 466 days, and the reimbursement pricing ranking among the lowest in the world, negatively affect Australia's consideration as a first-launch country for new medicines. This timeline triples the average of comparable markets like Germany, Japan, or the UK. In comparison, the German system allows for new medicines to be immediately accessible and fully reimbursed from market authorisation, while, within one year, authorities and manufacturers negotiate the reimbursement price to be retrospectively paid from the 7th month onwards. In Australia, the current separation of assessment and pricing discussions, with sometimes multiple submissions to reach a mutually agreeable price, as well as bottlenecks in the PBAC assessment capacities, leads to a lengthy process.

In addition, current pricing and budget mechanisms erode risk mitigation strategies and price and budget certainty for companies and undermine market entry certainty and sustainability. Reference prices are moving quickly or may even be unavailable and preventing companies from reliable long-term financial planning. Price reductions are certain and often come without appropriate notice, highlighting a distinct knowledge disparity between stakeholders in the pharmaceutical market.

In view of the expected low prices, Australia competes with other markets for launch prioritisation in the Asia-Pacific region. Considering the decreasing number of all globally launched new medicines accessible in the Australian market (34% in 2021, decreasing from 42% in 2017, according to the PhRMA Global Access to New Medicines Report), it is evident that Australia is falling behind.

The suggested reforms from the recent review aim to provide Australian patients with access to modern medicines in a timely, equitable and affordable manner while maintaining and expanding Australia's attractiveness as a priority country.



# Mining and resources





## Sector overview: **Critical minerals in Australia**



### **Our common challenge**

Whether lithium, graphite, or rare earth minerals – access to critical materials is increasingly determining innovative strength and competitiveness. While China continues to expand its dominance in processing strategic minerals, the issue of securing a reliable supply is becoming ever more central to economic and political debates around the world, including in Germany.

China saw the potential of controlling the supply of critical minerals early on. It started tapping its own resources and, due to less strict environmental regulations and lower cost of labour, China established production at very competitive prices. China positioned itself all along the supply chain and especially at the very end, arguably the most critical part with that. And Beijing already demonstrated that it would use its leverage, when it restricted the export of several rare earth elements in April this year as a response to tariffs imposed by the US Trump administration.

### Diversifying supply chains

With China's position strengthening and demand for critical minerals on the rise, companies are looking for new sources for these critical resources. Countries like Germany have a high demand for critical minerals for their industry, from batteries in electric vehicles to rare earth elements needed for magnets in wind turbines to power the transition to clean energy. However, factors like high population density, environmental concerns regarding mine operations or simply the lack of mineral deposits contribute to the reliance on imports to support their national industries.

### Australia's reserves of critical minerals

As a continent rich in raw materials and with great environmental, social, and governance standards, Australia can help reduce dependence on China in the coming years.

Known for its strong iron ore, coal, and gold industries, Australia produces around 900 million tonnes of iron ore per year and has become the world's largest exporter of it.

With critical minerals becoming increasingly important, Australia has been developing mining and refining projects for minerals like nickel, cobalt, lithium, and rare earth elements. Mining giants like Rio Tinto began including minerals like lithium into their existing portfolio.

However, the unprocessed ores must still undergo further refinement first.

Australia has ambitions to become a new hub for refining critical minerals like cobalt and lithium, investing into domestic processing facilities to strengthen its position at the end of the value chain. But whether it can catch up remains unclear. Not only is China far ahead, but it's also already deeply entrenched in every part of the global supply chain.



**“Launched in 2022, the German-Australian Critical Minerals Alliance (GACMA) provides a platform for the exchange of German and Australian stakeholders. ”**

### Connecting Germany and Australia

Being able to establish a competitive mining industry for critical minerals in Australia is no easy task and it requires know-how and specialized equipment. Already, more than 150 German suppliers in the mining sector are active in Australia – including heavyweights such as Liebherr and BASF, as well as specialists like Bind-X and Bokela.

The German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce has established the Centre of Competence for Mining and Resources, acting as the first point of contact for related questions and enquiries.

Launched in 2022, the German-Australian Critical Minerals Alliance (GACMA) provides a platform for the exchange of German and Australian stakeholders. This bilateral partnership allows German businesses to bring their expertise and advanced technology to accelerate the growth of Australia's mining industry, while linking Australian miners to German off-takers, positioning Australia as a strong and reliable partner in the global critical minerals supply chain.



# How Dyflex is growing the next generation of Australian miners and other mid-market businesses with SAP

Australia's economy is underpinned by the performance of its resources sector, with mining alone accounting for 14.3 percent of total economic output, according to the Reserve Bank of Australia.

But while the sector is dominated by several major players, it is also home to an ever-changing crop of up-and-comers.

These so-called junior miners are often born to prove the economic viability of speculative ventures. Should their initial returns prove promising, they find themselves needing to quickly adopt the systems and processes of a much larger business, and that includes the software systems that run them.

However, according to Jason Heaney, co-CEO of the Australian technology consultancy DyFlex Solutions, these fast growth businesses often lack the time, funding, and experience to manage a full ERP implementation.

"A lot of these companies are initially run on very basic accounting software, and that's fine when you've only got a handful of people and a few dollars of expenses," Heaney remarks. "But once you start on a feasibility study, you need a bit more rigour and control."

DyFlex was founded in 2010 with a vision of bringing SAP to mid-market businesses in the resources sector, using a templated approach that could be both quickly applied and easily repeated. Heaney says Dyflex's initial goal is to deliver a core set of capabilities that provide a solid foundation for the business' growth.



"Then we bring on additional functionality as they go through their mining life cycle," Heaney says. "For example, when they get into construction, we bring on the projects module, and when they get into operations, we bring in supply chain functionality and maintenance functionality."

The early success in mining has been the springboard for Dyflex to now be a national business with over 180 people across all states.

Heaney adds "this experience has enabled us to spread to many industries well beyond mining. It's remarkable how growing businesses can be very similar in their constraints and core needs. Take a wind or solar renewable energy business for example: basic accounting quickly leads to projects, procurement and maintenance."

Heaney says notes the challenge is often made greater by the fact that many of the business leaders in these organisations have never implemented an ERP previously and need to be carefully guided through the process.

"It's a collaborative journey, rather than the customer just telling you what they need – they are looking for advice," Heaney continues. "And what's interesting about the mid-market is that generally they're almost as complex as the bigger guys but working at a smaller scale and often on a limited budget. It takes business expertise and not just software knowledge to guide them."

"It's interesting how you take that complicated business model and fit it into a world where you don't have the free capital to spend whatever you want, but we've sold SAP into companies that had only five users when they first bought it. Any myth that SAP is too complex or too expensive has been well and truly busted."

Heaney says the factor that has enabled DyFlex's approach to succeed is that despite the complexity of junior miners, there are generally many points of commonality in how they operate. Hence a solution that is applicable to one miner, such as accounts or the master data model, will usually be applicable to many more.

This template approach has also meant that DyFlex has been able to implement SAP in as little as three or four months.

**“The lean, agile, fit-to-standard approach has proved to be just as successful in other industries that Dyflex has worked with over the last ten years.”**



“Most CEOs now see the benefit of the whole fit-to-standard idea,” Heaney states. “It’s been accepted that they’re not different, and if we’ve already done it elsewhere and it’s proven, they’ll take that as accepted.”

Heaney says this approach has been sufficiently compelling to dissuade miners from assembling their own solutions from smaller best-of-breed suppliers, especially once they understand that the ongoing integration costs of that approach are unattractive in comparison to the ease of management that comes with an integrated system such as SAP.

Heaney mentions that the templated SAP approach also provides a more stable platform that enables miners to remain compliant with the regulatory and reporting regimes within which they operate, including for cross-border transactions.

Furthermore, Heaney comments that the presence of SAP within a mid-market business can give comfort to both investors and bankers that the business performance data they are provided with is accurate.

“It’s rock solid with controls and compliance and all these sort of things,” Heaney claims.

The lean, agile, fit-to-standard approach has proved to be just as successful in other industries that Dyflex has worked with over the last ten years.

DyFlex has also expanded what it can offer to its customers by building out its skills across the SAP range, including with SuccessFactors and Ariba, using the same templated approach that has proved successful with core ERP. The success of DyFlex’s

template approach, and across the resources sector specifically, has in turn strengthened its relationship with SAP.

“Whenever we’ve spotted gaps, we’ve always had access to the development team back in Germany,” Heaney says, “Even though we’re talking to the biggest ERP company in the world, there is a channel for us to get our customers’ ideas and our issues resolved. SAP has been very generous in how they’ve made people available to us.”

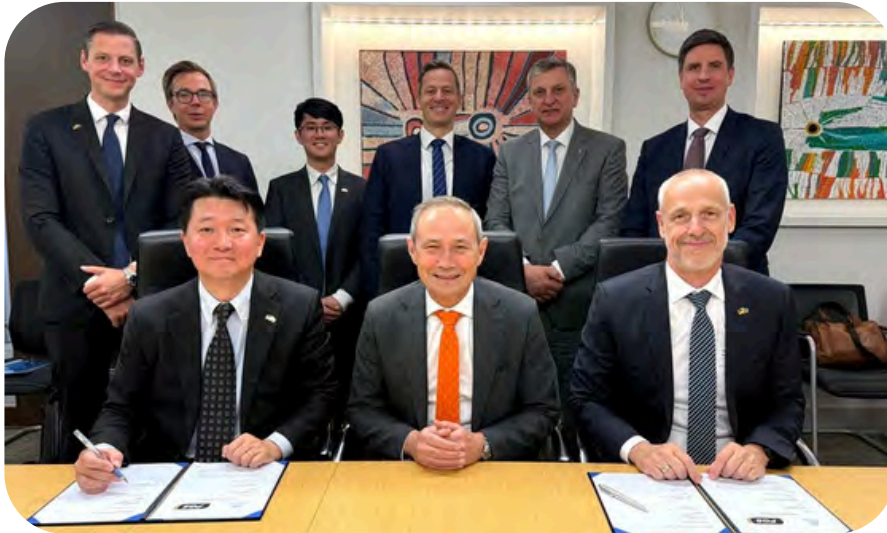
Heaney assures he has never doubted his company’s decision to build templated solutions on the SAP platform.

“We have confidence that SAP actually does the job,” Heaney states. “It’s reliable, it’s robust, it’s fit for purpose, and the SAP tool set has never let us or the customer down.”





# Western Australia's large-scale Green Iron Project sees Progressive Green Solutions partnering with Thyssenkrupp Materials Trading



Thyssenkrupp Materials Trading GmbH signs a 100% off-take agreement with Progressive Green Solutions (PGS) for Western Australia's first large-scale Green Iron project.

On 12 September 2025, Western Australia's Premier Roger Cook welcomed the signing of a 100% off-take agreement between Progressive Green Solutions (PGS) and Thyssenkrupp Materials Trading for the supply of green iron products produced in Western Australia.

PGS plans to produce 7 million tonnes of green iron pellets with around half converted into 2.5 million tonnes of green Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) annually, for global export markets (phase-1) which are expected for first production towards the end of 2029.

The project, located in the City of Greater Geraldton, WA, will be entirely powered by renewable energy that is perfectly aligned with wind and solar resources in the Mid-West region.

By simultaneously value-adding Western Australia's magnetite iron ore and significantly reducing CO2 emissions by up to 90 per cent, the project will represent a transformative step compared to traditional steel production.

## A partnership powering decarbonisation

The agreement demonstrates how Western Australia's renewable energy resources can directly support Germany and the EU's decarbonisation ambitions and set a global standard for optimised green hydrogen-based industrial projects.

Western Australia will gain a new value-added manufacturing industry built on proven German technology and expertise while creating long-term regional economic benefits.

The agreement deepens trade ties between Australia and Germany (EU inclusive) whilst concurrently diversifying demand and supply chains.

## Global lighthouse project

Exports of green hydrogen based high grade iron pellets and HBI from Geraldton will position the region as a global hub for green iron production. Once the project is in full operation (phase-2), it is expected to reach 30 million tonnes of green pellet production and up to 10 million tonnes of additional green HBI will be produced and exported.

The project technology will be supplied by German-based global plant engineering & machinery industrial leader SMS Group with Midrex Direct Reduction technology and Thyssenkrupp Nucera's Electrolysers.

The project finance is led by German sovereign-owned KfW IPEX Bank, and will utilise German Government Export Credit Agency, Euler Hermes' export credit guarantees (Hermes Cover). These funds are expected to be supported by syndicated global export credit agencies, with today's commitment by Thyssenkrupp underscoring strong market confidence in high-value green iron products.

**"Together with Progressive Green Solutions and our esteemed German technology and finance partners, we are proud to help shape a future where industrial excellence and climate responsibility go hand in hand."**

(Wolfgang Schnittker, CEO, Thyssenkrupp Materials Trading)

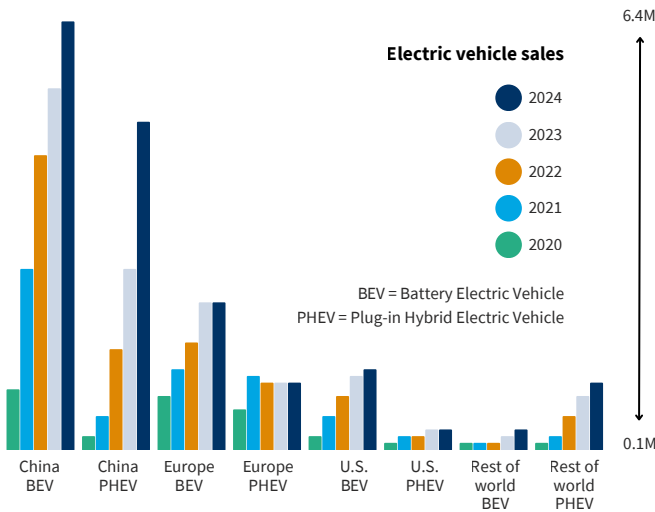
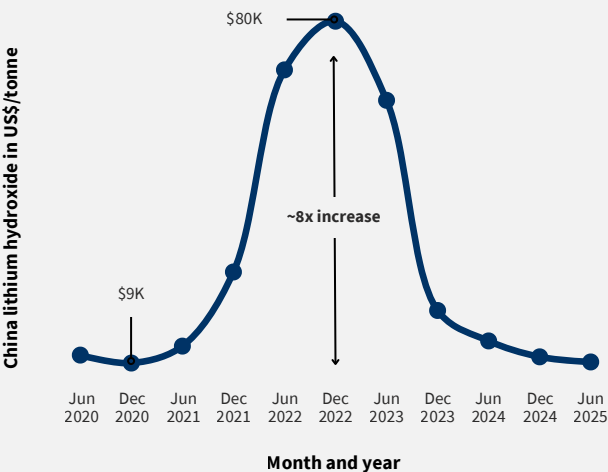
# Lithium spotlight

When discussing critical minerals, some names stand out more than others. Among them, lithium has emerged as a focus in conversations, largely due to its indispensable role in the production of batteries that power electric vehicles (EVs), grid-scale energy storage, and the transition to net zero.

Lithium is typically extracted from two sources: underground brine and hard rock ore deposits, most commonly in form of the mineral spodumene. Australia leads the world in spodumene production, making it a key player in the global lithium supply chain.

The surge in EV adoption over recent years triggered a spike in lithium demand, leading to an extraordinary price boom in 2022. Prices soared to over US\$80,000 per tonne of lithium hydroxide, the lithium-derived chemical most commonly used in EVs, driven by limited supply and the urgency to build up battery production capacity to meet the car industry’s demand. But mining, by nature, is slow to react to such market changes. It takes years for new projects to secure approvals, gather funding, and build infrastructure before mines can produce.

When these new lithium projects finally came online, the EV transition in Europe and the US had lost momentum. By 2024, the price collapsed to below US\$10,000 per tonne, a drop so severe that it put many smaller and higher-cost operations under serious financial strain.



Even though demand for lithium continues to stay high, it has not kept pace with the sudden influx of new supply. Today, only the most cost-efficient producers can remain profitable. Take Greenbushes in Western Australia, the world’s largest hard rock lithium mine. Thanks to its operational scale and low costs, it has been able to stay financially viable, while smaller mines have been forced to halt their operations.

China, meanwhile, continues to dominate the refining side of the lithium market, mining domestically but also importing raw ore for further processing from abroad. Although domestic mining has faced its own setbacks, such as the recent closure of the Jianxiawo lithium mine due to a permit expiring, China remains the world’s largest producer of refined lithium. In comparison to China, countries like Australia are selling their lithium at a premium price on the world market.

With China well established in its position and prices slowly rising again, the path forward for lithium will depend on how the market can adapt to fluctuating prices, both from short-term oversupply and long-term demand driven by electrification.

# Energy, net zero and digitisation





## Sector overview: Energy



### Forging the green bridge: A new era of German-Australian energy partnership

The German-Australian energy relationship is undergoing a profound transformation. What was once a traditional trade relationship has evolved into a strategic partnership for the energy transition, driven by the shared global challenge of decarbonisation. With Germany's imperative to secure future energy imports and Australia's ambition to become a clean energy superpower, the two nations are forging a multifaceted alliance that extends far beyond just green hydrogen to include industrial decarbonisation, energy efficiency, and digital technologies.

This partnership is built on clear, complementary strengths. Germany, with its advanced industrial base, needs a secure supply of clean energy to transition sectors like steel, chemicals, and manufacturing. Australia, meanwhile, possesses vast, high-quality wind and solar resources, positioning it to be a leading producer and exporter of renewable energy and related products. This is a strategic alliance that leverages both countries' strengths to build a new, resilient supply chain to counter geopolitical risks.

### Building a green hydrogen and green metals bridge

Green hydrogen has been a central pillar of the collaboration from the outset. Early initiatives, like the HySupply feasibility study, confirmed that a green hydrogen supply chain between the two countries is "both feasible and highly desirable" despite the vast geographical distance. This led to joint funding programs like the German-Australian Hydrogen Innovation and Technology Incubator (HyGATE), which supports cutting-edge pilot projects to reduce the cost of hydrogen production and scale technology, such as the Edify Energy Green Hydrogen Project (EGH2) which involves a 17.5 MW Siemens Energy electrolyser as the first phase of a planned 1 GW facility. Furthermore, the joint €400 million (AUD \$660 million) H2Global funding window was established to "kick-start the market" by providing guaranteed buyers for Australian producers and sending crucial price signals.

Beyond hydrogen, the partnership is expanding to green iron, a vital material for decarbonising Germany's steel industry. A joint project, Green Metals for Sustainable Steel from Australia and Germany (SuSteelAG), is exploring the potential for a green metals value chain between the two nations. By leveraging Germany's advanced steel manufacturing expertise and Australia's abundant iron ore and renewable energy resources, this collaboration aims to create a new era of green iron and steel production. For example, the German company Thyssenkrupp Nucera has been selected as a key technology supplier for a flagship green iron project in Western Australia. This project will use German-supplied electrolysers and local renewable energy to produce up to 7 million tonnes of green iron pellets per year, with exports of this value-added product anticipated to begin in 2029. This initiative not only supports Germany's industrial decarbonisation but also helps Australia move beyond raw resource exports to become a producer of high-value green products.

### Expanding collaboration to broader renewables

The partnership is not limited to hydrogen or green metals. German companies are actively involved in Australia's broader renewable energy sector. For example, German energy company RWE is a key player in Australia's renewables market and is focused on expanding its generation portfolio in the country.

Similarly, German solar technology specialist SMA has made a significant impact in Australia's clean energy transition. With over 750,000 SMA inverters installed across the country, the company's technology is central to major renewable projects.

## "The German-Australian relationship is not a static agreement but a dynamic, long-term strategic partnership built on same values."

### Deepening collaboration on energy efficiency and digitalisation

The partnership's scope extends to a crucial area: the building sector. The German and Australian governments have identified energy efficiency in buildings as a key area for bilateral cooperation to reduce emissions and improve living standards. German companies are engaged along the whole energy efficiency value chain.

This collaboration is also being driven by a number of German companies that are bringing high-quality technologies to the Australian housing market. German-engineered technologies are directly helping homeowners improve their energy performance. In the heating and cooling sector, German companies like Stiebel Eltron and Viessmann are present in major Australian cities, offering high-efficiency heat pumps and hydronic systems for sustainable home heating and cooling. Additionally building materials company such as Knauff help with insulation solutions and company ProClima experts in building envelopes significantly help to improve the Australian housing sector.

Lastly, deeper collaboration is essential in areas such as digitalisation. This underscores the growing importance of advancing smarter energy asset management, implementing predictive maintenance to reduce unplanned downtime, and accelerating AI integration to future-proof technologies across the board. By working together more closely, stakeholders can unlock greater efficiencies, drive innovation, and ensure resilience in an increasingly digital and data-driven environment.

### A blueprint for the future

The German-Australian relationship is not a static agreement but a dynamic, long-term strategic partnership built on same values. Its success lies in its comprehensive approach, addressing everything from large-scale project funding and technology co-development to the sharing of best practices. For German-Australian businesses, this partnership offers a clear signal of long-term commitment and creates concrete opportunities in a changing global market. By focusing on shared strengths and a common vision for a sustainable future, this partnership serves as a powerful model for how like-minded nations can cooperate to build a new, low-carbon global economy.

# Strengthening Australia's grid through collaborative innovation



Siemens Energy is a global leader in energy technology. Our mission is to support companies and countries with what they need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make energy reliable, affordable, and more sustainable. We operate across the entire energy landscape: from conventional to renewable power, from grid technology to storage, and from generation to the electrification of complex industrial processes.

As Australia's energy transition accelerates, grid stability is becoming one of the most critical challenges. Solar and wind deliver clean power, but unlike traditional generators they do not provide the inertia needed to instantly balance supply and demand. Without this stabilising force, the grid is more vulnerable to sudden frequency drops, raising the risk of blackouts. Addressing this requires advanced technology and strong collaboration across the sector. We are working with our partners nationwide to deliver solutions that strengthen the grid, enable greater renewable integration, and ensure reliable supply.

One of the latest milestones is our collaboration with ACERZ on the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone in New South Wales, one of the country's most ambitious renewable projects. Stage one will deliver up to 4.5 gigawatts of new solar and wind power. To ensure this growth is delivered securely, Siemens Energy is supplying seven synchronous condensers -- large rotating machines that stabilise voltage and balance frequency. The project also includes installation, commissioning, ongoing service, digital monitoring, and cybersecurity to safeguard critical infrastructure.

**“As Australia's energy transition accelerates, grid stability is becoming one of the most critical challenges.”**

Building on this commitment, we also partnered with ElectraNet in South Australia to install flywheels at the Robertstown substation, a hub in one of the world's most renewable-heavy grids. Flywheels store kinetic energy and release it instantly during frequency drops, replacing the inertia once provided by fossil-fuel plants. This fast and predictable support strengthens supply security and enables more renewable energy to operate reliably on the system.

Both projects highlight a practical approach to the transition. Rather than relying only on new generation, they focus on the essential services that make a renewable grid function. Flywheels and synchronous condensers can be deployed on existing sites, integrated with substation infrastructure, and scaled to local needs. Together, these technologies provide fast response and stable operation without adding emissions, aligning with state and national decarbonisation goals.

Australia's energy transition is gathering pace, and grid stability will remain at its core. The work in New South Wales and South Australia shows how technology and partnership can deliver tangible outcomes for customers and communities. By combining local leadership with Siemens Energy's expertise, these initiatives provide a clear pathway to a secure, renewable-ready grid that supports growth today and is prepared for tomorrow.

# Shaping Australia's low-carbon future with BASF X3D Catalyst Technology: German material science innovation accelerating Australian industrial transformation

BASF, one of the world's leading chemical companies, is advancing a new era of cleaner, smarter, and more efficient production in Australia's energy and resources sectors. Through its Catalysts and Adsorbents business, BASF delivers technology that enables refineries, gas processors, and recyclers to operate with lower emissions and higher efficiency—helping Australian industry transition toward net zero.

## Reinventing catalyst design with X3D printing

At the heart of this transformation lies BASF X3D, a metal 3D-printing technology that redefines how industrial catalysts are designed and manufactured. Unlike traditional extruded catalysts, X3D allows complex lattice geometries that maximise surface area, improve mass transfer, and reduce pressure drop. The result is higher process throughput and lower energy consumption across a range of industrial applications.

Developed in Germany and now deployed globally, the X3D process combines advanced computer-aided design with selective laser melting of metal powders, producing durable catalysts that outperform conventional designs while reducing material usage and waste. This innovation supports sectors from ammonia and hydrogen plants to sulphur recovery, refining, and emission-control units, directly contributing to cleaner production.



## Local partnerships driving innovation

BASF's catalyst and adsorbent solutions already operate in critical Australian processes—natural gas purification, tail-gas treatment, and hydrogen production—and in partnership with major players including Chevron, Woodside, and Mineral Resources, as well as engineering firms Technip and Worley.

A particularly forward-looking initiative is BASF's collaboration with Mining3, an Australian research organisation representing the coal mining industry. Together, they are developing a next-generation ventilation and methane abatement solution that will help mines comply with new emissions regulations taking effect in 2030. By applying the X3D catalyst's advanced surface architecture, the partnership aims to create a compact, energy-efficient system that can oxidise

methane more effectively and safely within mine ventilation air. This project exemplifies how German technology and Australian industry expertise can work hand-in-hand to solve complex environmental challenges.

## Engineering for the circular and hydrogen economies

Beyond mining, BASF is contributing to sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), carbon-capture systems, and battery-materials innovation. Its approach focuses on optimising existing assets rather than replacing them, enabling Australian producers to decarbonise cost-effectively while maintaining global competitiveness. This pragmatic innovation model—refine, not replace—demonstrates how incremental technological evolution can achieve meaningful emissions reduction at industrial scale.

## A German–Australian partnership for sustainable progress

Germany and Australia share complementary strengths: German R&D and manufacturing excellence meet Australia's resource and renewable-energy potential. Through BASF, this collaboration takes shape in real-world applications—from advanced catalysts to cleaner fuels and emission-control technologies. Together, they are strengthening bilateral supply chains, reducing emissions, and accelerating the transition to a more sustainable industrial future.



# Australia and Germany partner for net zero through CO2CRC

## Carbon capture and storage, where German technology must meet Australian excellence

Germany and Australia, both committed to ambitious climate targets, share a common challenge: how to decarbonise heavy industry while safeguarding jobs, exports and competitiveness. Germany has pledged a 65% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by 2030, 88% cut by 2040, and net zero by 2045. Australia is on a legislated pathway to net zero by 2050, with an interim target of 2035 and a strong emphasis on maintaining industrial competitiveness in a changing global market.

For both nations, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a critical technology across many sectors.

## 2024: A turning point for Germany

In 2024, the German federal cabinet adopted the country's first Carbon Management Strategy, marking a decisive shift toward CCS as a priority for decarbonisation. The policy enables offshore CO<sub>2</sub> storage (North Sea) and provides a framework for CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure to connect inland industrial emitters to coastal storage sites.

Meeting Germany's milestones will require new partnerships, infrastructure and real-world know-how.

## Australia leads the way

Australia leads the world with the two largest CCS projects. Chevron's Gorgon project and Santos' Moomba project store millions of tons of emissions per year.

Australia, through CO2CRC, is also a global leader in CCS research and commercially relevant pilot projects.

CO2CRC owns and operates the Otway International Test Centre (OITC) in Victoria. The A\$200 million research infrastructure is globally unique, allowing German scientists to collaborate with our international partners to test a wide range of mission-critical CCS technologies before deployment.

CO2CRC partners with leading research organisations worldwide.

## An impactful partnership

No single nation can decarbonise its industries alone. But together, Australia and Germany can lead the world in carbon management innovation.

Germany brings world-class engineering, manufacturing and digital innovation. Australia brings proven operations and a unique pilot facility. Together, the two countries can accelerate CCS deployment, reduce costs, and open new export opportunities in low-emission hydrogen, ammonia, and steel.

**"We are seeking committed partners across German industry and academia to collaborate on our Future R&D Program. Together, we can transform innovation into proven solutions and deliver tangible impact across trade, technology, and climate. Fast."**

(Dr Matthias Raab, CO2CRC CEO)

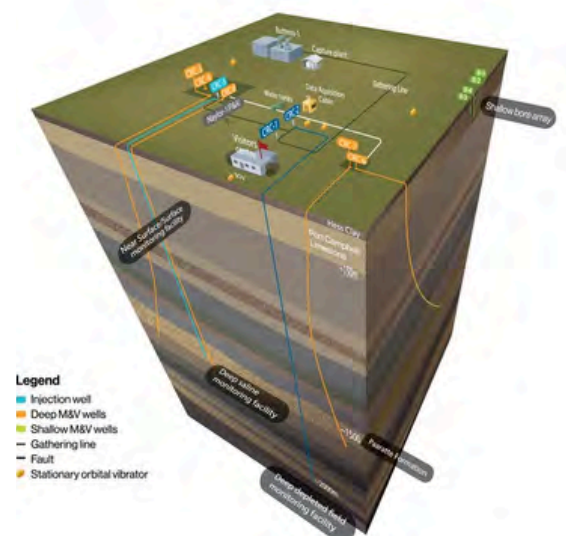
## Begin the conversation today

Contact us to schedule a confidential, no-obligation discussion on how your organisation can participate in our high-impact, high-value future program and help build a CCS-Ready Economy.

Email: [futureprogram@co2crc.com.au](mailto:futureprogram@co2crc.com.au)

More information:

<https://co2crc.com.au/research/ccs-future-program>



**Diagram of the Otway International Test Centre in Victoria.** It is the world's most comprehensive subsurface research facility and a global asset to trial technologies for the energy transition.

# German heat pump expertise powers Canberra's Snow Concert Hall



STIEBEL ELTRON has been manufacturing Heat Pumps in Germany since 1976. Today, they are recognised as one of Europe's leading innovators in renewable energy systems. With nearly 50 years of expertise in this technology, this company has successfully brought its German-engineered technology and innovation to Australia, celebrating over three decades of local operations.

A prime example of this German-Australian collaboration can be found at the Canberra Grammar School's Snow Concert Hall. Designed with a below-ground layout, surrounded by heritage buildings, this project required a heating and cooling solution that could deliver comfort, sustainability, and flexibility without compromising the architectural vision.

By working alongside Australian engineers and contractors, STIEBEL ELTRON supplied modular ground source heat pumps for the building's central plant room, located twelve metres below ground level.

Canberra's distinct climate, with cold winters and warm summers made it an ideal candidate for geothermal technology. The system's extended operating times not only enhance efficiency, but also help maintain a balanced thermal exchange with the surrounding ground, ensuring long-term performance and sustainability.

## **The Geothermal System delivered benefits on multiple levels:**

**Sustainability:** By eliminating combustion flues and cooling towers, the design significantly reduced the project's environmental footprint while supporting the ACT Government's plan to phase out natural gas by 2045.

**Efficiency:** Delivering around half a megawatt of combined output, the geothermal system can simultaneously produce 55 °C heating and 5 °C cooling

**Design integration:** Positioning the plant room twelve metres below ground, beneath the playing fields and within the basement helped preserve the school's heritage character and avoided the need for an externally ventilated above-ground plant facility.

Before installation, the system underwent detailed ground heat exchanger testing and energy modelling to confirm its viability and payback potential. This collaborative planning process ensured confidence in its long-term performance.

For Canberra Grammar School, the result is more than a high-performance concert hall, it's a landmark education facility powered by sustainable technology. The Snow Concert Hall serves students, performers, and the wider community while supporting the ACT's transition to a low-carbon future.

Through projects like this, STIEBEL ELTRON continues to demonstrate the power of German innovation and Australian collaboration, uniting proven engineering with local partnerships to advance renewable, all-electric solutions.

## **About STIEBEL ELTRON**

Founded in Germany in 1924, STIEBEL ELTRON is a global leader in renewable energy technologies and building services, specialising in hot water, heat pumps, and ventilation systems. Operating in over 120 countries, the company has been active in Australia for more than 30 years, delivering premium all-electric solutions that support the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future

# Case study: RayGen and Bosch

## A German–Australian partnership powering the future of solar energy

### Engineering scalable solar solutions for a sustainable future

In Clayton, Victoria, a unique collaboration between Australian renewable energy company RayGen and German engineering leader Bosch is reshaping how solar energy is manufactured and deployed. This partnership brings together RayGen's innovative solar-thermal technology with Bosch's advanced manufacturing capabilities, creating a scalable solution that supports Australia's clean energy transition.

RayGen's system uses heliostats, large mirror arrays that concentrate sunlight onto a receiver. This receiver generates both photovoltaic electricity and high-temperature heat, enabling dispatchable energy delivery to the grid. The dual-output approach offers a reliable and sustainable alternative to conventional energy sources.

### Meeting the challenge of scale and precision

To commercialise its technology, RayGen required a manufacturing system capable of producing 300 heliostats per day. This was a significant increase from the previous manual rate of just five. Each heliostat demands precise curvature and robust construction to perform effectively in varied environmental conditions. The system also needed to be portable, allowing deployment in remote locations, and flexible enough to adapt to future project requirements.

These demands presented a complex engineering challenge, one that Bosch Australia Manufacturing Solutions (BAMS) was well-equipped to address.



### A modular, portable manufacturing system

Drawing on Bosch's global experience in manufacturing, BAMS developed a customised, automated production line tailored to RayGen's specifications. At the centre of the system are 11 industrial robots, one of which can handle a 750kg payload, the largest of its kind in Australia's renewable sector. The system is capable of assembling each heliostat with 0.1 mm accuracy.

The manufacturing line is modular and transportable. It is designed for rapid deployment and resilience in harsh environments. Bosch and RayGen adapted industrial joining technologies to ensure durability and precision, while maintaining flexibility for different heliostat designs and production volumes.

### Optimising processes through collaboration

To streamline operations, Bosch and RayGen employed value stream mapping to help the teams visualise resource flows, identify bottlenecks, and refine the scaling strategy. The collaborative approach ensured the implementation of best practice manufacturing standards, accelerating RayGen's path to market.

The partnership highlights the strength of German–Australian industrial collaboration. It combines Bosch's engineering and manufacturing expertise with RayGen's energy innovation. By working across disciplines, the teams have created a manufacturing model that supports both local deployment and global scalability.

### Impact and outlook

Supported by investments from ARENA, Breakthrough Victoria, and private stakeholders, RayGen is now positioned to roll out its solar-thermal technology at scale. The Bosch-engineered manufacturing solution has significantly reduced costs, improved productivity, and enabled faster commercialisation.

This case study demonstrates how international collaboration can drive innovation in renewable energy. By combining Australian ingenuity with German engineering, RayGen and Bosch have set a new standard for sustainable manufacturing. Their work supports Australia's clean energy goals and strengthens its position as a global leader in the energy transition.

# Hydrogen synergies across continents: The University of Bayreuth and Swinburne University of Technology advancing clean energy systems



The University of Bayreuth and Swinburne University of Technology are building a practical, research-driven partnership around hydrogen that links systems engineering, storage, and real-world deployment.

A focal point is the ongoing joint PhD project “HyBaCoM – Design and Optimisation of Hybrid Hydrogen-Battery Energy Systems for Community Microgrids.” HyBaCoM targets how hydrogen technologies (electrolysers, storage, fuel cells) can be optimally combined with batteries to deliver resilient, low-carbon power for regional communities—an area where both universities bring complementary strengths in modelling, control, and techno-economic analysis. In May 2025, Bayreuth’s Chair of Engineering hosted a dedicated workshop on integrating hydrogen into regional energy systems, convening HyBaCoM researchers and partners to stress-test system designs and exchange use-case insights.

Additionally, Bayreuth and Swinburne have received grant funding to undertake hydrogen related joint

studies. One such project that received DAAD funding is led by Victorian Hydrogen Hub’s Dr Steven Percy and Dr Matthias Welzl from the University of Bayreuth. The project explores collaboration around the hydrogen mobility thematic area in both Germany and Australia.

This collaboration is underpinned by Bayreuth’s Centre for Energy Technology (ZET), which covers the hydrogen value chain—from production and efficiency improvements to system integration and operation. Bayreuth’s campus hydrogen community spans engineering, chemistry and earth sciences, giving HyBaCoM a deep bench of expertise for component characterisation, thermal management, and transport processes relevant to hydrogen systems.

On the Australian side, Swinburne’s Victorian Hydrogen Hub (VH2) provides the testbeds, industry links and training environment that translate designs into demonstrators. VH2 brings hands-on capability including a hydrogen refuelling station, storage and tanks research, and close ties with the Aerostructures Innovation Research Hub (AIR Hub). These facilities—and VH2’s network with CSIRO and European partners—support complementary lines of inquiry in storage light-weighting, safety, and standards that feed into system-level decisions in HyBaCoM and related projects.

Regular staff and student exchanges are a visible feature of the partnership culture. In May 2025, Bayreuth welcomed VH2 Senior Research Fellow Dr Steven Percy and Joint PhD researcher Manashaa Madhavan for

technical sessions and site visits—including to regional hydrogen projects—strengthening the pipeline for joint supervision, data sharing and comparative case studies across German and Australian contexts. These exchanges do more than build goodwill; they accelerate joint publications and harmonise modelling assumptions, component specs and experimental protocols that are essential for multi-institution projects.

Strategically, the collaboration aligns with both universities’ missions: Bayreuth’s emphasis on cross-faculty hydrogen competence, and Swinburne’s industry-embedded research model. The shared focus on community microgrids and regional energy systems reflects a pragmatic vision—using hydrogen where it unlocks reliability and decarbonisation benefits that batteries alone cannot provide, while leveraging batteries for fast response and power quality. By co-optimising these assets, the teams aim to reduce levelised energy costs, improve asset utilisation, and design control strategies robust to renewable variability and local demand profiles.

Looking ahead, Bayreuth–Swinburne hydrogen work is well positioned to expand into demonstration pilots that connect techno-economic optimisation with procurement, safety cases and workforce training via VH2’s industry programs. With ZET’s production and efficiency research feeding into VH2’s deployment and testing ecosystem, the partnership offers a full pathway from lab to field—precisely what’s needed to de-risk hydrogen’s role in reliable, community-scale clean energy.









# German–Australian economic compatibility and Government support for supply chains



Recent months have demonstrated how volatile the once-stable system of largely free international trade has become. Trade is no longer merely a guarantor of economic growth and prosperity; we witness it increasingly being used as a tool to advance political agendas and strategic national interests. Sudden tariff disruptions or export restrictions on refined critical minerals have become part of the new normal.

When it comes to supply chains, these developments have made clear what many already knew — encapsulated in the familiar saying: “Never put all your eggs in one basket.” In other words, diversification is essential.

Supply chain diversification is not only a matter of future-proofing business models; in sectors such as energy and critical raw materials, it has become a question of national security and sovereignty. It is in precisely these two areas that the economic compatibility between Germany and Australia — and, more broadly, between Europe and Australia — becomes evident.

Australia possesses, in unrefined form, what Germany requires in refined form. Given Germany's limited natural resources, securing raw material imports is a national economic priority and it's industrial base is hungry for green energy. In Australia, hundreds of critical mineral mining projects are investment-ready and the country has some of the world's best potential for renewable energy generation.

German-Australian supply chains in these sectors are still in their early stages, but news on recent agreements offer ground for optimism. Examples include an offtake agreement between Siemens Gamesa and Arafura for magnet materials, and a newly signed memorandum of understanding between German thyssenkrupp Materials Trading and Australia's Progressive Green Solutions (PGS) for the production and export of green iron to Germany.

## When it comes to supply chains: "Never put all eggs in one basket."

Yet much greater investment is still required, particularly in refining capacity. To attract hesitant investors, Berlin and Canberra have introduced a range of government support programs.

The Australian government's Future Made in Australia package aims, among other goals, to strengthen the critical minerals sector and expand domestic refining capacity. In this regard, tax incentives for mining and refining of critical minerals illustrate Canberra's commitment to said goals.

Germany, for its part, provides complementary programmes through its Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and its project- and export-financing bank, KfW-IPEX. The government's Untied Loan Guarantees (UFG Guarantees) enable lenders to finance overseas resource projects by covering political and commercial risks, even when the loans are not directly tied to specific exports. These guarantees apply to projects that align with Germany's broader economic and strategic interests and typically require a long-term supply contract with a German customer.

Additionally, the German Resource Fund offers up to 270 million AUD direct equity participation and other financial instruments for international resource projects that help secure critical raw material supplies for German industry. Such investments generally depend on long-term supply agreements and must meet high environmental and social standards – which are already met in Australian minerals projects.

## Canberra and Brussels will need to demonstrate pragmatism and a willingness to compromise in the final phase of FTA negotiations.



The conclusion of the EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement would help significantly help with the establishment of such supply-chains. With new governments in both Berlin and Canberra, and a new European Commission in Brussels, the time is ripe to resume negotiations and resolve the few outstanding issues – including access for Australian agricultural goods to the EU, Australia's luxury car tax, and European access to raw materials. In the current geopolitical context, marked by efforts to diversify, neither side can afford further delay. The agreement would not only provide legal and investment certainty but also solidify the strategic partnership between two like-minded and complimentary economies committed to open, rules-based trade. For that to happen, Canberra and Brussels will need to demonstrate pragmatism and a willingness to compromise in the final phase of FTA negotiations.

Against the backdrop of very close German-Australian scientific ties and well-established business cooperation in other sectors such as advanced manufacturing, quantum, med-tech and pharma, closer ties in critical minerals and energy are more a question of time, than a question at all.

The German Embassy in Canberra stands ready to engage, discuss with, or support start-ups, established businesses, and public figures interested in the German-Australian economic relationship.

**H.E. Beate Grzeski**

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Australia

# Engineering, innovation and infrastructure



# Engineering rail excellence for a greener tomorrow

**For over 150 years, Siemens Mobility, a separately managed company of Siemens AG, has been an integral part of Australia's rail infrastructure.**

As a leader in intelligent transport solutions with a 175-year global legacy, the company's portfolio encompasses rolling stock, rail automation and electrification, comprehensive software solutions, turnkey systems, and related services.

In Australia and New Zealand, Siemens Mobility employs over 650 people from 62 different nationalities, reflecting a strong commitment to diversity, local manufacturing, innovation, and workforce development. The company operates offices in all major capital cities, with two manufacturing locations, a rail monitoring in Perth and rail infrastructure products in Port Melbourne, and a locomotive service centre in Mackay.

As the only trackside railway company proudly carrying the Australian-Made logo, Siemens Mobility's local innovation is supported by a portfolio of over 100 patents and patent applications in Australia, and more than 650 rail equipment type approvals. This is backed by a strong local supply chain, with over 75 percent of its suppliers being Australian-owned businesses. This commitment to local sourcing extends to manufacturing, where more than 80 percent of components used in point machines, signalling, and train stops are sourced from local vendors.

The success of this approach is reflected in the company's export capabilities, with 95 percent of products manufactured at the Port Melbourne facility being locally designed and exported to more than 10 countries worldwide.

Siemens Mobility's legacy in Australian rail infrastructure dates back delivering Australia's first railway interlocking machine in 1879 in NSW and the first electric tram in the southern hemisphere in Hobart in 1893. Today, the company continues to transform Australian rail networks through projects such as the first ETCS Level 1 digital signalling in Australia in Adelaide, the first ETCS Level 2 digital signalling with Aurizon, the upgrade of Sydney's rail network with ETCS Level 2 digital signalling and a new Traffic Management System, developed Melbourne's Train Control System and delivered Australia's first electric locomotives in Queensland.

With a commitment to sustainability, Siemens aims to be the first major industrial company to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint by 2030. This commitment is demonstrated in their involvement with Australia's first carbon-neutral infrastructure project, Sydney Metro-Western Sydney Airport. This contract includes 12 automated, driverless three-car metro trains, a purpose-built depot, the digital rail infrastructure including signalling, electrification, telecoms and platform screen doors, as well as system integration, testing and commissioning.

The collaboration between German and Australian engineering excellence has proven vital in addressing local transportation challenges, while

fostering innovation to support the development of local skills and knowledge. Siemens Mobility is committed to being a technology partner to support Australia's growing transportation needs while contributing to the nation's economic growth and net zero transportation goals.



# Engineered to inspire: How Mercedes-Benz brings luxury and innovation to Australia

For over 120 years, Mercedes-Benz has delivered world-leading innovation, safety, and luxury vehicles. As a German brand, we are defined by engineering excellence and a deep commitment to creating meaningful experiences that reflect what it truly means to be part of the Mercedes-Benz world.

Each year, our long-standing partnership with the Formula 1® Australian Grand Prix transforms Melbourne's Albert Park into more than just a race, it becomes a celebration of performance, lifestyle, and motorsport history. Through the AMG Lounge and the Mercedes-Benz Grandstand, the largest activation by any automotive brand at the Australian race, we bring the excitement of a global sport to life locally, offering our customers an immersive brand experience that blends motorsport adrenaline with world class hospitality.

At the same time, our ongoing collaboration with the National Gallery of Victoria underscores our dedication to creativity and design. By supporting Australia's leading art institution, we engage with a community that values timeless aesthetics and cultural impact. Whether on the track or in the gallery, Mercedes-Benz continues to contribute to Australia's cultural landscape in dynamic and enduring ways.

Our commitment to innovation and the future of mobility is just as strong. Recently, we hosted the Intelligent Drive Insight event where media and key stakeholders experienced first-hand how our latest driver assistance systems enhance safety and pave the way toward greater vehicle automation. From cutting-edge sensors to automated lane changes, these advancements highlight our focus on making Australian roads safer and smarter.

Today, our diverse vehicle portfolio is designed to meet the wide range of Australian lifestyles, from fully electric and plug-in hybrid models to high-performance vehicles that carry on the AMG legacy, to luxury sedans and SUVs tailored for long-distance comfort. Each model is a testament to our core promise: delivering not just a car, but an experience that is effortless, intuitive, and unmistakably Mercedes-Benz.

At Mercedes-Benz, luxury is about more than just materials and technology. It's built on trust, driven by innovation, and sustained through long-lasting relationships with the people and places we serve. In Australia, this means delivering exceptional experiences to our customers and continuing to lead the industry forward with purpose, passion, and precision.



**“Each model is a testament to our core promise: delivering not just a car, but an experience that is effortless, intuitive, and unmistakably Mercedes-Benz.”**

# Empowering a water-wise and sustainable future

**Wilo is a pioneer in sustainable and intelligent premium water solutions, addressing global challenges and creating positive impact for all.**

Our actions are guided by the overarching Wilo sustainability strategy and its core impact areas: Creating, Caring, and Connecting. Every day, more than 9,000 employees worldwide drive innovation with a clear purpose to improve people's quality of life.

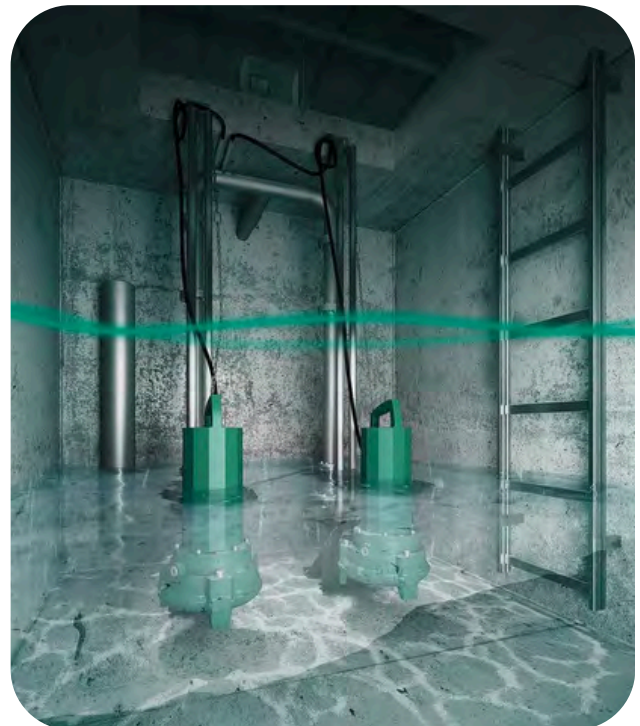
In building services, water management, and industry, we move, treat, and control the planet's most vital resource. For over 150 years, we have been thinking ahead. Today, as an innovation leader, we are shaping the digital and AI era in our industry.

Behind the Wilo brand stands a multinational technology group: the Wilo Group. Over the past decade, we have evolved into a Visible & Connected Champion, consistently implementing our successful region-for-region strategy. The Wilo Group now comprises 90 production and sales companies and 40 manufacturing sites, including 16 carbon-neutral Green Fabs. Our global network is anchored by three regional headquarters and our Group headquarters at the Wilopark in Dortmund, Germany.

For us, sustainability is not an end in itself. Our commitment is focused on making a real difference for people. We follow a simple principle: only when our actions improve lives can they be considered sustainable. This conviction, rooted in our vision, mission, and unwavering values unites the Wilo family, now and into the future.

We are driven by a clear **vision**: To shape a better tomorrow for humanity and the planet.

and **mission**: To pioneer sustainable and intelligent premium water solutions for global challenges, creating impact for everyone.





# With strategic support, Australia's modular construction sector is poised for growth

## Industry highlights strong foundations to unlock the full potential of offsite manufacturing

Australia's modular construction sector is entering a promising phase. The technology to build high-quality homes in factories is already in use. Companies such as OFFSITE, DWTT FUTUREFIT, and Green Timber Technology (GTT) are demonstrating what is possible with advanced manufacturing and a commitment to innovation.

Ross Campbell, Managing Director of HOMAG Australia, recently shared his perspective in an interview. "Australia's geography and demographics are well suited to offsite manufacturing of homes," Campbell said. "There is a clear demand for housing, and the sector is ready to deliver with the right economic settings."

In addition to HOMAG products, HOMAG's Australian branch, HOMAG Australia, supplies advanced timber manufacturing solutions from WEINMANN. These solutions, proven across Europe, are now supporting Australian manufacturers as they scale up prefabrication. Campbell notes that the sector is making significant progress. "Manufacturers are investing in facilities and technology. Australians are increasingly aware of the benefits of modular homes, including quality, speed, and sustainability."

The momentum is evident in the work of OFFSITE, DWTT FUTUREFIT, and GTT. Each operates modern manufacturing facilities equipped with WEINMANN systems from HOMAG Australia. These technologies enable

precise, efficient, and sustainable production of timber building elements. The companies work closely with architects, engineers, and developers, using digital design tools and Building Information Modelling (BIM) to ensure seamless integration and high standards.

Projects delivered by these companies span residential, commercial, education, and healthcare sectors. Their approach reduces construction timelines, improves site safety, and minimizes disruption to communities. Sustainability is a core value, with a focus on responsibly sourced timber and reduced carbon emissions.

The industry sees further opportunities for growth. Recent discussions in Canberra have highlighted the value of making Australian Standards more accessible. Campbell supports this direction. "Clear and consistent compliance frameworks help manufacturers deliver quality outcomes. Streamlining access to standards would benefit the entire sector."

While the foundations are strong, targeted government support could accelerate progress. Campbell points to the importance of creating an environment that encourages investment and innovation. "With the right settings, manufacturers can expand capacity and deliver more homes to meet Australia's needs."



HOMAG Australia's role as a technology partner is central to this progress. By supplying and supporting advanced manufacturing systems, HOMAG enables local companies to achieve global benchmarks. The company's commitment to innovation and industry collaboration is helping to shape a dynamic future for modular construction in Australia.

The outlook for the sector is positive. The expertise, technology, and commitment are already in place. With strategic support from government and continued industry collaboration, Australia's modular construction sector is well positioned to deliver high-quality, sustainable homes at scale. Constructive steps now can ensure the sector reaches its full potential and meets the growing demand for efficient housing solutions.

**By supplying and supporting advanced manufacturing systems, HOMAG enables local companies to achieve global benchmarks.**

# A new era of farming: SwarmFarm robotics and the power of Hatz H-Series engines

The future of agriculture is here, and it's small, smart, and autonomous. Australian company SwarmFarm Robotics is pioneering a new model in farming with its SwarmBot—a nimble, lightweight, autonomous machine designed to replace the large, heavy, and often inefficient machinery of the past. Rather than a single massive tractor, SwarmFarm uses a fleet of smaller Swarmbots that can work independently or in a coordinated "swarm" to perform tasks with accuracy, leading to a significant reduction in chemical use and a boost in overall efficiency.

The heart of these revolutionary machines is the Hatz H-Series engine. Hatz Diesel, a German company renowned for its compact and robust industrial engines, has formed a partnership with SwarmFarm. The choice of the H-Series is a testament to the engines' exceptional performance and suitability for this application. The H-Series engines are characterized by a groundbreaking downsizing approach, which results in an extremely high power-to-weight ratio. This is a crucial factor for the lightweight SwarmBot design. The engines deliver impressive power and torque in a compact package, allowing the robots to navigate challenging terrain and operate for extended periods.



Furthermore, the Hatz H-Series engines are built with a focus on fuel efficiency and environmental compliance. With features like the Bosch common-rail injection system and a design that prioritizes low emissions, they are prepared to meet stringent environmental standards like EU Stage V and EPA Tier 4 Final. This aligns with SwarmFarm's mission to create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural systems by reducing the use of harmful herbicides and pesticides.

The synergy between SwarmFarm's innovative robotics platform and Hatz's reliable and efficient engines is a game-changer for the agriculture industry. It enables a shift from broad-acre, blanket applications to precision farming, where every plant and every acre is treated with the utmost care. This partnership is a prime example of how collaboration between cutting-edge technology companies is driving a transformative shift in global food production.



**“The engines deliver impressive power and torque in a compact package, allowing the robots to navigate challenging terrain and operate for extended periods.”**

# Delivering large-scale German UAV solutions for emergencies and industry across Australia



## From German innovation to Australian opportunity

AVILUS' design journey began in Ismaning, Germany, when the German Armed Forces Medical Service requested a flying stretcher. The result was Grille ("the cricket"), a drone capable of reaching remote areas to deliver medical supplies and evacuate injured personnel. In critical care, every minute counts, the longer the therapy-free interval, the lower a patient's survival probability. Grille addresses this challenge by operating within the "golden hour" and reaching remote areas, significantly improving survival outcomes. Today, Avilus is already in the first production run of Grille for German Army medics.

Building on this foundation, Avilus unveiled its Ranger Class of drones in June 2025. This class bridges the gap where type-certified drones or manned aviation are impractical, costly, risky, or unavailable, and delivers the payload capacity and endurance needed for sustainment missions.

The same technology is highly relevant to Australia, where natural disasters, vast remote landmass, and harsh geographical conditions make rapid response and reliable logistics

essential. Ranger Class drones are designed to remain airborne for extended periods, transport heavy loads, and redeploy quickly, offering a new level of resilience and versatility for both civil and defense applications in the Australian market.

For Australia, this means:

- **Emergency response:** delivering supplies into isolated flood zones, search and recovery, and casualty evacuation from remote areas.
- **Bushfire resilience:** detecting ignition points early and suppressing fires before escalation.
- **Coastal monitoring:** extending observation capacity across large shorelines to strengthen border security.

To achieve these missions safely and effectively, Avilus will work closely with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), drawing on its experience with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to shape robust frameworks for operating large UAVs in Australian airspace. Furthermore, flight testing programmes will move to Australia, making use of local facilities and strengthening innovation.

## Building sovereign capability

Central to AVILUS' strategy is positioning Australia as the hub of excellence and manufacturing for the Ranger Class of Drones in the Asia-Pacific region. For Australia, this vision translates to:

- **Sovereign capability:** reducing reliance on overseas supply chains.
- **New jobs:** creating pathways for young Australians by enabling new tertiary courses in UAV operations and drone technology.
- **Industry growth and export:** embedding manufacturing in Australia to grow the UAV sector, establish export leadership for platforms such as Grille, Wespe, and Bussard, and deliver technologies that directly enhance national resilience.

Avilus' expansion reflects the strong partnership between Germany and Australia, with German design, engineering, and UAV expertise being transferred into the Australian market and creating a two-way exchange of knowledge, production capacity, and innovation. Australia's unique geography and trade links make it the ideal base for advancing UAV technology, enabling Avilus to deliver solutions where they are most needed while building local skills and long-term capacity. Both nations share commitments to technological excellence, resilience, and sustainability, working together to strengthen humanitarian response and critical infrastructure across the Pacific.

# Fraunhofer IWS: Strengthening German-Australian innovation in advanced manufacturing

Fraunhofer IWS is a leading institute for applied research in laser technologies, materials science, and advanced manufacturing. Based in Dresden, Germany, it supports companies worldwide in developing and processing high-performance materials, sustainable production systems, and next-generation manufacturing technologies. The mission is to translate scientific excellence into industrial impact.

Australia's strong research infrastructure, industrial ambition, and openness to innovation create ideal conditions for collaborative development and technology transfer between Fraunhofer IWS and Australian industry and academic partners. A prime example is the joint project UltraGrain, involving Fraunhofer IWS and the RMIT University's Centre for Additive Manufacturing in Melbourne. The partners integrate ultrasonic excitation into the laser powder bed fusion process to precisely control grain structure in metallic components. This approach enhances mechanical strength and corrosion resistance - key performance factors for aerospace, tooling, and medical applications. Both partners are keen to translate their key research findings into industrial applications to serve the Australian industry with partners such as the AM-CRC consortium.

Supported by 4 million Euro in joint funding, UltraGrain represents a cornerstone in German-Australian research cooperation. Beyond



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technical progress, it promotes academic exchange and industrial engagement. Researchers and engineers from both countries collaborate closely, sharing expertise and thus accelerating the transfer from laboratory to industry.

Building upon this momentum, Fraunhofer IWS is preparing to launch a Fraunhofer Innovation Platform (FIP) in Australia. The initiative will establish a permanent hub for co-development, prototyping, and pilot-scale testing. It aims to connect Fraunhofer's proven innovation and transfer model with Australia's dynamic industrial ecosystem—creating a direct interface for applied research and market-ready solutions. These initiatives reflect Fraunhofer IWS's broader commitment to shaping the future of manufacturing through international collaboration. By uniting Germany's engineering precision with Australia's agility and entrepreneurial spirit, the institute

helps build resilient, sustainable, and globally competitive industries. The growing partnership between Germany and Australia in science and technology serves both nations, industries in both countries and the global research community. It strengthens industrial sovereignty, advances sustainable production, and addresses shared challenges in energy and resource efficiency. Fraunhofer IWS continues to expand this cooperation—confident that joint innovation remains one of the strongest forces for progress.



© Christoph Wilsnack/Fraunhofer IWS

# Industrial services



## Where relationships matter: Inside HDI's collaborative culture in Australia

**If you ever visit HDI Global SE's Australian headquarters in Sydney, you'll likely be offered a coffee in the company kitchen before you even sit down for a meeting.**

But this isn't your average office kitchenette. With its warm finishes, built-in booths, coffee machine and snack basket, the space feels more like a welcoming café than a corporate insurer's breakroom. And in the corner – a quiet nod to HDI's roots – stands a German Strandkorb, the traditional wicker beach chair found along the North and Baltic Sea coast. It's a place for honest conversations, good ideas, and often, the beginning of long-term partnerships.

For HDI, this space isn't just about design – it reflects the way the company does business in Australia. “We've grown quickly, but we've always stayed grounded in personal connection,” says Stefan Feldmann, Head of Asia-Pacific and Managing Director for HDI in Australia. “The kitchen is open to clients and brokers. Some of our best meetings have happened over a sandwich, not in a boardroom.”

Since launching HDI in the market in 2010 with a team of just five, HDI's Australian branch has become one of the country's fastest-growing corporate insurers with an annual premium volume of over \$1.25 billion, but it's the collaborative culture that continues to define its impact.

The company now employs more than 260 people locally, with underwriters active across nearly every state and a growing presence across the Asia-Pacific region.

Rather than focusing on short-term wins, HDI's approach is about co-creating solutions – especially as risks evolve. A key example is HDI's investment in cyber insurance and digital risk tools, including the launch of its Primary Cyber product and remote risk surveys. Another example is client-facing offerings like climate consulting and self-assessment tech. These were developed not just for clients, but with them – shaped by real-world feedback from Australian businesses navigating a shifting digital landscape.

HDI also brings this spirit of shared purpose to its internal culture. Take Wandertag, for instance – a German tradition of stepping away from desks and into nature. In Sydney, the day began with a scenic ferry ride from Circular Quay to Manly, followed by a trail walk under blue skies, shared stories, and a family picnic with games. On the west coast, the Perth team set out along the coastline from Hillarys to Trigg Beach – a morning of connection, fresh air, and camaraderie.

“It's about building trust – with each other, with our clients, and with the wider community,” says Feldmann.

In a world where corporate relationships can often feel transactional, HDI's Australian team is carving out a different kind of success story – one built on conversations in a kitchen booth, not just numbers in a report.

Because sometimes, leadership in the insurance industry starts with a good coffee and a Strandkorb.





# Driving innovation in the automotive sector

**“Our role extends beyond the realm of technology - we help strengthen economic ties and build a more digital, sustainable, and resilient automotive sector.”**

At Hicron, we specialise in supporting organisations that import, distribute, and manufacture highly configurable, high-value items: cars, trucks, buses, vessels, heavy machinery, and aircraft. We assist our clients in optimising their processes to ensure that vehicles (or other) are delivered to the right person and the right place - with the correct configuration. To achieve this, we use the SAP platform.

The automotive industry is facing mounting pressure from rapidly evolving customer expectations. In the current business climate, buyers expect a more digital experience – from initial researching and configuring their options online to receiving instant updates on their order status and delivery timelines. Even before a vehicle is produced, customers want to know when their product will arrive and stay updated on its location, manufacturing and delivery process.

At the same time, the recently introduced Vehicle Efficiency Standard legislation requires each automotive brand to track and report CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for each individual vehicle sold. This demands accurate, vehicle-level data collection and integration into operational systems to ensure compliance.



The regulation adds complexity to their distribution and after-sales processes and increases the need for precise environmental reporting. To meet these requirements, automotive importers and distributors are embracing SAP's industry-specific solutions to manage these challenges - not only across their sales and distribution, but also in after-sales areas such as service, warranty management, and recalls.

We bring deep expertise in implementing these SAP tools and, most importantly, in continuously improving them for the automotive sector. As a result, automotive organisations can ensure operational excellence, data accuracy, simplified workflows, and regulatory compliance. Also, with Hicron's support, their vehicles and other equipment can be delivered faster, delivered efficiently to customers at the right time, and serviced more efficiently.

While Hicron's core competence lies in the automotive sector, our expertise extends far beyond it. We collaborate with a wide range of organisations spanning multiple industries, offering

comprehensive support for both large-scale transformations and smaller initiatives focused on process improvements and quick wins, often referred to as the "low-hanging fruit". Our Clarity Challenge initiative assists companies in evaluating their business process improvement initiatives and identifying those areas where real value can be realised the easiest. Combining SAP Signavio with the practical know-how of our Blackbelts ensures that improvements are not only well-designed but also effectively implemented.

We are proud to support German, Japanese, and Chinese automakers delivering vehicles to Australia by combining German efficiency with Australian resilience and business ambition. Our role extends beyond the realm of technology - we help strengthen economic ties and build a more digital, sustainable, and resilient automotive sector. As the industry transitions towards electrification and new mobility models, collaboration across borders becomes more important than ever.

# German innovation, Australian impact: INFORM's AI solutions power key industries



For more than half a century, German-born software company INFORM has applied advanced algorithms and optimisation technology to help organisations solve complex challenges. Since opening its Sydney office, the company has tailored German innovation to Australian conditions, driving efficiencies and strengthening resilience across multiple sectors.

In aviation, INFORM's GroundStar platform has transformed ground operations for Qantas by optimising staff, equipment and airport resources. Through Digital Decision Making that combines Artificial Intelligence and Operations Research, the system supports every operational phase from planning through to analytics, helping to achieve faster aircraft turnarounds, stronger on-time performance and significant cost savings.

The building materials industry is also seeing measurable gains. Heidelberg Materials has deployed INFORM's AI-powered Transport planning Software SYNCROTESS with impressive results: increasing truck productivity and on time performance. These improvements not only lower costs but also cut emissions, supporting sustainability targets across the supply chain.

In financial services, INFORM's RiskDefender platform helps banks and insurers such as ING tackle increasingly sophisticated cybercrime. Using a hybrid AI model that blends machine learning with human expertise, the system analyses transactions in milliseconds to detect fraud while ensuring a smooth customer experience and meeting AUSTRAC regulatory requirements.

What sets INFORM's approach apart is its ability to translate German engineering precision into local impact. From managing Australia's vast logistics networks to navigating unique regulatory frameworks, INFORM works closely with partners to create solutions that are both technically robust and context-specific.

A strong focus on responsible technology underpins all this work. INFORM's ethical AI principles emphasise transparency, human oversight and measurable contributions to sustainability.

As industries continue to evolve, INFORM's ability to adapt world-class technology to local needs ensures Australian organisations remain resilient, efficient and competitive on the global stage. From airports to building sites to financial institutions, INFORM is showing how intelligent algorithms can deliver measurable impact, strengthen resilience and support Australia's transition towards a smarter, more sustainable economy.

**“What sets  
INFORM's  
approach apart is  
its ability to  
translate German  
engineering  
precision into  
local impact.”**

# Work-life-culture





# The gala that celebrates German-Australian business relations



Success is built on collaboration, like-minded values, and counting on each other's strengths. Once a year, we celebrate the success stories of German-Australian bilateral trade and invite members, government representatives and the broader bilateral professional network to a night worth remembering.

In 2023, Björn Zikarsky, a former German Olympic swimmer turned businessman in Brisbane, emphasised the importance of teamwork – not only in sports, but also in business. A year later, Bronwyn Fox AO, President of the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise at the UNSW and previously Chief Scientist at CSIRO, highlighted the technological collaboration of both countries: “Both Australia and Germany are leaders in technological innovation, research and development. Both our nations have really ambitious goals for sustainability and environmental protection. By collaborating, we can and we are accelerating technological advances in critical areas like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and renewable energy. Germany is one of Australia's key trading partners, and the exchange of goods, services and investments helps diversify and strengthen both economies. “ This year, Ian Kemish AO, Member of our AHK Advisory Committee, former Australian Diplomat, Business Executive and Author shared “Germany and Australia are responding to the world in flux by leaning into shared values and complementary strengths.”

**“By collaborating, we can and we are accelerating technological advances in critical areas like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and renewable energy.”**

With keynotes from such well-renowned leaders, our annual AHK Gala Dinner is certainly one to remember and one that gets the attention not only from senior industry representatives but also from the government.

The festivities are accentuated with entertainment acts: from live music to artistic performances, the evening doesn't fall short on delivering a memorable night.

The focus, however, belongs to all companies that make this network invaluable. Through our members, who are not always of German heritage, yet cover Australian roots as well, we really get to understand what is needed. A night like this provides an exemplary opportunity to start the conversation with another, and what we hear, talk business on another date to get projects from paper to execution.

**The only question there's left to ask is: “Will you be joining us next year?”**

# TUI Hotels & Resorts plans strategic expansion into Australia

Australia's tourism sector continues to demonstrate strong potential, fueled by a growing demand for high-quality, experience-led travel. Recognizing this opportunity, TUI Hotels & Resorts is exploring ways to expand its footprint in the region through thoughtful and collaborative development projects.

TUI Hotels & Resorts is part of TUI Group, one of the world's leading tourism companies, headquartered in Germany. With more than 450 hotels across key leisure destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, the TUI Hotels portfolio includes renowned brands such as The Mora, TUI BLUE, and TUI SUNEО. Each brand is designed to meet diverse traveler preferences, ranging from all-inclusive beach resorts to premium active lifestyle and adults-only concepts, while consistently delivering exceptional quality, service, and memorable experiences.

With decades of international expertise, TUI Hotels & Resorts has established a reputation for working closely with local partners to develop and manage properties that are both commercially successful and culturally respectful. Its growing interest in the Australian market reflects a broader vision to align with destinations that prioritize sustainability, service excellence, and authentic guest experiences.

TUI is currently seeking a promising project in Australia to introduce one of its signature leisure hotel brands to the local market. This initiative aims to go beyond offering new accommodation by contributing to the destination's evolution—blending international hospitality standards with the unique character of Australia's landscapes and communities.



**“TUI is currently seeking a promising project in Australia to introduce one of its signature leisure hotel brands to the local market.”**

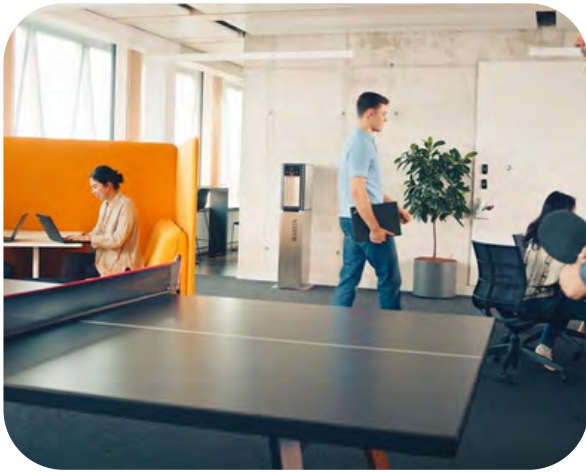
Importantly, TUI's development approach emphasizes long-term value over rapid expansion. The group prioritizes strategic partnerships with developers, investors, and local stakeholders who share its commitment to responsible tourism. This includes thoughtful architectural design, environmentally conscious operations, and community-oriented programming that engages both guests and the surrounding area.

Australia has long played a dual role in global tourism as both a premier destination and a significant source market for outbound travelers. It therefore represents a natural next step in TUI's global growth strategy. The company's increasing interest in the region is not solely commercial; it also reflects a commitment to enhancing the local industry and co-creating world-class hospitality experiences.

As Australia's tourism sector continues to rebuild and reposition itself post-pandemic, partnerships of this nature provide an opportunity to elevate service standards, diversify product offerings, and reinforce the country's global appeal.

TUI Hotels & Resorts looks forward to contributing its global expertise while embracing the distinct identity and vast potential of the Australian market.

# Beyond the kitchen sink: Rethinking hydration and innovation in the modern workplace



In an age of hybrid work, rising stress, and growing climate consciousness, the workplace is undergoing more than a makeover; it's experiencing a fundamental shift in purpose. No longer just a site of productivity, the modern office is evolving into a space for wellbeing, connection, and meaningful work.

Amid ergonomic chairs, biophilic design, and meditation pods, a quiet revolution is taking place in one of the most overlooked areas of office life: the water dispenser.

## The rise of the wellness office

Modern workspaces are evolving into wellness environments designed to nurture both the body and mind. A healthy workplace culture has been shown to increase productivity, foster collaboration and efficiency, while reducing stress.

This shift is largely driven by a millennial workforce that expects more than just a desk and a paycheck; they expect purpose, comfort, and care.

And with the average person spending one-third of their life at work, investing in wellbeing isn't a luxury, it's a necessity.

And wellbeing at work isn't limited to yoga classes or ergonomic chairs. It includes natural light, clean air, moments of movement and crucially, hydration. Even a modest 2% drop in hydration can affect mood, concentration, and energy levels. Yet, in many offices, access to water still means a trip to the kitchenette or a neglected cooler in the corner.

That's exactly the problem BRITA is helping to solve.

## Hydration by design

Modern offices aren't built around the kitchen sink nor are BRITA's dispensers. With sleek aesthetics, standalone waste systems, and minimal footprints, they give designers the freedom to place hydration where it's needed most.

"You're not stuck in the kitchenette anymore," says John Cox, Dispenser Sales Director. In the age of sleep pods, biophilic lounges, and seamless tech, one of the most transformative shifts may be this: water dispensers are no longer tucked away in breakrooms, they're positioned at the centre of collaboration.

It's a subtle design choice with outsized impact. The brain is up to 80% water, and even mild dehydration can impair focus, decision-making, and memory. BRITA systems like the Extra C-Tap and Top Pro do more than deliver hydration, they encourage movement, spark spontaneous conversation, and help ease the isolation of hybrid work. Studies show this modern "water cooler effect" can lift productivity by up to 15%.

Because sometimes innovation doesn't arrive in bold colours or flashy tech. Sometimes, it hums quietly in the background, a smart, sleek dispenser, thoughtfully placed.

By integrating hydration into the flow of the workplace, organisations are doing more than meeting a basic need. They're redesigning routines, rethinking space, and signalling that mental clarity and social connection are part of performance, not distractions from it.

In this reimagined workplace, where water meets design and wellbeing meets intent, something fundamental is happening. We're not just changing where we drink. We're changing how we work.

# Wilkhahn's enduring contribution to Australia's business ecosystem

Wilkhahn's participation in the Parliamentary Showcase and its feature in Accelerate Magazine, presented by the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK), highlight more than just design excellence. They tell the story of a German family-owned company deeply embedded in Australia's economic and cultural fabric—demonstrating how cross-continental collaboration can drive innovation, sustainability, and long-term value.

Founded on the principles of the German Mittelstand—family ownership, long-term thinking, and uncompromising integrity—Wilkhahn has been manufacturing and servicing in Australia for over 25 years. Since establishing its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Sydney in 1999, the company has grown into a model of German-Australian partnership. Its local facility integrates customer service, design, production, logistics, and finance, creating a resilient ecosystem that blends German engineering precision with Australian creativity and adaptability.

At the heart of Wilkhahn's philosophy is a clear purpose: to create furniture that endures—supporting health, performance, and wellbeing while respecting the planet's resources. This commitment sets Wilkhahn apart from the throwaway culture that

dominates much of the furniture industry. Every product is designed for longevity, repair, and regeneration—keeping materials in circulation and out of landfill.

## Design that lasts: From Parliament to the private sector

Few examples illustrate Wilkhahn's enduring value better than the Australian Parliament, where its iconic FS chairs remain in daily use after more than 30 years. Their continued service at the highest level is a point of pride and a testament to the company's belief in investing in design that lasts.

This same spirit of renewal is evident in recent projects, such as the refurbishment of ON chairs for a leading financial institution. Rather than discarding aging furniture, the chairs were reupholstered and updated, blending seamlessly with new additions to create a workplace that meets contemporary demands without compromising environmental responsibility.

A similar story unfolded when a law firm vacated its Sydney offices after nine years. Its Wilkhahn furniture was inherited by a major consultancy, which repurposed and refurbished the pieces for new offices in Sydney and Melbourne—demonstrating how sustainable practice can foster goodwill between organisations while keeping valuable resources in circulation.

## Trusted by Government and industry

Wilkhahn's reputation for quality and reliability has made it a trusted partner for some of Australia's most ambitious workplace projects. In 2023, the company delivered a 14-metre racetrack-shaped boardroom table (Confair Folding) for a Federal Government institution in Canberra.

Designed in-house, the table prioritised flexibility and reconfigurability—reflecting modern workspace planning where adaptability and durability are essential.

In another major project in 2024, Wilkhahn supplied over 1,000 meeting chairs (Neos Cantilever) to a Federal Government department across Brisbane and Melbourne. With their Bauhaus-inspired design and capacity for refurbishment, these chairs aligned with clients' sustainability goals and Australia's growing emphasis on carbon-conscious procurement.

## Local manufacturing, global standards

Central to Wilkhahn's success in Australia is its Sydney production hub, where skilled teams combine German precision with Australian adaptability. By partnering with timber specialists, metal fabricators, textile suppliers, logistics providers and many others, Wilkhahn supports local jobs and strengthens domestic supply chains. Its showrooms in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth extend this reach, enabling close collaboration with clients and design communities nationwide.

## A legacy of purposeful design

No other brand unites over 100 years of German design heritage with a proven local presence like Wilkhahn. Guided not by short-term gains but by long-term responsibility—to clients, communities, and the environment—Wilkhahn continues to shape healthier, more sustainable, and more resilient workplaces across Australia. As organisations rethink the spaces where people work, meet, and innovate, Wilkhahn remains not just a manufacturer, but a partner in creating environments that endure—designed with purpose, built to last.





# The Goethe-Institut: Your bridge to Germany

**16,000 kilometres separate Germany and Australia – far away, yet so close. Through its work, the Goethe-Institut – Germany’s global cultural organisation – brings people of many backgrounds together. Its tools? Language and culture – fields that speak to both the mind and the heart.**

## “Ich liebe Dich...”

### The German language

More than 70,000 students across Australian schools currently learn German – supported by over 600 dedicated teachers nationwide. For the Goethe-Institut, these are particularly valued collaborators: highly motivated and well-trained educators are the best ambassadors for the German language. Through seminars, conferences, and the latest teaching materials, the Goethe-Institut supports and strengthens the network of German teachers in Australia. The most recent national conference in Melbourne focused on how AI can assist teachers in this delicate and deeply human process.



### Climbing the career ladder - Corporate courses at the Goethe-Institut

In addition to school students, higher education students are also drawn to Germany’s diverse (and tuition-free) opportunities. Others are keen to reconnect with their heritage, and one particularly exciting group are employees of the many German companies based in Australia. If you’re looking to advance your career, understanding your employer’s language, mindset and culture can be a real advantage. The Goethe-Institut offers tailored solutions to suit every need.



### Experience Germany – Cultural exchange as a calling card

Australia is a land of festivals – from Adelaide and Brisbane to Melbourne and Sydney, all major cities host world-class cultural events. For over 50 years, the Goethe-Institut has been a proud partner of the country’s most prestigious festivals. Together, exciting projects and programs from Germany are made available to Australian audiences. This year, the world-renowned Tanztheater Wuppertal (Pina Bausch) performed at the Adelaide Festival, the last Sydney Biennale was curated by two Berlin-based curators, and in Melbourne, German star photographers and publishers took centre stage at the Photo Festival – just to name a few.

Film festivals, in particular, reach a wide audience. For over 20 years, the German Film Festival has showcased a broad selection of the latest films – often fresh from the Berlinale. The Goethe-Institut is an active partner here too, ensuring that audiences get a glimpse behind the scenes – often through artist talks with acclaimed directors flying in from Germany to engage up-close with Australian audiences. These festivals are also wonderful opportunities for connection – and perhaps even a unique team-building event for your company.

### **Culture you can touch – The German cultural day**

Culture doesn't belong in ivory towers – it should be accessible to all. In this spirit of sharing, exchange and generosity, the Goethe-Institut hosts the annual "German Cultural Day" in Sydney. Here, Germany presents itself in all its diversity: musicians, artists, traditional costume groups, VR experiences, universities, German schools and churches, and many companies showcasing their latest products – there's something for everyone, including a packed children's program.

And of course, no German celebration would be complete without bratwurst, beer and pretzels. Over 3,500 visitors enjoy this "trip to Germany" – and the team already looks forward to the next German Cultural Day on 18 October 2025. If you'd like to get involved... don't hesitate to get in touch!

[www.goethe.de/australia](http://www.goethe.de/australia)



# A bridge to a global future: Strengthening German–Australian relations through education

In today's global economy, collaboration between Germany and Australia extends far beyond trade and technology – it also thrives in education. On Sydney's Northern Beaches, a unique bilingual school illustrates how German and Australian academic traditions and innovation can be combined to prepare the next generation for a connected world.

At the German International School Sydney (GISS), students – from Preschool through to Year 12 – follow a curriculum that blends German and Australian standards and culminates in the internationally recognised International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. A distinctive feature is the German International Baccalaureate (GIB), which combines the IB's interdisciplinary approach with a strong German educational foundation. This qualification grants direct access to universities worldwide, including in Germany, without the need for further language examinations – a clear example of how bilateral cooperation creates pathways that extend across continents.

As a recognised Deutsche Auslandsschule (officially accredited German School Abroad), GISS plays a special role in connecting the two countries. In close partnership with the Deutsche Schule Melbourne, the two German Schools Abroad in Australia share a strong cooperation and friendship, reinforcing the importance of German education as a living bridge in the bilateral relationship.

At the heart of the school's mission is the belief that education serves as both a cultural and economic bridge.



**“At the heart of the school's mission is the belief that education serves as both a cultural and economic bridge.”**

Innovation plays a central role in this. In 2025, one of Australia's most advanced science laboratories opened on campus, developed in partnership with the German company Waldner Education. This collaboration highlights the value of bilateral exchange in science and technology – showcasing German engineering expertise while equipping students in Australia with the skills needed to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The school also plays an important role in cultural diplomacy. Its annual Christmas Market attracts around 8,000 visitors, bringing German traditions to Sydney and strengthening community bonds.

Meanwhile, the newly established GISS Football Academy, launched in cooperation with Bundesliga powerhouse Borussia Dortmund, highlights the shared values of teamwork, youth development, and sporting excellence. These initiatives demonstrate how education can serve as a platform for broader cultural and social exchange between nations.

With around 425 students and a strong international community, GISS offers a uniquely German–Australian environment. Many alumni continue their studies at leading universities across the globe, often pursuing careers that connect both countries in fields such as science, business, and the arts.

As Germany and Australia deepen ties in trade, industry, and innovation, institutions like GISS play a vital role in cultivating the next generation of global citizens. By combining bilingual education, intercultural competence, and strong partnerships with German industry and culture, GISS stands as a bridge between two worlds – and a springboard into a shared global future.

# Investing in the future: How Deutsche Schule Melbourne bridges cultures and builds tomorrow's talent

As one of only two German Schools Abroad in Australia, Deutsche Schule Melbourne (DSM) has been educating bilingual students since 2008, instilling them with a lifelong superpower: the ability to think, communicate, and operate fluently in two languages and bridge cultures.

Our approach centres on a bilingual and bicurricular model, where students are taught in both German and English, adhering to a curriculum encompassing those of Victoria and Thuringia in Germany. We are fully regulated and accredited by the relevant authorities in both countries, ensuring compliance with high educational standards.

At DSM, students enjoy the benefits of two education systems. The German curriculum offers a solid theoretical base, encouraging critical thinking and deep, transferable knowledge. The Victorian curriculum adds value by emphasising practical application across disciplines and tackling real-world problems.

Together, these dual strengths prepare students to be future-ready - strategic thinkers who not only grasp the "why" but can also demonstrate the "how" in diverse, complex settings.



**"Bilingualism helps sort out the necessary from the unnecessary. In essence, the brain is trained to navigate complexity – an essential life skill in today's world."**  
(Jörg Dopfer, Principal)

## The bilingual advantage

Research highlights the cognitive, academic, and social benefits of early bilingual education. Children immersed in two languages from a young age demonstrate improved memory, greater mental flexibility, better concentration, stronger pattern recognition, and more flexible problem-solving skills.

DSM's bilingual immersion starts with 80% of lessons held in German in the early years, gradually balancing to approximately 50:50 by Year 5, enabling non-German-speaking children to become fluent by the end of their primary school years.

DSM's bilingual and bicurricular education prepares students to pursue their studies within either the Australian or German school system. They gain access to universities, apprenticeships, and future career opportunities in both Australia and Germany. DSM thereby plays a vital role in promoting the German language abroad and encouraging young people to become key decision-makers in German-Australian politics, business, and society.

## An intercultural hub for the German-Australian community

Beyond the classroom, DSM is also a vibrant hub for intercultural community engagement. The school regularly opens its doors to host cultural events such as the popular Kaffeeklatsch during German Week Melbourne, and its well-known German Christmas Market, which attracts thousands of visitors each year.

By offering its facilities to German businesses and organisations, DSM actively promotes connections that extend beyond the classroom – building bridges between education, industry, and the community.

## Our message for German businesses in Australia

DSM's passionate team of educators is preparing the next generation of globally competent, bilingual professionals - young people with the knowledge, skills, and cultural fluency to succeed in both German and Australian contexts. In a time of global uncertainty and skilled labour shortages, this educational foundation is not just a cultural asset – it's an economic advantage.

Together, we can shape a diverse and competent future workforce that understands both cultures, speaks both languages, and benefits both economies. Let's connect – and invest in the future, together. Please reach out to us via [Karin.Power@dsm.org.au](mailto:Karin.Power@dsm.org.au).



# Collaboration across continents

The German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce is pleased to work with companies, institutions and organisations across all sectors to enhance bilateral trade, exchange and dialogue. As the bridge between government and industry, the right connections are vital for our work.

We were pleased to hear from so many of our members to share their success stories of successful collaboration across continents not only in this magazine, but at the first Parliamentary Showcase in Canberra, held in November 2025.

“With its wealth of critical minerals, rare earths and endless sunshine, Australia is a country that will continue to grow in importance in the future. As a like-minded partner to Germany, it is an invaluable partner in the business world”, shares Marko Walde, Executive Director of the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

The world in flux is only highlighting the importance of like-minded partners, not only in business but also in governments. Despite the distance, Germany and Australia share similar values that build a solid foundation for any partnership blossoming between the continents.

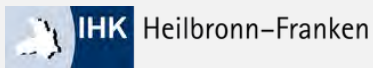
As we look ahead to celebrating our 50-year anniversary in 2027, our commitment to strengthening the dialogue between both countries is achieving a significant milestone.

## Our partners in Germany

The German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHK) work closely with the local Chambers of Commerce and Industry across Germany, which are experts for their respective regions. In contrast to German companies abroad, all companies set up in Germany are members of their respective local German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK). This means, by working with our extended network, we are able to provide

excellent touch points to the market in Germany and rely on our colleagues around the world to provide informed and outstanding services to our members and clients. Many German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IHK) are showing strong interest in Australia and its opportunity for German businesses, and we are delighted to work with them as members of AHK Australien even closer together.

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The German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Australien) with offices in Sydney and Melbourne, has over 45 years of experience, a competent team of experts and partners who understand all facets of the Australian market. AHK Australien is part of the global network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs), with over 150 offices in over 90 countries. AHKs are key players in promoting German foreign trade and business development on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany.

**Executive Director:** Marko Walde

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[www.germany.org.au](http://www.germany.org.au)

## Platinum partners



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