

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Penny Wong MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Urgent Call for Federal Action: Safeguarding AVZ Minerals and Australia's Strategic Future in the Global Green Energy Race – 20,000 shareholders at risk

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned citizen and stakeholder in Australia's economic future. **The Federal Labour Government's inaction** and lack of visible support for **AVZ Minerals**, a company **poised** to play a **pivotal role in the global green energy transition**, is both perplexing and disappointing. This is a glaring oversight that warrants immediate rectification.

As you are undoubtedly aware, AVZ Minerals holds significant interests in the Manono Lithium and Tin Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). **This project is not just a potential boon for shareholders but a strategic asset for Australia**, given the global race to secure critical minerals essential for renewable energy and battery technologies. However, the **absence of robust government advocacy and intervention to support AVZ** amid geopolitical challenges is **jeopardizing both the company's future and Australia's standing in the critical minerals supply chain**.

The lack of federal support is alarming for several reasons:

1. **National Strategic Interests:** The world is rapidly shifting towards renewable energy, and lithium is a cornerstone of this transition. **By failing to support AVZ Minerals**, the government risks ceding strategic ground to other nations that are aggressively securing critical mineral assets. **This undermines Australia's** position as a global leader in resources.
2. **Economic Opportunities:** The Manono project promises to deliver substantial economic benefits, including job creation, export revenues, and strengthened trade ties. **Government inaction** sends a troubling signal to investors and other Australian companies seeking to operate in complex international markets.
3. **Geopolitical Implications:** The DRC is a challenging jurisdiction, fraught with political instability and competing international interests. AVZ's ability to navigate this landscape and secure its rightful assets **requires clear and tangible support from the Australian government**, including diplomatic backing and advocacy in international forums.
4. **Sustainability Commitments:** Australia has committed to playing its part in combating climate change. Supporting companies like AVZ, which directly contribute to the green energy transition, aligns with these commitments and demonstrates leadership on the global stage.
5. **Leadership Accountability:** It is deeply troubling that the **failure of the current Labor Government to act decisively** has left a vacuum that risks being filled by other governments and foreign leaders, such as U.S. President Donald Trump. **Australia** should not have to rely on international figures to resolve issues that stem from our **own**

government's shortcomings. This situation underscores the urgent need for financial and strategic support to come from within Australia, ensuring that our **national interests are prioritized and safeguarded.**

6. **Consequences of Inaction: Should AVZ Minerals lose control of its interests in the DRC, the repercussions could be severe.** Such a loss would not only undermine **Australia's credibility** as a reliable partner in the critical minerals sector but also jeopardize our ability to secure a leading position in the global green energy economy. This would result in missed opportunities for economic growth, diminished international influence, and a potential **erosion of investor confidence in Australian enterprises operating abroad.**
7. **Impact on Shareholders:** AVZ Minerals' shareholders, many of whom are **Australian citizens, stand to suffer significant financial losses** if the company is unable to fully secure its interests in the DRC. These losses would not only erode wealth for individual investors, including retirees who rely on their investments for financial security, but would also have broader economic consequences. **The political fallout of 20,000+ angry investors,** whose livelihoods are tied to the success of AVZ, cannot be underestimated. The growing discontent among these shareholders, many of whom **feel abandoned by their government,** risks stoking widespread distrust in Australia's political leadership and ability to protect its citizens' financial interests. **This anger will undoubtedly spill over into the upcoming elections, with not only the 20,000+ shareholders casting blame on the government** but also their friends, families, and colleagues who **will not be forgiving of the Labour Government's inaction** and lack of support, both financial and diplomatic. This has the potential to lead to mass protests at the ballot box and **calls for accountability from the current Labour Government.**
8. **The Lack of Significant Financial Support:** Perhaps the most concerning aspect of this situation is the glaring absence of significant financial support from the Australian Labour Government. While AVZ faces mounting geopolitical and financial challenges, the lack of government intervention—both in terms of financial backing and proactive diplomatic efforts—has left the company vulnerable. Other nations are stepping up their support for critical minerals companies in their jurisdictions, offering subsidies, tax incentives, and diplomatic assistance. In contrast, the Australian government's failure to provide meaningful financial backing and a comprehensive strategic plan is putting the future of AVZ, and by extension, Australia's place in the critical minerals sector, at serious risk. **This lack of financial support undermines not only the company's survival but also the broader potential for Australia to remain a competitive player in the green energy economy.**
9. **The Theft of AVZ's Assets by Chinese Companies:** One of the most alarming scenarios is the increasing likelihood of Chinese companies gaining control of AVZ Minerals' assets in the DRC. The growing involvement of Chinese entities in the DRC's mining sector, **coupled with the Federal Labour Government's inaction, leaves AVZ vulnerable to losing its control over the Manono project.** If this were to happen, it could have disastrous implications not just for AVZ, but for Australia's entire lithium industry. **Chinese control over critical assets like AVZ's lithium deposits would allow Chinese companies to dominate the Lithium Spot Market, potentially manipulating prices to their advantage.** Such market **manipulation could destroy the viability of Australian lithium mines, as the price volatility driven by foreign-controlled entities**

could severely undercut the profitability and sustainability of these mines. With China already a major player in global lithium production, the loss of Australian influence in this sector would erode our ability to leverage these resources for economic and strategic benefit, compromising our energy security and global competitiveness.

10. **Compliance with DRC Mining Codes:** It is important to highlight that AVZ Minerals has complied fully with all DRC Mining Codes. **The company has made considerable progress, reaching the Mining Decree stage and releasing all required studies as stipulated by the DRC Mining Code.** AVZ's commitment to meeting the legal requirements of the DRC demonstrates its dedication to maintaining transparency and operating within the boundaries of the law. Despite this adherence to regulatory standards, the failure of the Australian government to provide the necessary support leaves AVZ vulnerable to external pressures, undermining the company's ability to secure its rightful assets in the DRC.

The **Federal Labour Government's failure to act** decisively on this matter **risks squandering a once-in-a-generation opportunity.** It also raises questions about the **federal government's commitment to supporting Australian businesses operating in strategically critical sectors.**

I urge you to take immediate steps to rectify this situation by:

- Offering direct government advocacy and support to AVZ Minerals in its dealings with the DRC government and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Providing urgent financial assistance to AVZ Minerals** to strengthen its position and ensure it can meet the challenges posed by the geopolitical and economic complexities of the DRC.
- Engaging with AVZ's leadership to understand the challenges they face and the specific actions the government can take to support their operations.
- **Prioritizing the critical minerals sector in Australia's strategic and economic policy frameworks to ensure that companies like AVZ receive the backing they need to succeed.**

Australia's future prosperity and global standing depend on our ability to lead in the industries of tomorrow. Supporting AVZ Minerals is not just an economic imperative but a strategic necessity.

I trust that you will recognize the gravity of this situation and act accordingly.

I look forward to your response and to seeing decisive action taken on this critical matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sunday, 26 January 2025