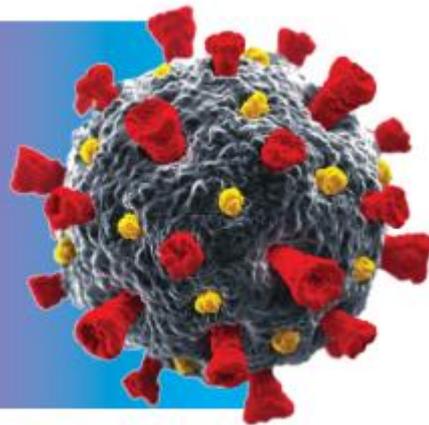




## Lithium Australia – an ardent proponent of supply-chain reform

COVID-19 has certainly thrown a cat among the pigeons, highlighting shortcomings in financial systems and industry sectors alike ... and there are many. A prime example is the battery industry. A brief overview of its weaknesses, including oversupply of some materials and unethical sourcing of others, plus cost and pricing pressures and monopolistic dominance of certain elements of the supply chain, is provided in the latest issue of [The Power of 3](#).

COVID-19 – the unlikely catalyst for supply-chain reform



Ambitious plans to diversify lithium chemical production and ease the more critical bottlenecks in supply have been stymied by rapid reduction in demand and precipitous price falls.

Lithium Australia NL (ASX: LIT, 'the Company') aims to **enhance operational efficiency** – from the mining of lithium through to the delivery of lithium chemicals – and in so doing **bypass supply-chain impediments**.

### Li chemicals

The Company's proprietary [LieNA® technology](#) has the potential to recover many of the lithium units currently discharged to tailings by existing spodumene concentrate producers (spodumene being the principal lithium ore mineral). In fact, recovering lithium from fine and low-grade spodumene products, something conventional lithium 'converters' cannot accomplish, is the raison d'être of LieNA®; it bypasses the problematic roasting stage of alternative processes by digesting the spodumene in caustic soda before its lithium extraction phase rejects the impurities.

Lithium Australia is preparing to pilot-test LieNA®, which was developed in concert with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and is the subject of a co-funded [research grant from the Australian federal government.](#)

Technological innovation such as this can enhance the sustainability and resilience of the battery industry while reducing operating costs, promoting supply-chain diversity and benefitting the environment.

Regards

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