



RARE EARTHS

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Making the future possible

Produced by the Minerals Council of Australia

Australian Mining



Australia's resource

3%

Share of world rare earth element resources in 2016

20,000 t

Australia's production of rare earth oxides in 2017



6th

Largest share of world rare earth resources in 2016

11%

Australia's share of world rare earths production in 2016

Global production

130,000 t

Global rare earth element production in 2017

81%

China is the largest producer of rare earth elements



Rare earths are abundant in nature (in spite of their name) but are difficult to extract. The only Australian rare earths mine is at Mount Weld (near Laverton) in WA.

Rare earths at work



Speakers



Wind turbines



Telescopes



MRI screening



Hybrid cars



Magnets

DID YOU KNOW?

Modern rare earth separation processes used today were developed around the time of WWII. The Manhattan Project drove the development of the ion exchange method which made it possible to extract plutonium for atomic bombs.

Cerium

High-shine touchscreens



Cerium oxide gives smart phones and tablets, as well as some televisions and computer screens, their highly polished glass screen finish.