

**Learn From Australian Govt's Refusal To Set Up Lynas**  
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If Western Australia refuses to allow its own Australian company Lynas to set up a rare earth processing plant, even though Australia is 23 times bigger than Malaysia, should not the Malaysian government learn from the lessons behind the Australian government's refusal?

Australia has a land mass of 7,682,300 sq km as compared to Malaysia's 329,613sq km, a factor of 23.3 times. Despite being 23.3 times bigger than Malaysia, there is no room for Lynas to build its rare earth processing plant, even though the rare earth ore is mined from Mount Weld, Western Australia. Instead the rare earth ore mined in Western Australia will be transported thousands of miles away to Kuantan, Malaysia to be processed.

The Western Australian government has repeated its refusal to allow any waste residue, which is radioactive, generated from processing the rare earth to be returned to its source in Western Australia.

I have explained to the Australian media that if the Australian government can refuse to allow its own rare earth ore taken from Western Australia to be processed in Australia or allow the treated waste residue to be returned at source, why should Malaysia take the risk and expose Malaysians to such danger. Whilst economic progress is important, any responsible government should never put profits before health or environmental safety.

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