

Submission: Inquiry into factors shaping social licence and economic development outcomes in critical minerals projects across Australia

Geoscience Australia information is extremely outdated. the most recent advice is that we are not and will not be producing a large quantity of thorium. Thorium is a significant component of rare earth deposits. We are about to start producing a huge amount of thorium. Rare earths are pretty much the same thing as lanthanides and actinides. Right now the industry advice is that there are no expected environmental or public health consequences. That's what was said about depleted uranium. Safety advisories for workers and current research doesn't go as far as radiation hormesis theory classifying them as benign -that heavy metals are a perfectly acceptable replacement for calcium. All the doctors and nurses in the region should be required to undertake training modules related to rare earth mining. If I had to explain how people behave when not informed of the risks, I'd point to meat workers throwing tuberculin pustules at each other as a form of play. I'd also suggest forbidding health workers from having a financial interest in the mine due to the possibility of impairing their ability to perform their fiduciary responsibilities.¹ This of course is a misconception. Under Australian law, *Breen v. Williams*(1996), Health professionals are not fiduciaries.² I'd also suggest public health campaigns for the new horrible diseases coming to the affected communities so that they can take measures to mitigate risks and identify health risks.

1. Rudolph Ramm. (2020) Medical jurisprudence and rules of the medical profession. Translated by Melvin Wayne Cooper.. Foreward. pp. vi, xx.
2. Anderson, G., & Pepper, B. (2025). Should Australian equity recognise doctors as fiduciaries? *Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal*, 1–29.
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