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PURE SPECULATION

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Fight for rare earth turf

LONDON'S *Times* reports that Japan is preparing itself for a potential showdown with Beijing over China's plans to retain a stranglehold on rare earths, and therefore the production of such items as hybrid cars, lasers, new-generation light bulbs and wind turbines.

This is something that *Pure Speculation* and its online companion, *The Dirt*, have been banging on about for some time, with no apparent effect. As we have pointed out, Australia's two most advanced rare earths projects are now closely aligned with Chinese interests.

So it was interesting to note that **China Yunnan Copper Australia (CYU)** can now earn up to 70 per cent of the Mary Kathleen project in the Mount Isa region from owner **Goldsearch (GSE)**. The deposit is prospective for copper, gold, uranium and — please note — rare earths.