



Where would we be without the mining and petroleum industry?

Western Australia boasts one of the largest and most diverse mining and petroleum industries in the world. The State produces more than 50 different minerals including iron ore, petroleum, liquefied natural gas (LNG), alumina, gold, nickel, zinc, copper, lead, mineral sands, diamonds and coal.

From the moment you wake up to the time you go to bed, these minerals are helping you to enjoy your modern lifestyle.

The radio alarm clock that wakes you up each morning is powered by burning coal or the combustion of natural gas and travels through the copper, aluminium and iron power lines. Alternatively, if you are using a battery powered alarm, you will be using nickel, iron, brass and zinc.

Getting out of bed is a chore but the thought of a nice hot shower gets you up and moving to start your day. Opening the bedroom door connects you to a metal door handle that originated from minerals dug from the earth. The bathroom is a treasure trove of minerals from your ceramic basin and toilet (made from kaolinite and alumina) to your shower head and towel rail (copper and zinc). Even the product that makes your toothpaste white is partly made from mineral sands.

While dressing you have to make the very important jewellery decision – gold or silver? Or is today a day to go for the diamond ring?

At breakfast your baked beans are warmed in the microwave, another treasure trove of different minerals including iron and zinc in the metal body and mineral sands in the paint and glass. The cutlery you eat with is made from stainless steel (an iron alloy).

Switch on the television for some morning news and you will be looking through the glass screen made partially from mineral sands. Your picture will be picked up by the iron and metal alloy antenna and produced by the aluminium and nickel/iron alloy in the cathode ray tube. All of this and we haven't even considered what else is involved in getting the picture to the screen.



Of course your car or bus needs petrol or LPG to run and many metals go into their construction. Tantalum, for example, is extensively used in the computer electronics for the massive computerised factories that build the car, right down to your home computer, television and mobile phone.

There is very little you would do in a day that would not put you in contact with something that was created because of the mining and petroleum industry.