

ASX Announcement

21 July 2023

Astron presents at Noosa Mining Investor Conference

Astron Corporation Limited (Astron, ASX: ATR) is pleased to announce that its Managing Director, Mr Tiger Brown, has been given the privilege of delivering the enclosed presentation to the Noosa Mining Investor Conference yesterday, Thursday, 20 July 2023.

A replay of Mr Brown's presentation can be found here:

[Astron Noosa Mining Conference Presentation](#)

This announcement is authorised by the Managing Director of Astron Corporation Limited.

For further information, contact:

Tiger Brown, Managing Director

+61 3 5385 7088

tiger.brown@astronlimited.com

Joshua Theunissen, Australian Company Secretary

+61 3 5385 7088

joshua.theunissen@astronlimited.com

About Astron

Astron Corporation Limited (ASX: ATR) is an ASX listed company, with over 35 years of experience in mineral sands processing and downstream product development, as well as the marketing and sales of zircon and titanium dioxide products. Astron's prime focus is on the development of its large, long-life and attractive zircon assemblage Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project in regional Victoria. Donald has the ability to represent a new major source of global supply in mineral sands and rare earths. The company also conducts a mineral sands trading operation based in Shenyang, China; operates a zircon and titanium chemicals and metals research and facility in Yingkou, China; and is the owner of the Niafarang Mineral Sands Project in Senegal.



Donald Rare Earths & Mineral Sands Project

Globally Significant, Tier-1 Australian Critical Minerals Project
Multi-phase development pathway

Astron Corporation Limited (ASX:ATR)

Noosa Presentation – July 2023

Disclaimer

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

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COMPETENT PERSONS STATEMENT

The information in this report that relates to the MIN5532 Mineral Resource estimate is based on information and supporting documentation compiled by Mrs Christine Standing, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mrs Standing is a full-time employee of Optiro Pty Ltd (Snowden Optiro) and is independent of Astron Corporation, the owner of the Mineral Resources. Mrs Standing has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not materially modified from the relevant original market announcement.

The information in this document that relates to the estimation of the RL2002 and RL2003 Mineral Resources is based on information compiled by Mr Rod Webster, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Webster is a full-time employee of AMC Consultants Pty Ltd and is independent of DMS, the owner of the Donald Project Mineral Resources. Mr Webster has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not materially modified from the relevant original market announcement.

The information in this document that relates to the estimation of the Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Mr Pier Federici, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Federici is a full-time employee of AMC Consultants Pty Ltd and is independent of Astron. Mr Federici has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not prematurely modified from the relevant original market announcement.

The information in this document that relates to the metallurgical performance and outcomes of testwork is based on information compiled by Mr Ross McClelland, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr McClelland is the principal metallurgist and director of Metmac Services Pty Ltd. Mr McClelland has been involved with the metallurgical development of the Wimmera-style mineral sands resources for more than 30 years. He has provided metallurgical consultation services to DMS for more than 7 years. He qualifies as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not been prematurely modified from the relevant original market announcement.

Investment Highlights

A multi-generational (50 years+) supplier of critical minerals and downstream valuable materials for decarbonisation

Tier 1 project of global significance

3rd largest rare earth resource ex-China

Largest global zircon resource

Compelling financial metrics and multi-phased approach

Phase 1 DFS:
Post-tax NPV₈ – A\$852m
Cashflow: Q3 2025

Phase 1+2 PFS:
Post-tax NPV₈ – A\$2.2b
Cashflow: Q4 2030

Major approvals in hand, project technically de-risked

EES, EPBC, CHMP,
Mining Licence granted

Extensive metallurgical test work

Favourable market dynamics across product mix

Rare earth demand growth – 6.0% CAGR

Zircon – short to mid term supply deficits

Focus on execution and value creation for shareholders

Experienced Management Team

Clearly defined project timetable

Significant future opportunities

Development of Jackson Deposit

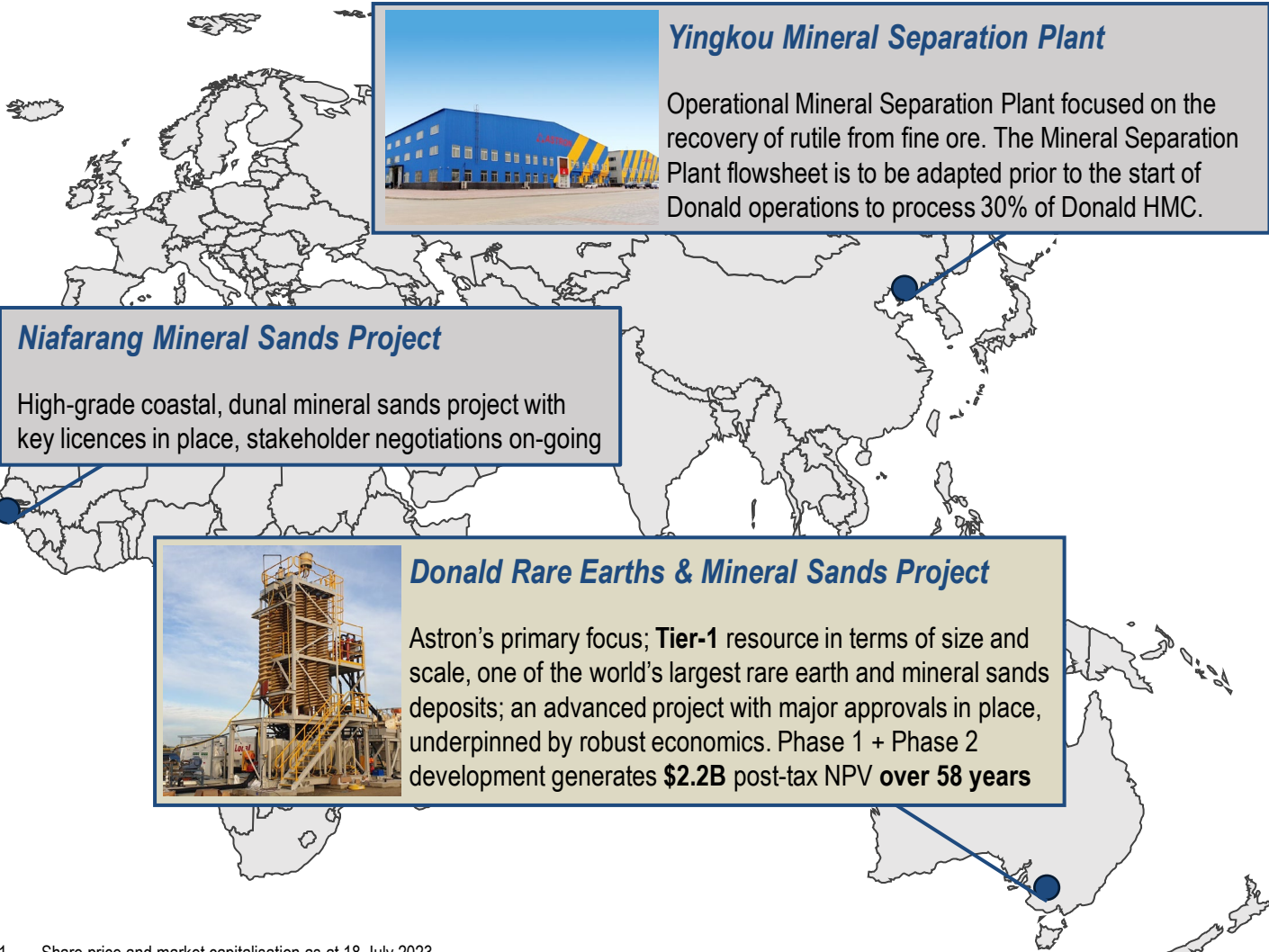
Further value-add opportunities

Site of Donald Project

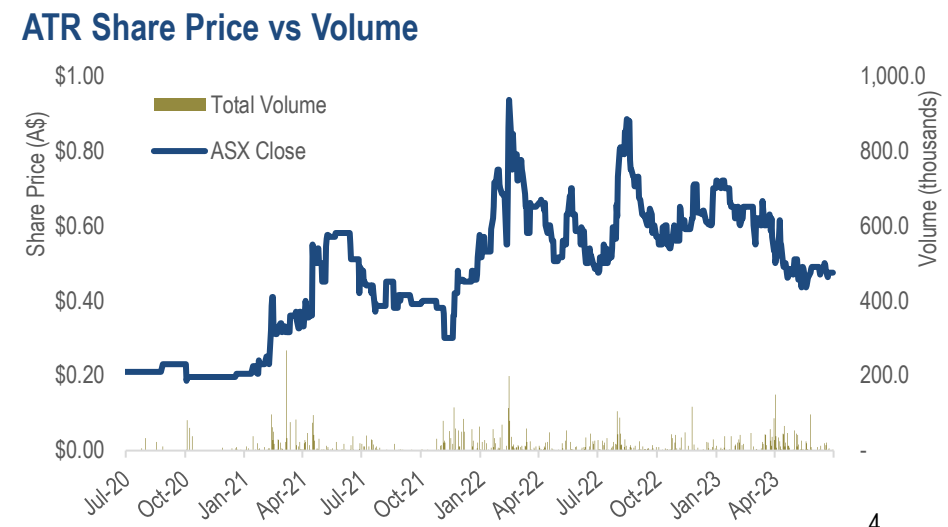
Astron Corporation: Corporate Overview



Astron's objective is to become a globally significant source of strategic minerals leveraging upon its unique resource position



ASX Code	ASX:ATR
Securities on Issue	146.5 M
Share Price ¹	A\$0.475
Market Cap ¹	A\$69.6 M
Phase 1 Post-Tax NPV	A\$852.0 M
Net Assets ²	A\$86.2 M
Top 20 Shareholding	~90%
Project Location	Wimmera Region, Victoria, Australia



1. Share price and market capitalisation as at 18 July 2023
 2. Based on December 2022 Half-Year financial statements, includes land assets of \$5.2M & water entitlements of \$10.6M

Experienced Project Team To Deliver the Donald Project

Highly experienced Board & Management team with extensive experience in corporate development



George Lloyd
Chairman

George has 30 years resource industry and corporate business development and finance experience, including with RGC Limited, as well as serving as a senior executive and director of a number of listed and unlisted companies with interests in industrial minerals, base and precious metals, as well as energy sector.



Tiger Brown
Managing Director

Tiger joined Astron in 2018, holding various business development planning and executive roles in China and Australia prior to joining the board in 2019. Appointed managing director in February 2019 and has overseen the detailed planning for the commercialisation of the Donald project.



Rong Kang
Executive Director

Rong joined Astron in 1995 and has been a key contributor to the establishment of Astron's downstream processing and global marketing and sales activities, with a deep knowledge of the mineral sands product market and its key participants. Board member since 2012.



Sean Chelius
Donald Project Director

Sean joined Astron in January 2022 as the Project Director for the Donald Mineral Sands and Rare Earth project. Sean has over 30 years international experience in mining project planning and implementation, including full responsibility for taking projects from concept through to commissioning and production. His experience involves project management and engineering roles in Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea and Fiji with BHP, Anglo American, Newcrest, Ausenco and Worley Parsons.



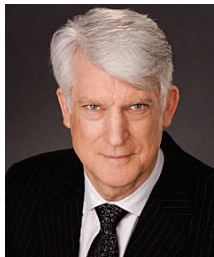
Gerard King A.M.
Non-Executive Director

Gerard is a former partner of Lavan & Walsh, which became Phillips Fox Perth. Experienced in commercial contracting, mining law and corporate and ASX compliance. A former member of the Australian Mining & Petroleum Lawyers Association Served as a non-executive director for several companies.



Greg Bell
Chief Financial Officer

Greg's advisory and corporate experience spans more than 21 years, working initially in corporate advisory and assurance services with Deloitte, followed by 8 years with Mineral Deposits Limited (MDL) as Accounting Manager and then Chief Financial Officer. Subsequent to MDL, Greg held both consulting and executive roles with international mineral sands and resource companies, including in the critical minerals sector.



Dr Mark Elliott
Non-Executive Director

Mark has 27 years experience in corporate roles, both as chairman and managing director on several ASX-listed and private companies. Involved in identifying and securing resource projects, capital raisings, marketing and completing commercial agreements, feasibility studies, mine development plans and their execution.



Jessica Reid
General Manager Sustainability

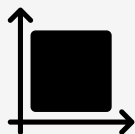
Experienced environmental and social professional, working across Australia and PNG on natural resource and major infrastructure projects for over 18 years as Principal at Tetra Tech (formerly Coffey). Previous experience includes the delivery of Donald Project E.E.S. and Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone in VIC, environmental approvals for the Wafi-Golpu Project, Ok Tedi Mine Life Extension in PNG.

The Donald Rare Earths & Mineral Sands Project

100% owned world class asset in supportive jurisdiction with key regulatory approvals in place



Located in the Wimmera Region, ~300kms to the NW of Melbourne, Approximately 70kms from the closest regional city of Horsham



Total licenced area of 426 km², comprises of the Donald Deposit (MIN5532 and RL2002) and the Jackson Deposit (RL2003)



Only project of its type with positively assessed EES, a granted Mining Licence, federal government EPBC and Cultural Heritage Management Plan



Strong community support, executed MOU with local shire council

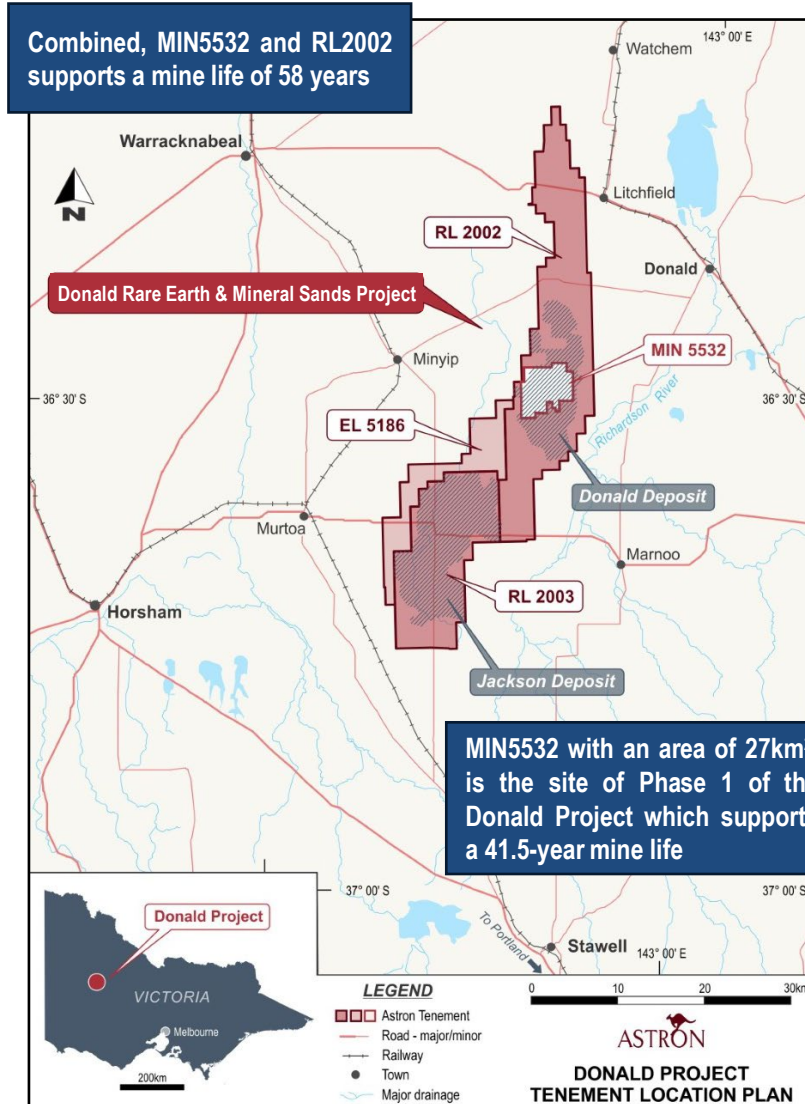


Mining planned on freehold land used for cropping and grazing, Minimal native vegetation impact, land for off-sets already purchased



Secured sufficient water rights for Phase 1 + Phase 2 development

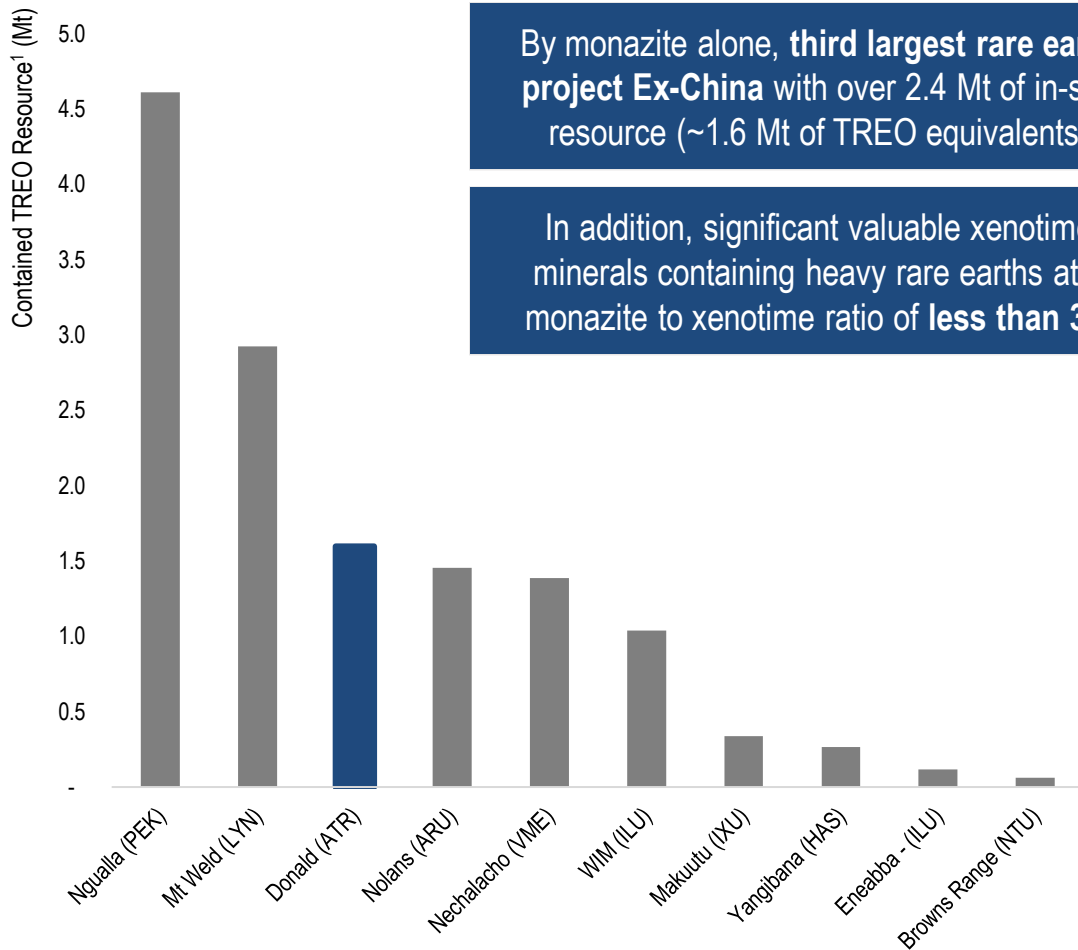
Combined, MIN5532 and RL2002 supports a mine life of 58 years



Bringing to Life a Globally Significant Rare Earths and Zircon Project



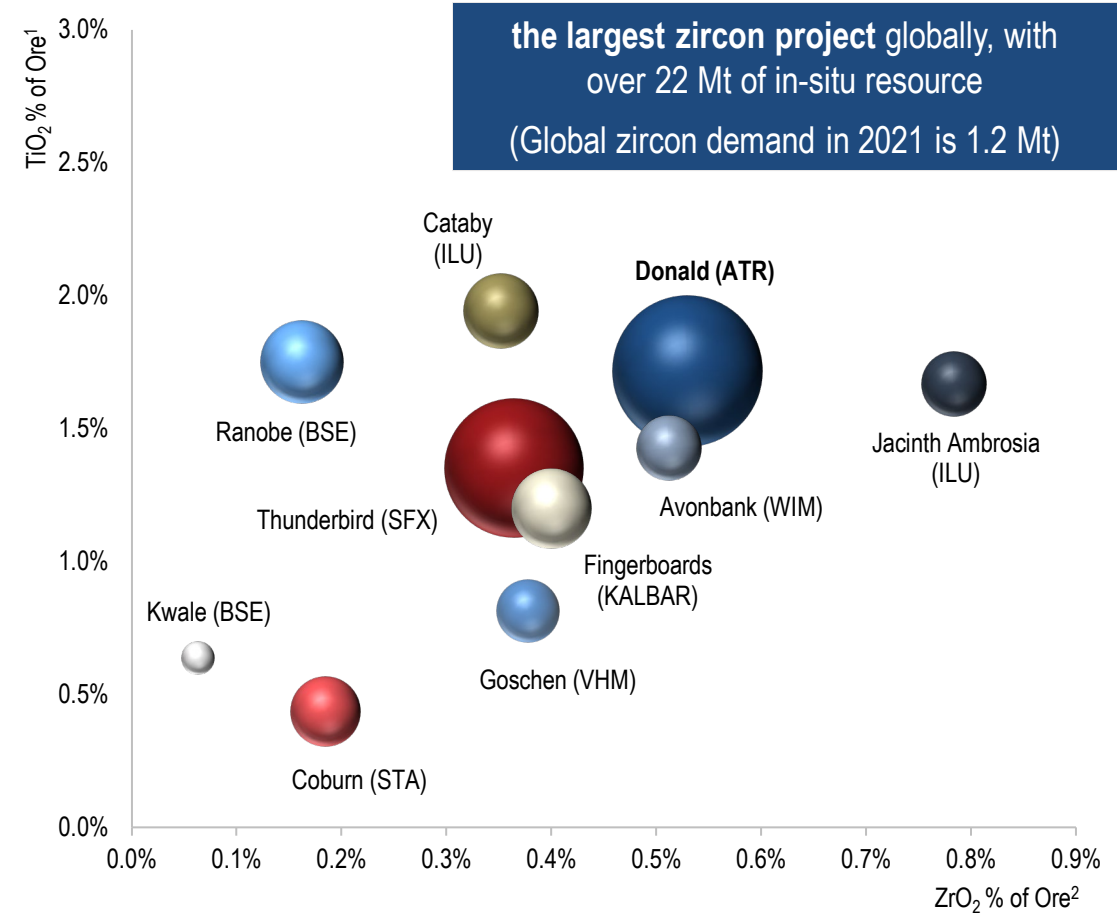
Rare Earths - Relative In-situ Rare Earth Resource



By monazite alone, third largest rare earth project Ex-China with over 2.4 Mt of in-situ resource (~1.6 Mt of TREO equivalents)

In addition, significant valuable xenotime minerals containing heavy rare earths at a monazite to xenotime ratio of less than 3:1

Mineral Sands - Relative In-situ Resource & Grade of Ti & Zr



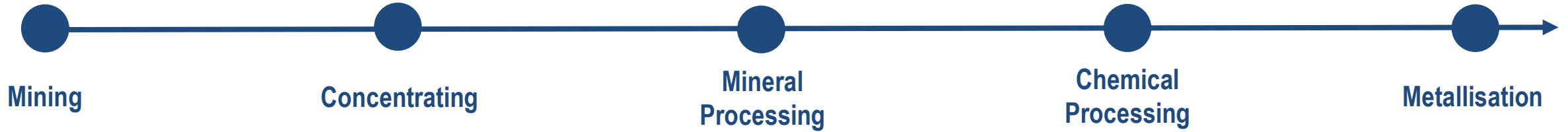
the largest zircon project globally, with over 22 Mt of in-situ resource (Global zircon demand in 2021 is 1.2 Mt)

1. Selected ex-China producing and prospective rare earths projects with available resource data, based on publicly available information. Bar size denotes overall size of Total Rare Earth Oxide (TREO) equivalent resource. This assumes a conversion factor of 0.67 from Monazite and Xenotime to TREO.

1. Selected prospective developing mineral sands projects with available mineral resource data, based on publicly available information. Metallurgical assemblages are converted from optical assemblages. ZrO₂ is calculated as a percentage of overall ore. Bubble size denotes overall size of zircon-equivalent resource.
 2. Astron Corporation's Mineral Resource Information derived from ASX announcement, 1 December 2022, Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project – Mining Licence Mineral Resource Update.


Phased Approach to Long Term Value Delivery

Unparalleled resource position enables phased development, with multiple independent value-chains




Rare Earths

Phase 1 + 2a



Forecast NPV₈
\$1.8B



58-year+ mine life

Phase 3




Further downstream processing




Partnership model

Mineral Sands

Phase 2b




Incremental NPV₈
\$431m




Payback period
1.5 years

Phase 3 and beyond




Specialist processing technologies





>35 years Mineral Sands Industry Experience


The Donald Project - Phase 1


Dual revenue stream underwritten by conventional mining operations and proven process flowsheet


- 

Conventional and proven flowsheet high valuable heavy mineral recovery
- 

Truck and excavator mining on free-flowing sand minimal induration
- 

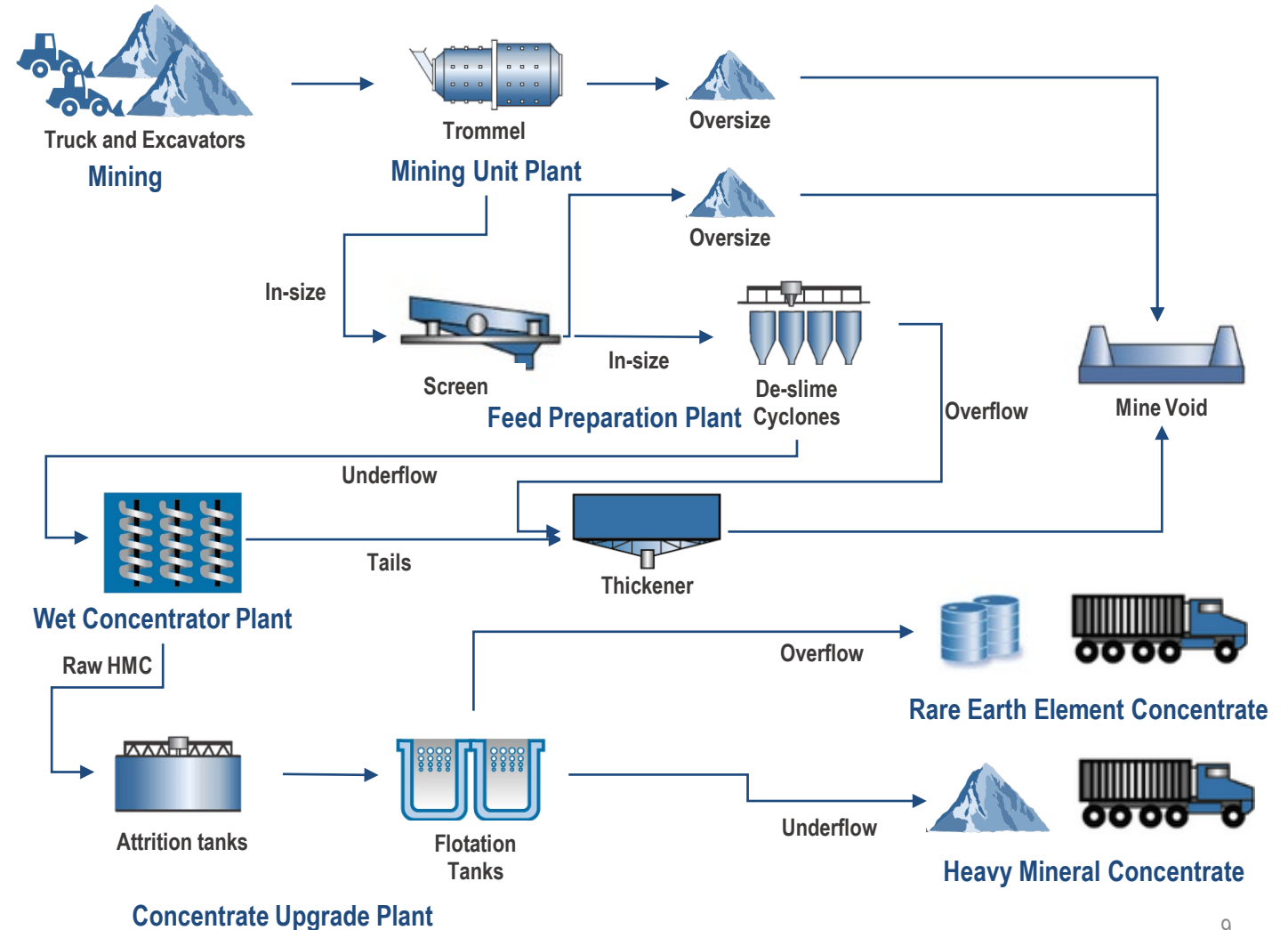
Fine-grained recovery spirals developed in 2000s, in commercial use at >15 sites globally
- 

>8ktpa of REEC over first 5 years of Phase 1, >60% TREO, >20% Nd/Pr, >2% Dy /Tb
- 

>250ktpa of HMC over first 5 years of Phase 1, over 95% HM, ~37% TiO₂, ~20% ZrO₂
- 

1,000t test-pit successfully excavated and rehabilitated to farmland with good crop yields

Phase 1 - Process Flow Diagram



Definitive Timetable to Phase 1 Production + Cashflow

Supported by Advanced Regulatory Approvals and Extensive Engineering Test-work and De-risking

Advanced Regulatory Approval Status			
Key Approval Requirement	Completed	Date	Expiry
Environmental Effects Statement	✓	2008	N/A
EPBC (federal)	✓	Mar-09	2034
Cultural Heritage Management Plan	✓	Jan-14	Life of mine
Mining Licence - MIN5532	✓	Aug-10	Aug-30
Water Rights ¹	✓	Jan-12	Jan-41
Radiation Licence ²	✓	Dec-20	Dec-23
Work Plan	Pending	Target EOY 2023	Life of mine

Significant Pilot Scale Test Work Complete



WCP Pilot Plant, Queensland, 2019

1,000 tonnes of ore was processed using full-scale spirals, achieving high recoveries to a high-grade HMC Product with >95% heavy mineral grade



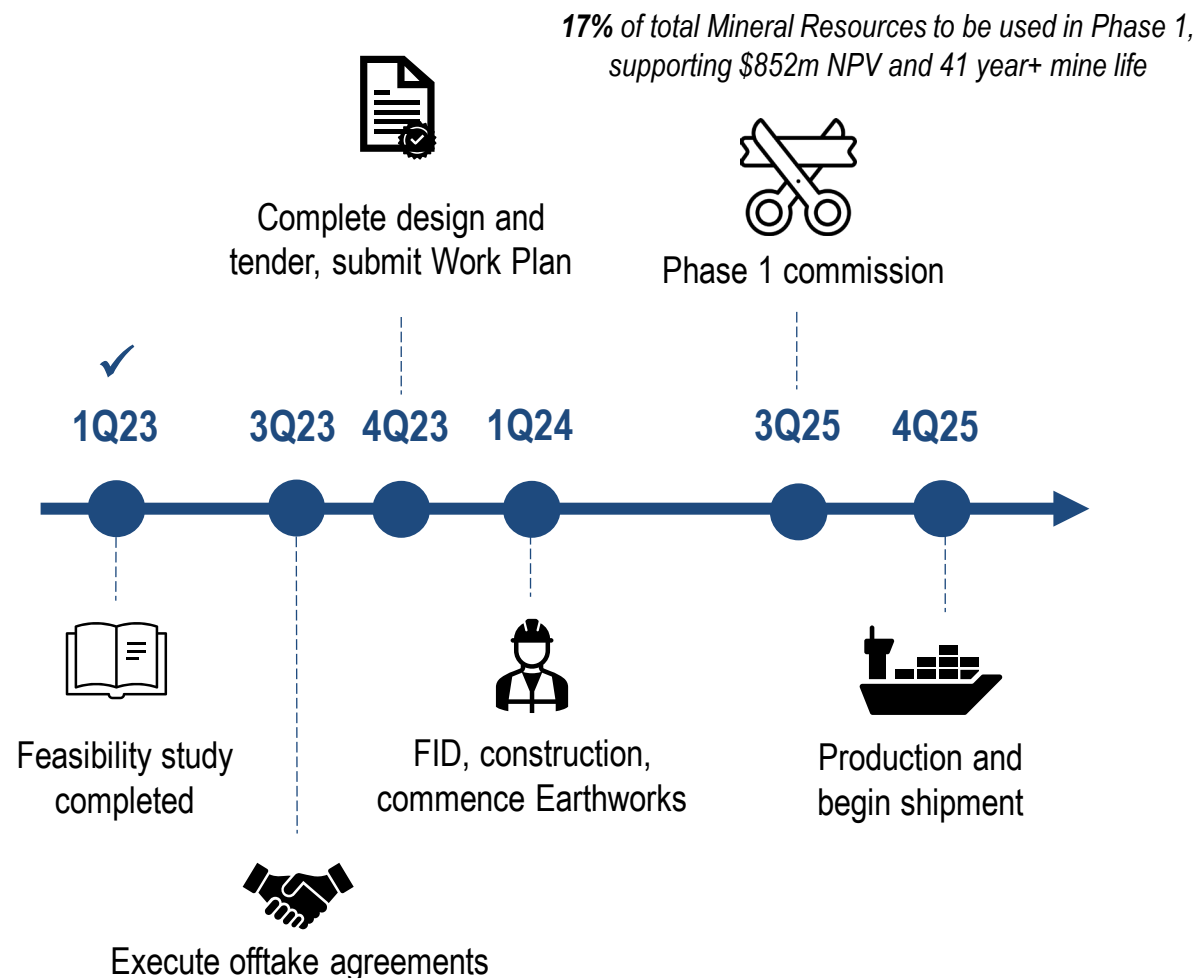
CUP Pilot Plant, Western Australia, 2021

Eight tonnes of HMC produced from Donald ore was separated into a high-quality REEC, with >60% TREO

Notes

- Water Rights include a 6.975 GL water entitlement purchased with option to renewal from GWM Water in 2012 for **A\$17m**, sufficient for Phase 1 & Phase 2.
- Radiation Licence was first issued in 2014 and have since been renewed periodically.

Phase 1 Development Timetable



Environmental Management, Rehabilitation and Sustainable Development

Minimise environmental impact through sustainable mining & rehabilitation, assisting Astron's social license

- ✓ Products are critical in assisting the energy transition
- ✓ Donald represents an auditable source of rare earth minerals from an ESG-standpoint
- ✓ Mining operations to be undertaken on cleared land, predominantly used for cropping
- ✓ Mined land to be rehabilitated within 3 to 5 years of excavation. Demonstrated through successful test-pit
- ✓ Recycling of process water, no surface water run-off, and groundwater is hyper-saline (non-potable)
- ✓ Commitment to explore renewable energy use during production

1. Excavation



2. Tailings Return



3. Topsoil Levelling



4. Rehabilitation



The Donald Project - Phase 2

Duplication of mining throughput and the production of final mineral sands products



Equity component of Phase 2 Capex to be funded through internally generated cashflows



PFS demonstrates incremental NPV of \$1.4B
Extending mine-life to 58 years



Extensive evaluation in engineering design, pilot-scale test work for MSP undertaken demonstrating commercial recoveries



The production of final mineral sands products facilitates access to a more global market

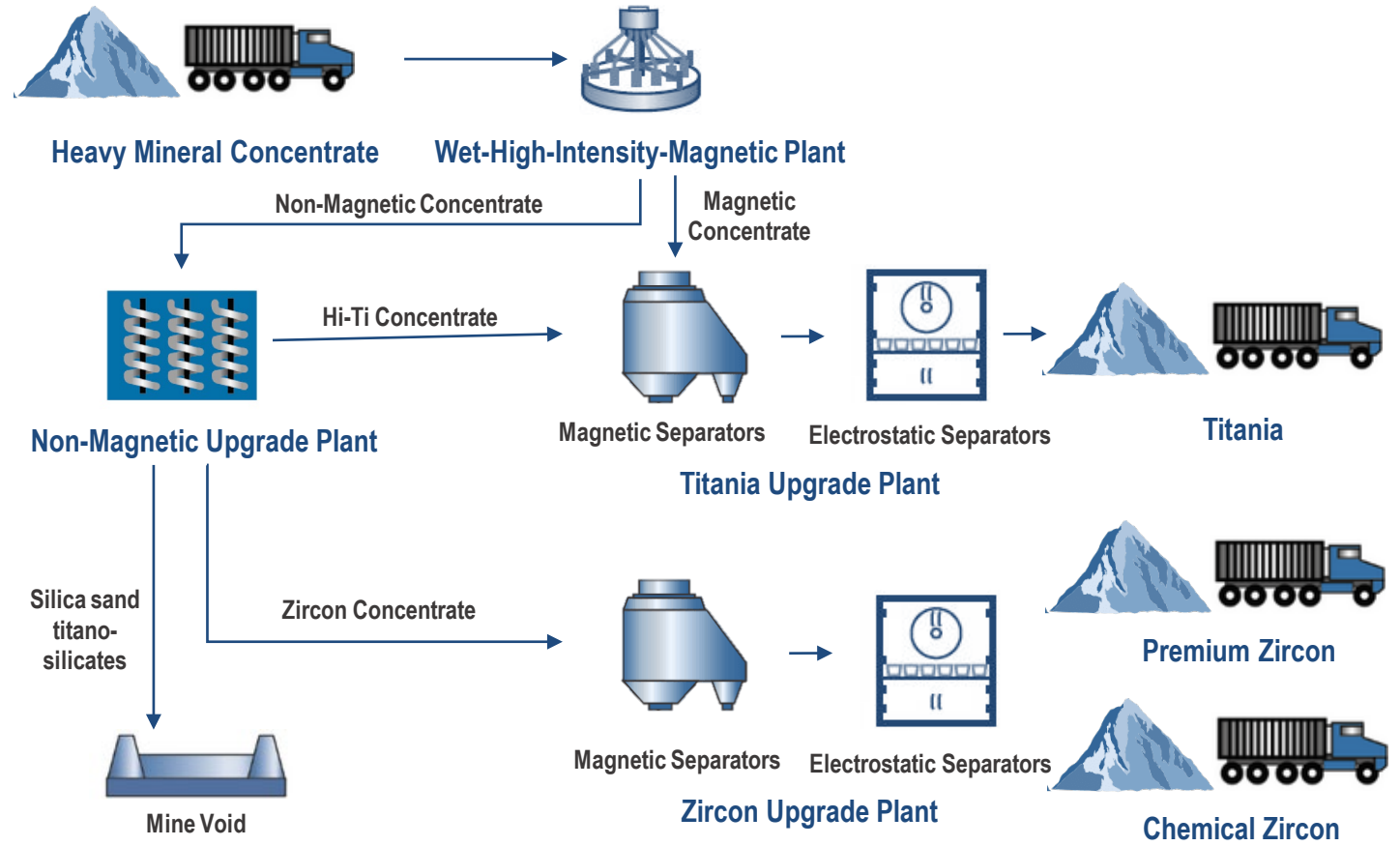


Average >13,000tpa of REEC, ~95,000tpa of zircon, 260,000tpa of titanium feedstock



Construction is projected to start in 2029, commissioning forecast towards Q4 2030

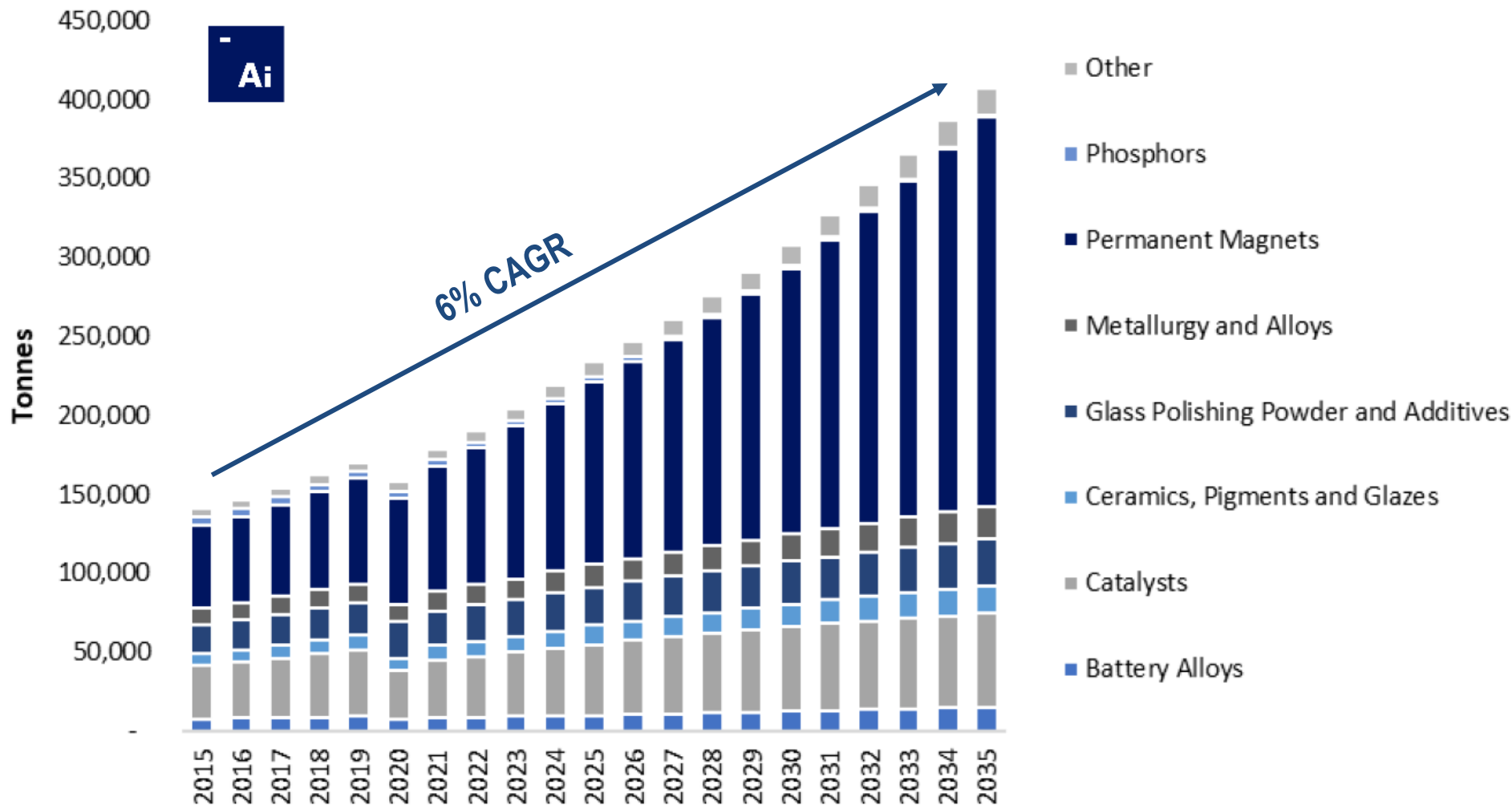
Phase 2B - Process Flow Diagram



Rare Earth Element Concentrate Market Tailwinds

Globally significant Western rare earth supply at a time of increasing product demand

Market demand forecast to 2035



Source: Adamas Intelligence, data as at Q1 2023

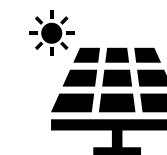
Rare Earth element applications



Wind turbines



Battery alloys



Solar arrays



Electric vehicles

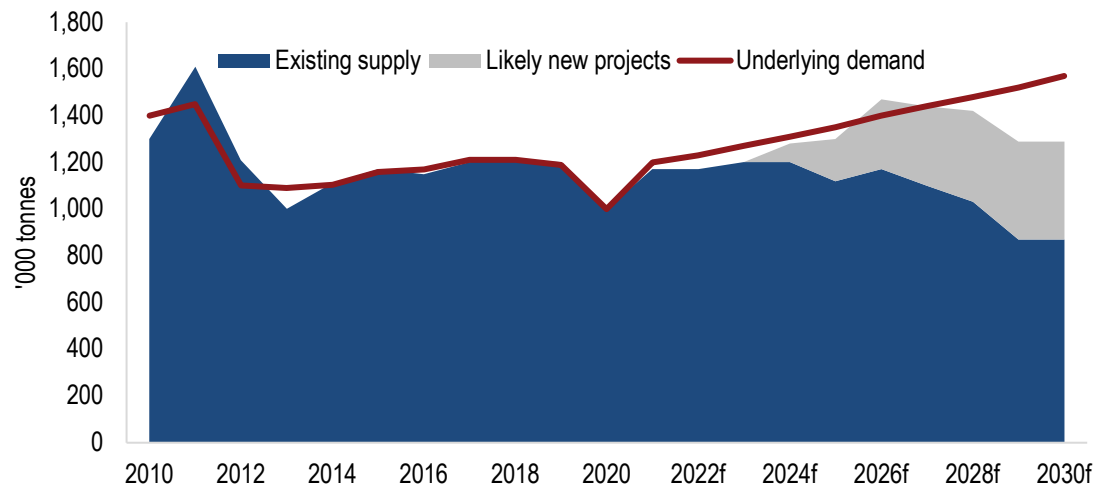
Mineral Sands – Market Supply Issues

New long-life supply essential as traditional stalwart sources of supply mature



Zircon

Global zircon supply / demand balance: 2010–2030



Major product applications



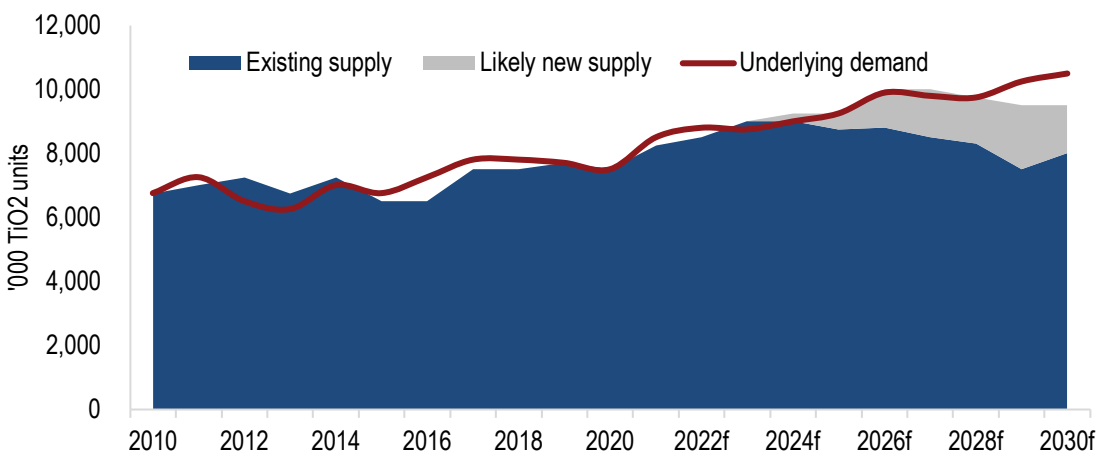
Ceramics, kitchen, sanitaryware



Casting and foundry applications

Titanium Minerals

Global Titanium Feedstock Supply Demand Balance: 2010–2030



Paint and pigment production



Aerospace and industrials

Further Information

Tiger Brown

Managing Director

Tel: +61 3 5385 7088

Email: contact@astronlimited.com

Joshua Theunissen

Company Secretary

Tel: +61 3 5385 7088

Email: contact@astronlimited.com



Appendix: Phase 1 & 2 Combined Financials

Robust financial metrics deliver long-life, sustainable cash flows to drive shareholder value

<p>Reserves</p> <p>825Mt @ 4.5% HM</p>	<p>REEC Production</p> <p>13.0ktpa 51% of revenue</p>	<p>Zircon Production</p> <p>93.5ktpa 33% of revenue</p>
<p>Revenue</p> <p>\$678m per year</p>	<p>Cash Costs</p> <p>\$315m per year</p>	<p>EBITDA</p> <p>\$363m per year</p>
<p>CAPEX</p> <p>Phase 2a Phase 2b</p> <p>\$432m \$134m</p>	<p>Mine Life</p> <p>58 years</p>	<p>Post-Tax IRR</p> <p>30.3%</p>

Capital expenditure breakdown (\$Am)	Phase 1	Phase 2a	Phase 2b	Combined Phase 2
Mining Unit Plant	20.5	20.5	-	20.5
Wet Concentrator Plant	70.0	70.0	-	70.0
Concentrate Upgrade Plant	38.1	38.1	-	38.1
Mineral Separation Plant	-	-	65.3	65.3
On-site non-process infrastructure (on-site road, electricity and water upgrades)	33.6	31.4	4.8	36.5
Overhead 66kv powerline supply	27.6	5.3	-	5.3
Water supply upgrade	11.9	33.5	-	33.5
Off-site road upgrades	13.9	-	-	-
Other off-site infrastructure	10.0	1.6	-	1.6
Project engineering and technical services	47.9	75.9	15.6	91.5
Construction Indirects	26.9	27.5	16.3	43.8
Other	25.0	47.5	1.4	48.9
Contingency ¹	39.2	79.8	31.0	110.8
Total	364.7	431.4	134.4	565.8

1. Contingency for Phase 1 is estimated at 12%. Contingency for Phase 2a and 2b is estimated to be 23.3%. Both contingency estimates have been based on a risk-based approach to each capital expenditure area including potential for changes in current design and/or key infrastructure.

Note: Unless otherwise stated, all dollar values are expressed in real Q1 2023 Australian Dollars

For further information, see ASX Announcement, RL2002 Ore Reserve Update & Project Financial Update, 26 June 2023

Experienced Project Team To Deliver the Donald Project

Highly experienced Board & Management team with extensive experience in corporate development

George Lloyd <i>Chairman</i>	<p>Formerly responsible for corporate development and exploration at RGC Limited, overseeing the merger of RGC and Westralian Sands Limited to form Iluka and negotiation of the Mining Area C Royalty with BHP (now Deterra), Chairman of global engineering services group Ausenco, bauxite development company VBX Limited, and Chairman of the Senior Advisory Board of AWR Lloyd, a specialist strategy and M&A advisory firm focused on the Indo-Pacific region.</p>
Tiger Brown <i>Managing Director</i>	<p>Joined Astron in 2018, holding various business development planning and executive roles in China and Australia prior to joining the board in 2019. Appointed Managing Director in February 2021 and has overseen the detailed planning for the commercialisation of the Donald project.</p>
Kang Rong <i>Executive Director</i>	<p>A key contributor to the establishment of Astron's historic downstream processing and global marketing and sales activities, overseeing the sale of Astron's downstream assets to Imerys S.A. for \$200m. Kang has an extensive knowledge of the mineral sands product market and its key participants.</p>
Gerard King, AM <i>Non-Executive Director</i>	<p>Former Partner of Lavan & Walsh, which became Phillips Fox Perth. Experienced in commercial contracting, mining law and corporate and ASX compliance. A former member of the Australian Mining & Petroleum Lawyers Association, as well as serving as a Non-Executive Director for several companies.</p>
Dr Mark Elliott <i>Non-Executive Director</i>	<p>Appointed to the Board January 2021. A Geologist with extensive experience in the resource sector. Over 30 years experience in corporate roles, such as Chairman or Managing Director on a number of ASX-listed and private companies including, Zirtanium Ltd which secured the Donald and Jackson deposits after they were relinquished by Rio Tinto. Associated with identifying and securing resource projects, capital raisings, marketing and completing commercial agreements, feasibility studies, mine development and project execution.</p>
Greg Bell <i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	<p>Over 21 years of advisory and corporate experience, initially at Deloitte, followed by 8 years with Mineral Deposits Limited (MDL) as Accounting Manager and then Chief Financial Officer. Subsequently, consulting and executive roles with international mineral sands and resource companies, including in the critical minerals sector with TiZir and Tiger Resources.</p>
Sean Chelius <i>Donald Project Director</i>	<p>Over 30 years' experience in mining project planning and implementation, including full responsibility for taking projects from concept through to commissioning and production. Experience includes project management and engineering roles with BHP, Anglo American, Newcrest, Ausenco, including the delivery of Unki greenfield development in Zimbabwe, expansion of anglo-platinum refinery and the first autonomous haulage in coal with BMA.</p>
Jessica Reid <i>GM Sustainability</i>	<p>Experienced environmental and social professional, working across Australia and PNG on natural resource and major infrastructure projects for over 18 years as Principal at Tetra Tech (formerly Coffey). Previous experience includes the delivery of Donald Project E.E.S. and Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone in VIC, environmental approvals for the Wafi-Golpu Project, Ok Tedi Mine Life Extension in PNG.</p>
David Addinsall <i>Senior Mining Engineer</i>	<p>Multi-decade experience in mineral sands mining including Technical Services Manager at Iluka's Jacinth Ambrosia and WRP.</p>
Ross McClelland <i>Process Engineer</i>	<p>Over 30 years of working on fine mineral recovery technologies, dating back to Wimmera Industrial Minerals in 1990s, and subsequently at QIT, highly skilled Metallurgist, having worked across a broad spectrum of mineral projects</p>
Peter Coppin <i>Senior Geologist</i>	<p>Experienced Geologist, previously mine geologist for Iluka Resource's Ouyen Project, with hard rock experience at Ballarat Goldfields, Kirkland Lake and Newmarket Gold.</p>

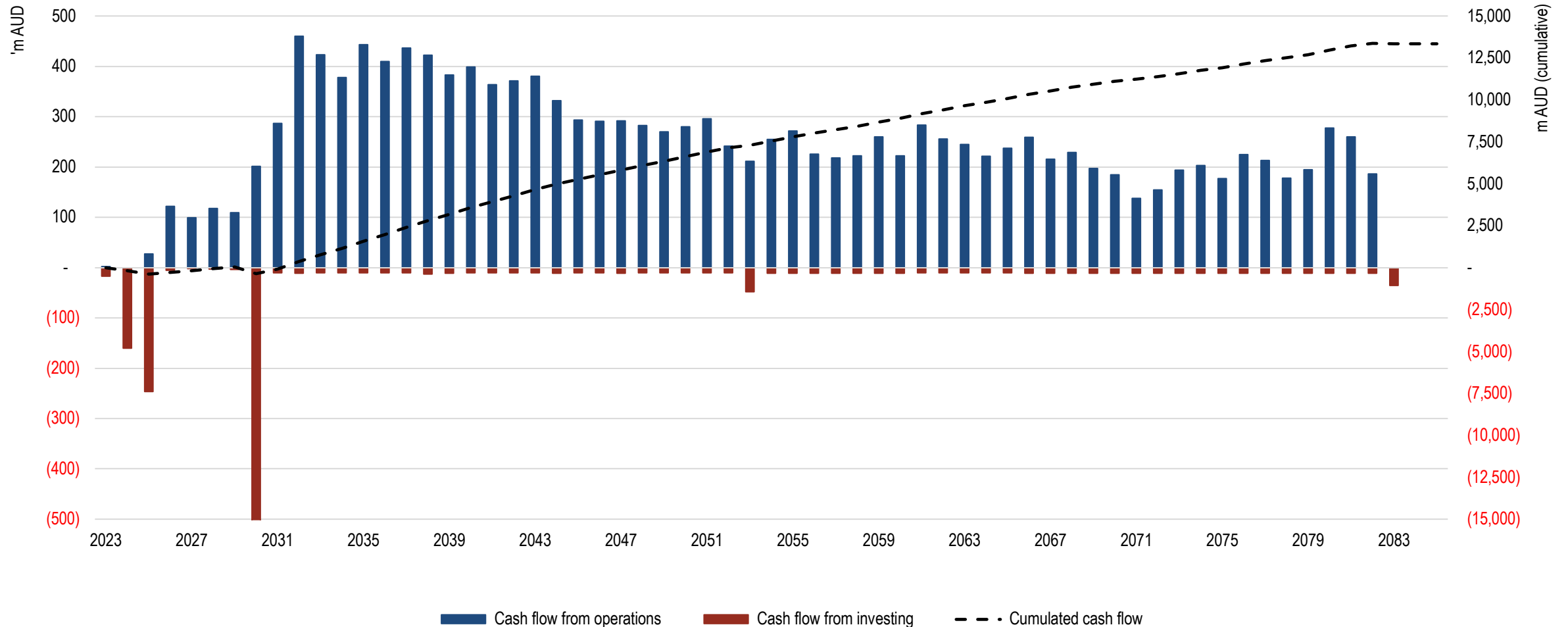
Technical Consultants



Appendix: Cash Flow Profile



Robust financial metrics deliver long-life, sustainable cash flows to drive shareholder value

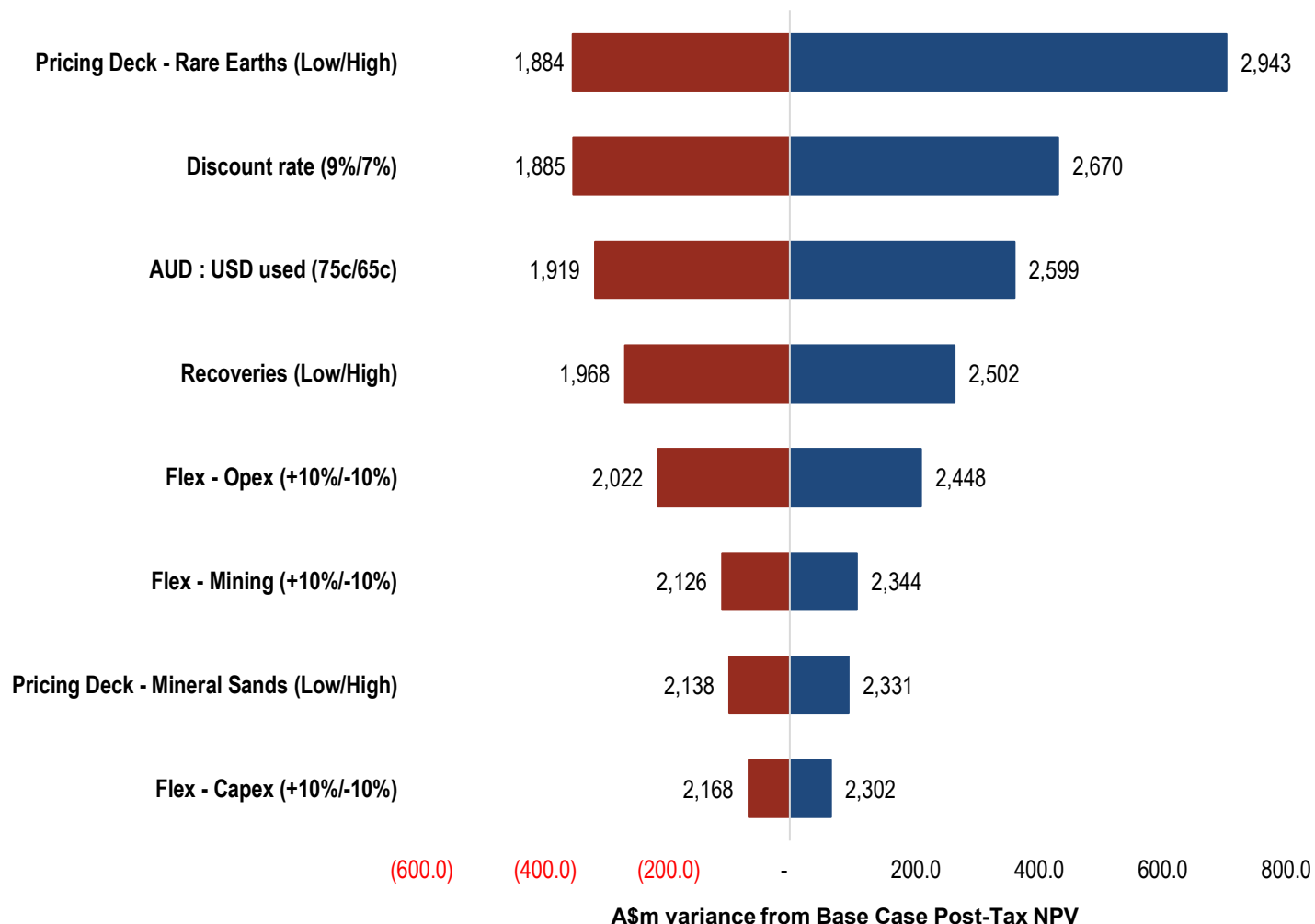


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Appendix: Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity analysis illustrates robust financial metrics able to withstand cyclical downturns

- Sensitivity analysis shows that even with large movements in the key variables, the Project returns a very attractive Post-tax NPV.
- The analysis illustrates the Donald Project’s robustness and its ability to weather major commodity cycles through its attributes of long mine life and having a dual revenue stream.
- REEC pricing assumptions are derived from Adamas Intelligence forecasts and are calculated as a percentage of the basket value. Astron’s REEC product contains significant heavy rare earth elements resulting in a pricing advantage over its peers.
- Astron has used exclusive of Chinese VAT (13%) pricing for its pricing assumption in relation to its REEC forecast for its base case and low case to be conservative. The upside case is inclusive of Chinese VAT. Astron plans to align itself with Australian Critical Minerals Strategy – target western processors for its REEC product.
- Mineral Sands product pricing assumptions, including HMC, premium zircon, chemical zircon, titanium feedstock are derived from TZMI forecasts, or formulas supplied by TZMI
- NPV is also sensitive to movements in operating costs and mineral recoveries – however, the operating cost estimate has been derived on a first principle basis by independent experts and benchmarked against other similar projects. Mineral recoveries assumptions are based on extensive metallurgical test work completed on a pilot plant scale using bulk samples representative of the actual mine path

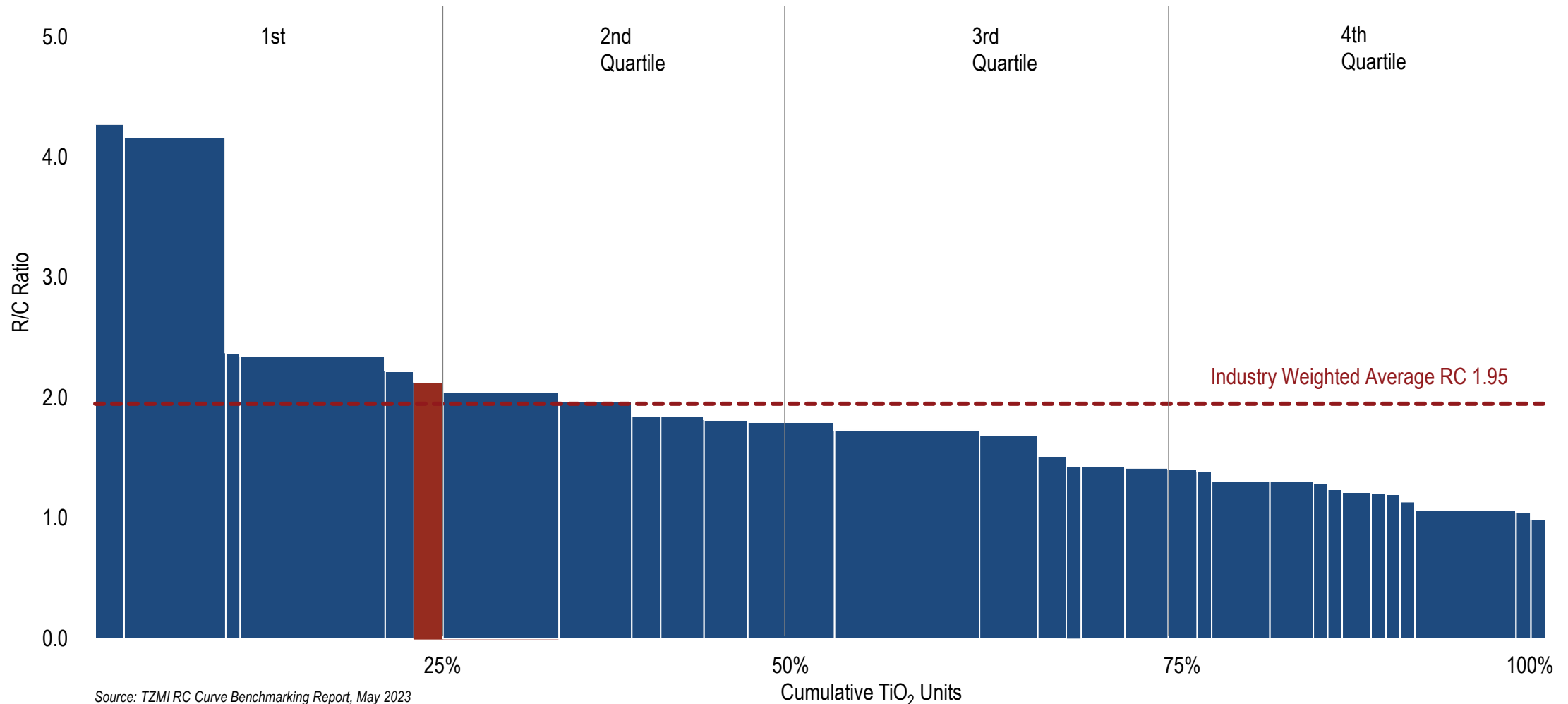


Note: Unless otherwise stated, all dollar values are expressed in real Q1 2023 Australian Dollars

Appendix: Industry Revenue to Cash Cost Ratio



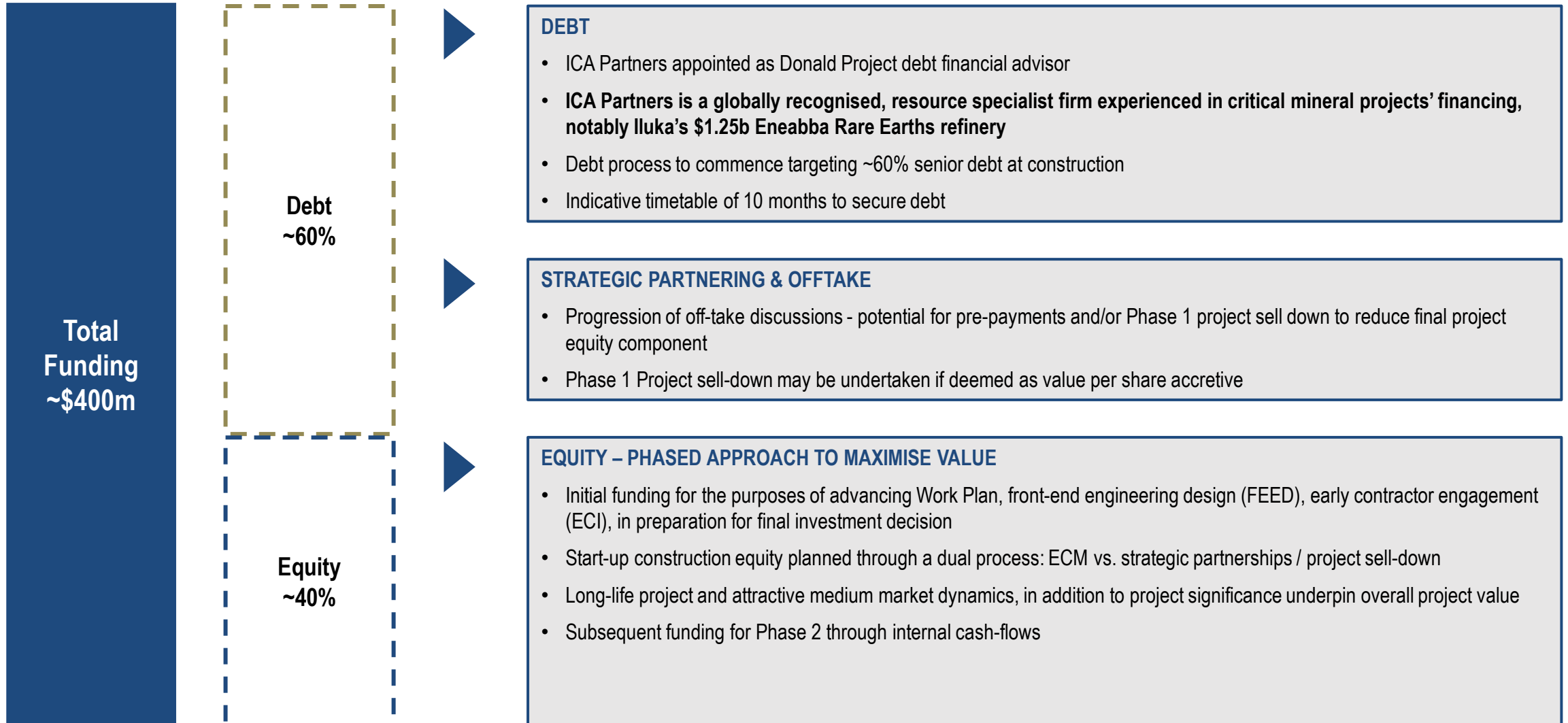
The profitability of the Donald Project is illustrated by its competitive, first quartile R:CC ratio



Source: TZMI RC Curve Benchmarking Report, May 2023

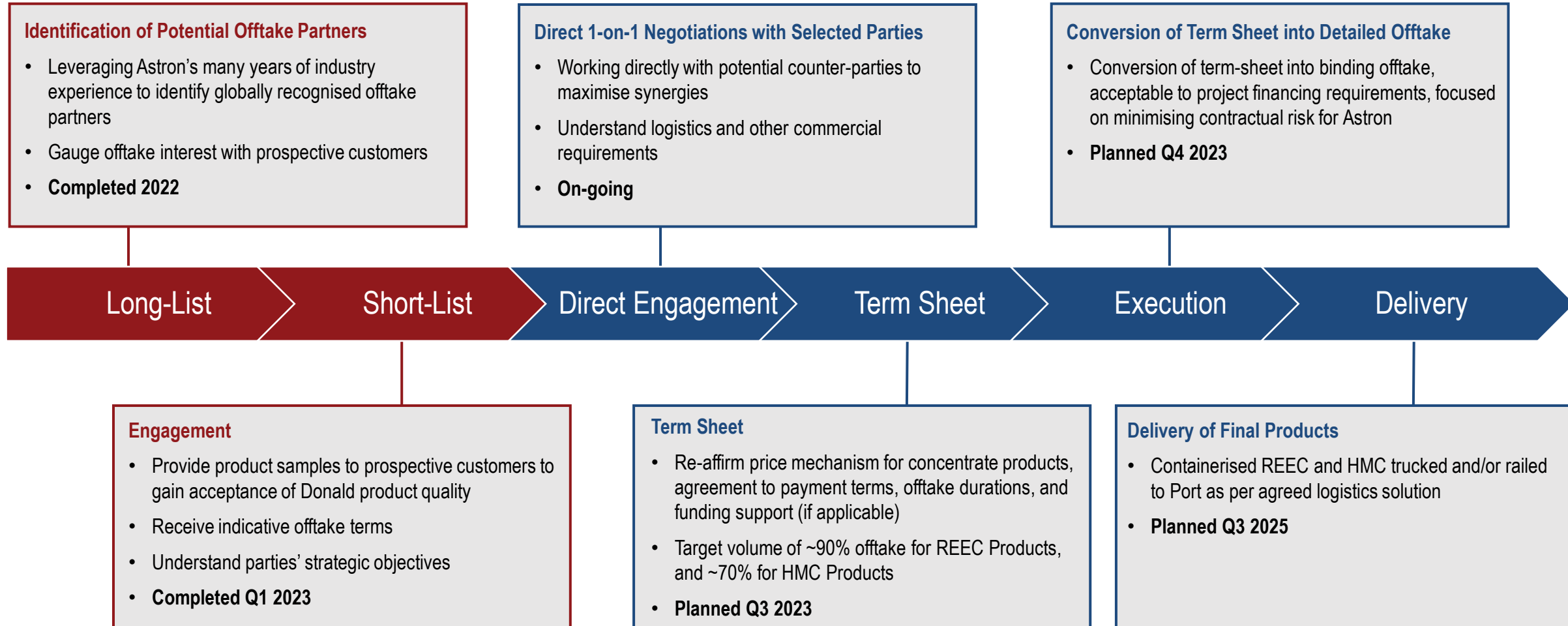
Appendix: Funding Strategy

Project capital expenditure estimate to be funded by efficient deployment of debt and equity capital



Appendix: Considered, Targeted Offtake Approach

Globally recognised offtake partners to be targeted



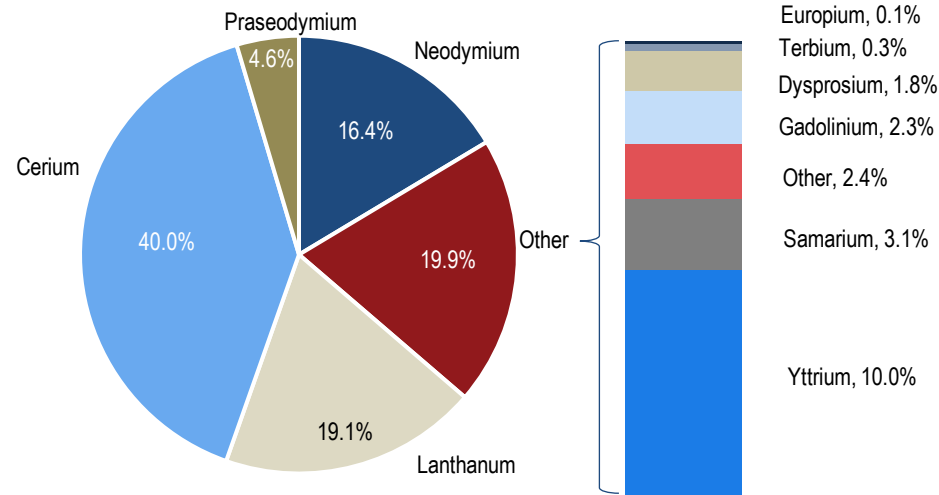
Appendix: Quality Product Attributes

Astron's attractive reserve assemblage translates into a high-quality product suite ensuring market acceptance

Rare Earth Element Concentrate (REEC)

- Donald's REEC product is a high-quality monazite, xenotime concentrate that contains over 60% total rare earth oxide (TREO) content with Nd/Pr over 20% and Dy/Tb over 2% of TREO
- It also contains significant heavy rare earths (terbium and dysprosium), which are more strategically important and scarce when compared to the lighter rare earth elements
- Heavy rare earths are used in a variety of specialty applications and are key to electric vehicles, offshore wind and broader de-carbonisation
- The four critical magnet rare earth elements comprise 23.1% of the TREO contained in the Donald Project's REEC & 88.7% of total REEC value making it the most attractive product mix when compared to its peers, thus a major advantage for the purposes of offtake discussions

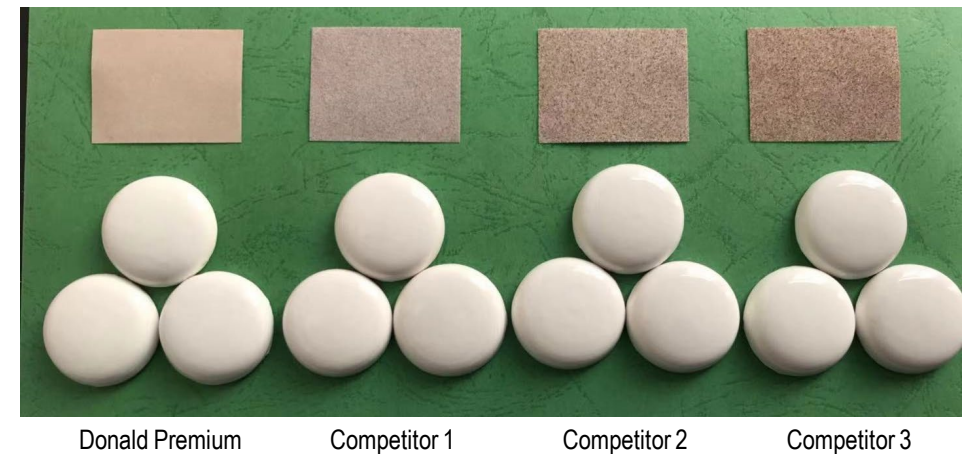
Distribution of Rare Earth Oxides in Donald REEC



Source: Adamas Intelligence, data as at Q1 2023

Heavy Mineral Concentrate (HMC)

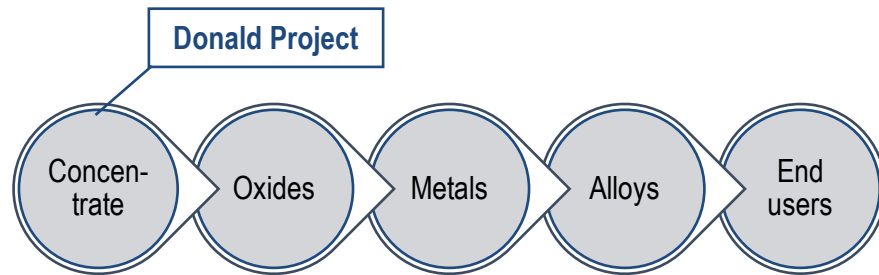
- Donald will target a 95% heavy mineral grade, resulting in a higher proportion of valuable minerals with lower waste
- The HMC product contains significant zircon (~20% ZrO₂), of which a majority (over 80%) is recoverable to a premium zircon quality suitable for the ceramics market
- Internal and independent test work completed by Foshan Ceramics Institute on zircon contained in HMC produced by the Donald Project shows low impurity levels and high whiteness when grounded and applied as a coating to ceramics which provide an advantage over its competitors
- Astron had obtained an export licence for the Donald HMC product. Independent analysis undertaken by Foshan Ceramics Institute and downstream customers demonstrates that Donald premium zircon meets the requirements in relation to radiation levels for its use in the Chinese ceramics market



Appendix: Rare Earth Product Testing – Valuable REEC

Strategically positioned at the head of the value chain, Astron is in active discussions with prospective processing partners for off-take agreements. By producing a rare earth concentrate on-shore, Astron can adapt to the growth of global rare earth metals and permanent magnet markets.

Rare Earth Value Chain



Valuable Heavy Rare Earth Component

- Donald’s REEC product is expected to be highly attractive with its rare earth assemblage given the significant proportion of valuable heavy rare earth elements of Dysprosium and Terbium.
- Dysprosium and Terbium are used in electric and hybrid vehicles to increase the temperature at which the permanent magnets can operate.

Astron is actively investigating transport options regarding the rare earth mineral concentrate and plans to provide detailed updates subsequent to negotiation of offtake discussions. Based on the DFS, REEC will be transported as a Class 7 product.

Typical Donald Project Rare Earth Product¹

	Company	Astron		
	Mineral type	Monazite +Xenotime		
	Location	Australia		
	Rare Earth Oxide	REO price² (US\$/kg)	% of total	Basket Value
Light REO	Lanthanum	1.40	19.1%	0.27
	Cerium	1.45	40.0%	0.58
	Praseodymium	125.00	4.6%	5.77
	Neodymium	128.75	16.4%	21.13
	Samarium	2.75	3.1%	0.08
Heavy REO	Europium	30.00	0.1%	0.03
	Gadolinium	66.00	2.3%	1.53
	Terbium	2,150.00	0.3%	7.40
	Dysprosium	410.00	1.8%	7.20
	Holmium	170.00	0.4%	0.60
	Erbium	48.50	1.0%	0.46
	Thulium	0.0	0.1%	0.00
	Ytterbium	17.10	0.8%	0.14
	Lutetium	865.00	0.1%	0.96
Other	Yttrium	10.00	10.0%	1.00
	Basket Price US\$/kg			47.16
	TREO%³			~61.5%

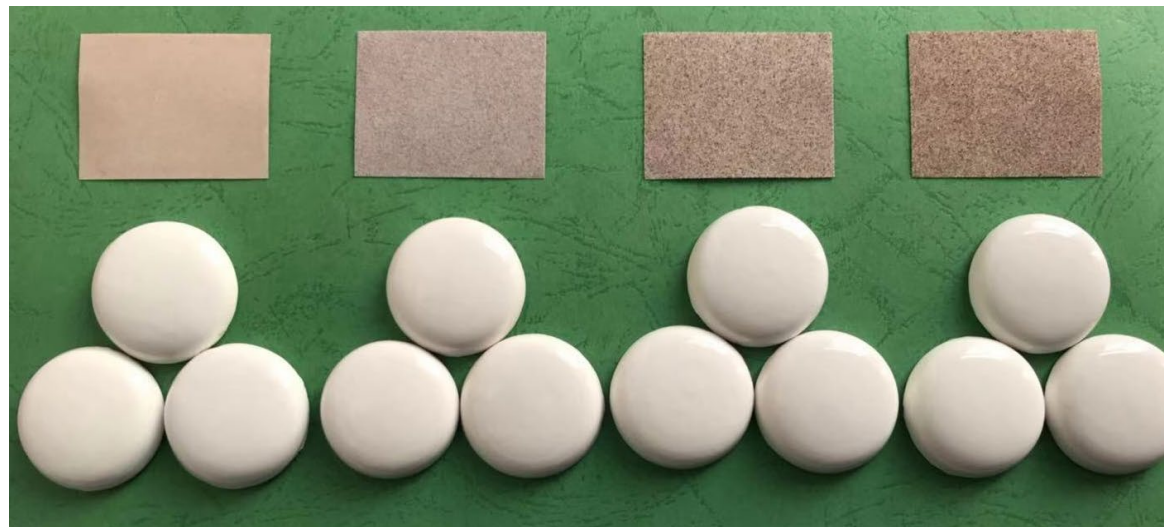
1. Typical product specifications developed from the lab-scale test works as announced on 14 May 2021, *Clarify Donald Mineral Separation Metallurgical Test Work*.
2. REO based upon Adamas Intelligence, Q1 2023
3. TREO grade of 60% refers to the Donald Project rare earth product specification only, as pure mineral monazite and xenotime contain 67% TREO.

Appendix: Premium Zircon – Superior Attributes

The premium zircon produced from Donald HMC has been independently confirmed by Foshan Ceramics Institute (leading Chinese ceramics institute) to be suitable for the premium ceramics market. Astron has extensive and long-term engagement with Zircon customers in China, Europe, North America and other markets with Donald premium zircon product samples being made available to potential customers for assessment prior to commercial off-take agreements.

Premium Zircon Product CIE Whiteness Test Results¹

Product testing conducted on Donald premium zircon, expected to represent over 80% of the zircon production stream, at Astron’s research facility in Yingkou, China. The results confirmed that Donald premium zircon rates favourably with industry zircons.



Donald Project

Competitor 1²

Competitor 2²

Competitor 3²

Product	L - Brightness	A – Red-Green Scale	B – Yellow-Blue Scale
Donald Premium Zircon	94.84	0.12	3.86
Competitor Zircon 1	94.39	1.02	4.08
Competitor Zircon 2	93.57	0.86	3.82
Competitor Zircon 3	94.32	0.23	4.22

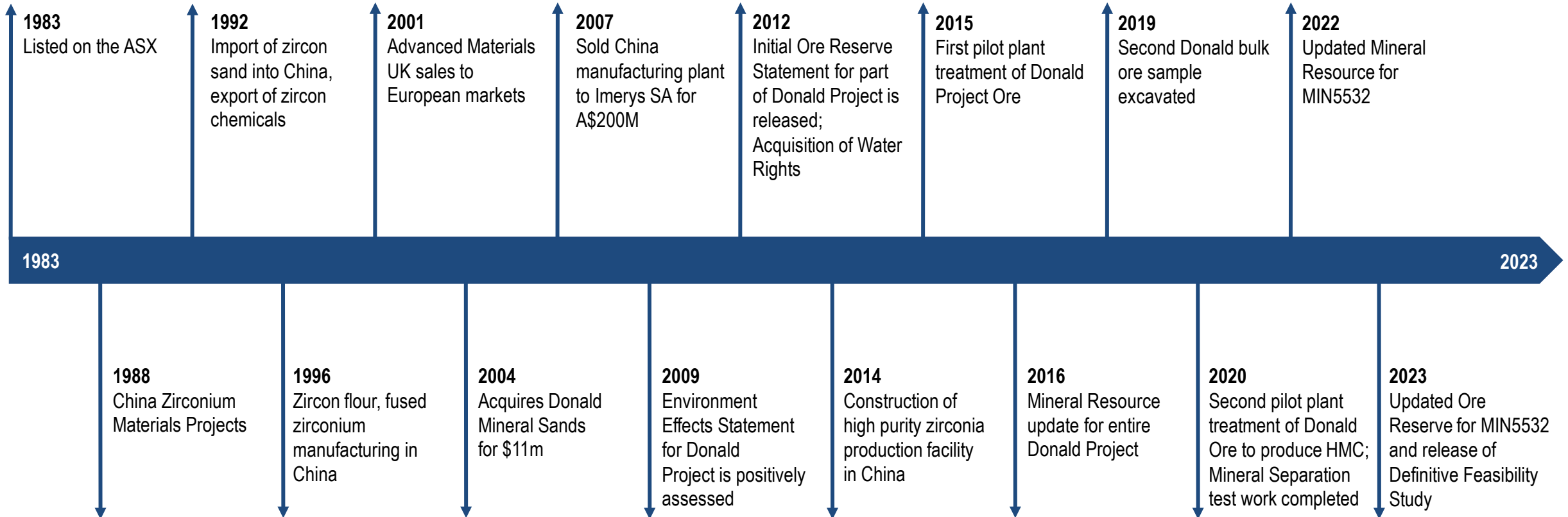
Note

- a. Results are measured on the CIE whiteness scale, L represents ‘brightness’, A represents ‘red-to-green’ scale, B represents ‘yellow-to-blue’ scale.
- b. The CIE system is used to characterise colour by a luminance parameter and two colour co-ordinates.
- c. Results were produced using a calibrated ‘brightness tester’ and standard deviation error can be expected

1. For further information refer Astron ASX announcement, 12 May 2021, *Updated Donald Project Premium Zircon Test Results*.
 2. Competitor premium zircon products are selected from available products in China.

Appendix: History of Astron Corporation

Listed in 1983, Astron Corporation has nearly 40 years' experience in the strategic minerals industries



Appendix: Donald Project – Ore Reserve Statement

MIN5532

The Ore Reserve has been classified as Proven Ore Reserves, based on Measured Mineral Resources and Probable Ore Reserves, based on Indicated Mineral Resources. The results of the Ore Reserve estimate reflect the Competent Person's view of the deposit.

The JORC Code 2012 Table 1, Section 4 to support the Ore Reserve Estimate is included in Appendix B of the Donald Project Ore Reserve Statement released **31 March 2023**. The Ore Reserve estimates have been compiled in accordance with the guidelines defined in the 2012 JORC Code.

Note that Mineral Resources are reported inclusive of the Ore Reserve.

Classification	Tonnes (Mt)	Slimes (%)	Oversize (%)	HM (%)	Ilmenite (%HM)	Leucoxene (%HM)	Rutile (%HM)	Zircon (%HM)	Monazite (%HM)	Xenotime (%HM)
Within MIN5532										
Proved	263	15.4	9.8	4.4	21.6	25.9	5.5	16.7	1.8	0.67
Probable	46	19.7	11.1	4.1	21.3	20.1	5.5	15.3	1.8	0.64
Total	309	16.1	10.0	4.4	21.6	25.1	5.5	16.5	1.8	0.66

Note:

1. The ore tonnes have been rounded to the nearest 1Mt and grades have been rounded to two significant figures.
2. The Ore Reserve is based on Indicated and Measured Mineral Resource contained within mine designs above an economic cut-off.
3. A break-even cut-off has been applied defining any material with product values greater than processing cost as Ore.
4. Mining recovery and dilution have been applied to the figures above.
5. The area is wholly within the mining licence (MIN5532).
6. The rutile grades are a combination of rutile and anatase minerals.
7. The Ore Reserve estimates have been compiled in accordance with the guidelines defined in the 2012 JORC Code

RL2002 outside of MIN5532

The Ore Reserve has been classified as Proven Ore Reserves, based on Measured Mineral Resources and Probable Ore Reserves, based on Indicated Mineral Resources. The results of the Ore Reserve estimate reflect the Competent Person's view of the deposit.

The JORC Code 2012 Table 1, Section 4 to support the Ore Reserve Estimate is included in Appendix B of the Donald Project Ore Reserve Statement released **26 June 2023**. The Ore Reserve estimates have been compiled in accordance with the guidelines defined in the 2012 JORC Code.

Note that the Mineral Resources are reported inclusive of the Ore Reserve.

Classification	Tonnes (Mt)	Slimes (%)	Oversize (%)	HM (%)	Ilmenite (%HM)	Leucoxene (%HM)	Rutile (%HM)	Zircon (%HM)	Monazite (%HM)
RL2002 outside MIN5532									
Proved	152	7.1	18.8	5.6	31.3	18.2	9.4	21.1	1.8
Probable	364	13.7	15.7	4.1	32.8	19.3	7.5	17.1	1.6
Total	516	11.7	16.6	4.6	32.3	18.9	8.2	18.6	1.7

Note:

1. The ore tonnes have been rounded to the nearest 1 Mt and grades have been rounded to one decimal place.
2. The Ore Reserve is based on Indicated and Measured Mineral Resource contained within mine designs above an economic cut-off.
3. The economic cut-off is defined as the value of the products less the cost of processing.
4. Mining recovery and dilution have been applied to the figures above.
5. The updated RL2002 Ore Reserve does not include an announced figure on xenotime due to historical samples used in the Ore Reserve calculation not being analysed for xenotime. Further drilling work consisting of a maximum of 958 drillholes may be undertaken to further define the Ore Reserve and delineate the xenotime content. Metallurgical test work confirms the existence of xenotime to be relatively consistent across the mineral deposit, which represents upside to the announced combined rare earth mineral figures. Thus, the xenotime content of the entire Donald Deposit has not been stated.
6. The rutile grades are a combination of rutile and anatase minerals.
7. The Ore Reserve estimates have been compiled in accordance with the guidelines defined in the 2012 JORC Code

Appendix: Donald Project – Mineral Resource Statement

Mineral Resource above a 1% total HM cut-off

Classification	Tonnes (Mt)	Total HM (%)	Slimes (%)	Oversize (%)
Within MIN5532				
Measured	372	4.5	14.4	12.8
Indicated	75	4.0	13.8	13.1
Inferred	7	3.5	13.5	10.6
Subtotal	454	4.4	14.2	12.8
Within RL2002 outside of MIN5532				
Measured	343	3.9	19.8	8.1
Indicated	833	3.3	16.2	13.5
Inferred	1,595	3.3	15.7	6.0
Subtotal	2,771	3.4	16.4	8.5
Total within Donald Deposit (RL2002 & MIN5532)				
Measured	715	4.2	17.0	10.6
Indicated	907	3.4	16.0	13.4
Inferred	1,603	3.4	15.7	6.0
Subtotal	3,225	3.6	16.1	9.1
Total within Jackson Deposit (RL2003)				
Measured	-	-	-	-
Indicated	1,903	2.8	19.0	5.8
Inferred	584	2.9	16.7	3.3
Subtotal	2,487	2.9	18.5	5.2
Total Donald Project				
Measured	715	4.3	18.1	11.1
Indicated	2,811	3.0	17.9	8.2
Inferred	2,187	3.3	16.4	5.5
Total	5,712	3.2	16.9	7.3

Note:

1. MRE is based on heavy liquid separation (HLS) analysis only.
2. The total tonnes may not equal the sum of the individual resources due to rounding.
3. The cut-off grade is 1% HM.
4. The figures are rounded to the nearest: 10M for tonnes, one decimal for HM, slimes and oversize.
5. For further details including JORC Code, 2012 Edition – Table 1 and cross-sectional data, see previous announcements dated 7 April 2016 and 1 December 2022, available at ASX's website.

Mineral Resource where VHM data is available reported above a cut-off of 1% total HM

Classification	Tonnes (Mt)	HM (%)	Slimes (%)	Oversize (%)	Zircon	Rutile/Anatase	% of total HM				
							Ilmenite	Leucoxene	Monazite	Xenotime	
Within MIN5532											
Measured	394	4.2	16	10	16	7	21	24	1.8	0.66	
Indicated	110	3.5	24	11	15	6	19	18	1.7	0.61	
Inferred	20	2.3	22	14	13	7	19	20	1.4	0.55	
Subtotal	525	4.0	18	10	16	7	21	23	1.8	0.65	
Within RL2002 outside of MIN5532											
Measured	185	5.5	19	7	21	9	31	19	2.0		
Indicated	454	4.2	16	13	17	7	33	19	2.0		
Inferred	647	4.9	15	6	18	9	33	17	2.0		
Subtotal	1,286	4.8	16	9	18	8	33	18	2.0		
Total within Donald Deposit (RL2002 & MIN5532)											
Measured	579	4.6	17	9	18	8	25	22	1.9		
Indicated	564	4.1	17	13	17	7	31	19	2.0		
Inferred	667	4.8	15	6	18	9	33	17	2.0		
Subtotal	1,811	4.6	16	9	18	8	30	19	1.9		
Total within Jackson Deposit (RL2003)											
Measured	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Indicated	668	4.9	18	5	18	9	32	17	2.0		
Inferred	155	4.0	15	3	21	9	32	15	2.0		
Subtotal	823	4.8	18	5	19	9	32	17	2.0		
Total Donald Project											
Measured	579	4.6	17	9	18	8	25	22	1.9		
Indicated	1,232	4.5	18	9	17	8	31	18	2.0		
Inferred	822	4.7	15	5	18	9	33	17	2.0		
Total	2,634	4.6	17	8	18	8	31	18	2.0		

Note:

1. MRE is based on heavy liquid separation analysis and where valuable heavy minerals (VHM) have been determined.
2. The total tonnes may not equal the sum of the individual resources due to rounding.
3. The cut-off grade is 1% HM.
4. The figures are rounded to the nearest: 1Mt for tonnes, one decimal for HM, monazite, whole numbers for slimes, oversize, zircon, rutile + anatase, ilmenite and leucoxene and two decimals for xenotime.
5. Zircon, ilmenite, rutile+anatase, leucoxene, monazite and xenotime percentages are reported as a percentage of HM.
6. Rutile + anatase, leucoxene and monazite resource has been estimated using fewer samples than the other valuable heavy minerals outside MIN5532. The accuracy and confidence in their estimate is therefore lower.
7. For further details including JORC Code, 2012 Edition – Table 1 and cross-sectional data, see previous announcements dated 7 April 2016 and 1 December 2022, available at ASX's website

Appendix: Competitor Information & Disclosure

SELECT COMPETITOR INFORMATION SOURCES

1. ASX Announcement, Sheffield Resources, ASX:SFX, *Investor Presentation*, 11 April 2023, Construction Stage
2. Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd, *Investor Presentation to TZMI*, November 2020, Development Stage
3. WIM Resources, <https://www.wimresource.com.au/irm/content/avonbank.aspx?RID=312>, extracted 7 February 2023, Development Stage
4. ASX Announcement, VHM Ltd, ASX:VHM, *Prospectus*, 5 January 2023, Development Stage
5. ASX Announcement, Strandline Resources, ASX:STA, *Annual Report to Shareholders*, 31 August 2022, Production Stage
6. ASX Announcement, Base Resources, ASX:BSE, *2022 Annual Report to Shareholders*, 22 August 2022, Development Stage
7. ASX Announcement, Northern Minerals, ASX:NTU, *Annual Report to Shareholders*, 21 October 2022, Development Stage
8. ASX Announcement, Iluka Resources, ASX:ILU, *2022 Annual Report including Appendix 4E*, 21 February 2023
9. ASX Announcement, Hastings Technology Metals Ltd, *Annual Report to Shareholders*, 30 September 2022
10. ASX Announcement, Ionic Rare Earths Ltd, *Annual Report to Shareholders*, 11 October 2022