

Browns Range to drive better social & economic outcomes for Aboriginal communities

Highlights

- \$4.8M funding from Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund
- The training-to-work program is a key initiative to deliver jobs and value to the local communities in the East Kimberley
- The program builds on the foundations set by Northern Minerals with the local host community

As part of a consortium led by the Wunan Foundation (**Wunan**), Northern Minerals (ASX:NTU) is pleased to announce that funding has been awarded under the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) to develop an Aboriginal training-to-work (T2W) program at the Browns Range Heavy Rare Earth Pilot Plant Project, in the East Kimberley.

The \$4.8 million funding will contribute towards the total T2W project cost of \$8.1 million, which includes the establishment of economic infrastructure at Browns Range.



Aerial view of the Ringer Soak community, East Kimberley

In partnership with Northern Minerals, Wunan will develop and implement the new T2W program at the Browns Range Pilot Plant Project. The T2W program presents a significant opportunity for Wunan to build on its capabilities and create pathways for

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Aboriginal communities to achieve tangible outcomes, and improved life choices in the East Kimberley. It will also be essential to Northern Minerals achieving its aspirational, long-term Aboriginal employment target of 20 per cent.

The T2W initiative is designed as a benchmark model for long term Aboriginal engagement that will be disseminated nationally. The model has been developed from first principles to integrate on-site classroom training with process line experience, supported by a curriculum designed for an Aboriginal audience.

As the catalyst to the potential full scale \$329 million Browns Range Project, which has the potential to deliver up to 400 construction and 300 operation jobs over its 11 year life of mine, the Browns Range Pilot Plant presents a significant opportunity for future employment and business prospects in the region, particularly for local Aboriginal communities.

Construction work on infrastructure for the T2W program will commence in the near term.

Northern Minerals' MD and CEO, George Bauk, commented *"The development of the Aboriginal training-to-work program, in partnership with Wunan, is an important part of the Northern Minerals culture of working closely with our host communities to deliver tangible benefits.*

"Having worked in the region for nearly a decade, we recognise and understand the impact that this project will have in East Kimberley communities, and as such, we need to do everything possible to ensure that it is a success.

"We would like to thank the Federal Government for their support and Wunan for its leadership in this area, we look forward to celebrating future outcomes from the program together"

Wunan Foundation Chairman and Executive Director, Ian Trust, said *"We are excited by the commitment shown by both Northern Minerals and the Federal Government in ensuring that Aboriginal communities benefit from the development of Browns Range.*

"The T2W program has been developed based on our workings over the past 20 years, integrating a learning and teaching program that delivers positive outcomes for Aboriginal workers in the East Kimberley.

"We look forward to welcoming the first intake of participants in the program."

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About Northern Minerals:

Northern Minerals Limited (ASX: NTU) has commenced development of the Browns Range Heavy Rare Earth Pilot Plant Project in northern Western Australia.

Through the development of its flagship project, the Browns Range Project (the Project), Northern Minerals aims to be the first significant world producer of dysprosium outside of China.

The Project is 100% owned by Northern Minerals and has several deposits and prospects containing high value dysprosium and other HREs, hosted in xenotime mineralisation.

Dysprosium is an essential ingredient in the production of DyNdFeB (dysprosium neodymium iron-boron) magnets used in clean energy and high technology solutions.

The three-year R&D pilot plant project will commence first production of heavy rare earth carbonate in H1 2018. The pilot plant development provides the opportunity to gain production experience, surety of supply for our offtake partner and assess the feasibility of the larger full-scale development.

For more information: northernminerals.com.au.



ASX Code:	NTU	Market Capitalisation:	A\$92m
Issued Shares:	733m	Cash (as at 30 June 2017):	A\$8.4m

About the Wunan Foundation:

The Wunan Foundation is an Aboriginal development organisation in the East Kimberley, with a clear purpose and strategy to drive long-term socio-economic change for Aboriginal people by providing real opportunities, investing in people's abilities, and by encouraging and rewarding aspiration and self-responsibility.

Since establishment in 1997, Wunan has methodically built its capacity to make a difference in the East Kimberley. With a strong asset base that includes a number of commercial investments, Wunan is able to invest in innovation and carry a long term, independent strategy for change. Wunan are committed to building partnerships with the community, business sector, and Government to make the East Kimberley a place where Aboriginal people can look forward to building a stronger and more independent future for themselves.