

# **Operational readiness progressing at Browns Range Heavy Rare Earth Project**

## **Highlights**

- Operational readiness on track;
- Experienced rare earth operations manager, Tony Hadley, appointed as General Manager; and
- Appointment comes as final equipment components arrive on site.

Australian heavy rare earths developer, Northern Minerals Limited (ASX: NTU) (the Company) is pleased to announce that operational readiness for the Browns Range Project is progressing well with recruitment of key personnel, development of operations systems, procurement of key supply contracts and the development of the commissioning plan including plans for research and development testwork.



Construction continuing at Browns Range

#### **ASX ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr Tony Hadley has been appointed to the position of General Manager for the Browns Range Project commencing mid February. Mr Hadley is a metallurgist with 26 years' experience in the construction, operation, flowsheet development and management of rare earths, base metals, vanadium and gold projects in China, Australia, Dominican Republic, New Zealand and Malaysia. His experience includes 10 years with Lynas Corporation, where he was the Operations Manager for the Mount Weld Rare Earth mine. Following this, Mt Hadley spent 2.5 years with Northern Minerals as Process Manager, undertaking metallurgical testwork and developing the process flowsheet of the Browns Range Project.

In addition to the General Manager appointment, several other key operational team members have been engaged, including the R&D Manager, Senior Process Engineer, Senior Chemist and Maintenance Supervisor.

This operations team has commenced work on development of operations systems, procurement of key supply contracts and together with the Project team have advanced the development of the commissioning plan for the Project.

These key appointments come as Sinosteel MECC delivers the final equipment components to Browns Range. Primero Group is advancing well on the installation of the equipment components.

Northern Minerals' Managing Director and CEO, George Bauk, commented "These key appointments provide strength and key rare earths experience as we move towards the production phase of the project.

"With installation on track for completion in the June quarter and first product shipments in the September quarter, we are excited to have a former senior employee with significant rare earth operational experience return to the project.

Also a reminder that the Northern Minerals Share Purchase Plan is closing on the 31st of January 2018 and eligible shareholders can click on the following link to request their personal application form:

http://www.northernmineralsspp.com.au/INVESTMENT/NorthernMinerals.aspx

For further information:

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#### **About Northern Minerals:**

Northern Minerals Limited (ASX: NTU; Northern Minerals or the Company) 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.

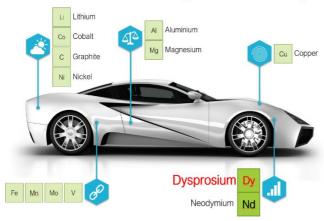
Dysprosium is an essential ingredient in the production of DyNdFeB (dysprosium neodymium iron-boron) magnets used in clean energy and high technology solutions.

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 economic and technical feasibility of the larger full-scale development.

For more information: northernminerals.com.au.



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ASX Code: N	TU I	Market Capitalisation:	A\$81m
Issued Shares: 8	866m	Cash (as at 30 Sept 2017):	A\$5.0m