

Browns Range REE Exploration Program Accelerated

Highlights to date

- Browns Range drilling program on schedule— up to 20,000 metres planned for Q3 2012
- Visual indications of xenotime mineralisation in holes drilled to date – initial assay results expected in early August 2012
- Approval received from the State Government for Program of Work at Wolverine prospect, three rigs to be operational by the end of July 2012
- New prospect identified with similar geological characteristics to Wolverine and Gambit
- Regional mapping program confirms additional targets for follow-up
- Continuing metallurgical development work with ANTSO and NAGROM
- Continuing stakeholder engagement including local government and community meetings



Northern Minerals (ASX: NTU) is pleased to advise it is stepping up its Rare Earth Element (REE) exploration program, with the approval of its Program of Work at Wolverine, by the WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, and the arrival of additional drill rigs to be operational by the end of July 2012.

The next phase of drilling will include approximately 5,000 metres of step-out and infill drilling to define a maiden JORC resource.

The Company's exploration program involves up to 20,000 metres of drilling at the Browns Range Heavy REE project in northern WA, which will help define a maiden JORC resource at the Wolverine Prospect, as well as follow up exciting additional regional targets.

The company currently has a diamond drill rig operating at Wolverine and Gambit, which is testing extensions to mineralisation along strike and at depth. Ten holes have been completed to date, with the first batch of samples sent to the laboratory in Perth for assay. Initial results are expected in early August.

A reverse circulation (RC) drill rig is expected to commence drilling within the next week to provide infill drilling at Wolverine and Gambit.

Northern Minerals Managing Director George Bauk said Northern Minerals has committed to a definitive drilling program with the goal of developing a JORC Resource by the end of the year.

"We have been encouraged by the drilling progress to date, and we have had visual indications of the targeted xenotime mineralisation in several of the holes," Mr Bauk said.

"With the approval of the POW and arrival of the additional drill rigs, our program will be moving into full swing over the coming weeks," he said.

A third drill rig (RC) is planned for the end of July to drill test the Banshee and Mystique prospects. A RAB drilling program is also planned for later in the year.

The drilling program will also include an exciting new prospect at Browns Range, where breccia type structures similar to those occurring at Wolverine and Gambit, have been identified. The prospect, which is about 5km south east of Wolverine, was identified during a regional mapping program. The Company will complete a soil sampling program prior to drill testing.

Heritage surveys of new drill target areas and areas affected by proposed infrastructure have commenced this week as part of the approval process.

"We have completed a reconnaissance mapping program over the past month which has identified a number of other early stage targets with indications of xenotime mineralisation. These targets will be followed-up with on-ground work as part of this season's exploration campaign," Mr Bauk said.

"The results from this work reinforce the prospectivity of the Browns Range Dome, and the potential for further discoveries of high grade Heavy Rare Earth Elements," Mr Bauk said.

Northern Minerals is also waiting on further approval to expand its exploration camp at Browns Range. The plans include expansion of accommodation and infrastructure to support up to 20 people as part of the increased on-ground activity.



Mr Bauk said the Company was also continuing its program of stakeholder engagement in the Browns Range project area, where it is aiming to be in production by the end of 2014.

“We have had a number of meetings with representatives from the local community, industry and Government, which have all been very positive, and we look forward to continuing to work with these stakeholders as we move the project forward,” he said.

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About Northern Minerals

Northern Minerals Limited (ASX: NTU) is focused on development of rare earth elements (REE), with a large and prospective landholding in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The Company’s flagship project is Browns Range, where it has a number of prospects with high value, heavy rare earth elements (HREE), in xenotime mineralisation. In particular, the mineralisation includes high levels of dysprosium and yttrium, which are in short supply globally. Following outstanding results from its drilling program, the Company is focused on advancing Browns Range toward production, using a relatively simple and low cost processing flow sheet to produce a high grade concentrate. The Company is aiming to produce and deliver HREO in concentrate by 2015. Northern Minerals also has a HREE exploration program underway at the geologically similar John Galt project.

Northern Mineral’s uranium and gold program is focused on the Gardiner-Tanami project and Gardner Range JV, which comprise 10,500km² on the WA-NT border. The projects are located within the world-class Tanami-Arunta gold region. Uranium exploration is focused on high grade unconformity-related uranium targets.

For more information, visit www.northernminerals.com.au

