

Browns Range operations to restart

Northern Minerals Limited (ASX: NTU) (**Company**) would like to advise shareholders that the Board has taken the decision to partially restart operations at the Company's Browns Range Heavy Rare Earths Pilot Plant Project as well as recommence exploration activities across its tenements in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

The Board's decision follows the lifting of Commonwealth biosecurity restrictions applied to the Kimberley region as part of COVID-19 control measures, which was the catalyst for the Company placing the Project on care-and-maintenance at the end of March.

Northern Minerals has commenced planning and logistics to support the restart of operations at the Pilot Plant which will initially focus on testwork in the beneficiation circuit followed by tests in the hydrometallurgical circuit.

The Company will also proceed with the mechanical construction and installation of ore-sorting equipment at the front-end of the Pilot Plant.

Exploration activity across the Browns Range tenement package will also be ramped-up, with a budget of \$4.5-\$5.0 million being allocated for greenfields exploration, further evaluation of identified mineralisation and to boost confidence in resources, with the objective of increasing the overall life-of-mine potential of the Project.

The partial return of Pilot Plant operations at Browns Range will result in approximately three-quarters of the previous Project workforce being re-mobilised later this month. However, there are some positions that are likely to become redundant.

The information gathered from the Pilot Plant operation to date and also the upcoming testwork programs will provide data for the potential Bankable Feasibility Study of a full-scale commercial facility.

Executive Chairman Colin McCavana said while the Board was pleased to be in a position to recommence work at Browns Range, following COVID-19 being brought under control in the State, it had come at a cost to the business.

"We have taken the difficult decision to only partially restart the Pilot Plant at this stage, but believe it is the best immediate path forward in the Project's development. We will work closely and collaboratively with those members of the team impacted by this decision to redeploy them to other opportunities within the Company, including within our exploration team, where it is possible to do so," Mr McCavana said.

"Our significant commitment to exploration in the next 6-12 months will underpin our ongoing ambition to develop a full-scale heavy rare earths mining and processing operation at Browns Range in the future, which if successful would create significantly greater opportunities for Northern Minerals, the State and Australia in the global context of these critical minerals."



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Northern Minerals
Level 1
675 Murray Street
West Perth WA 6005

PO Box 669
West Perth WA 6872
northernminerals.com.au
info@northernminerals.com.au

ASX: NTU
T: +61 8 9481 2344
F: +61 8 9481 5929
ABN: 61 119 966 353

For further information:

Colin McCavana
Executive Chairman
Mark Tory
CFO/Company Secretary
Northern Minerals
+61 8 9481 2344

For media and broker enquiries:

Michael Cairnduff / Warrick Hazeldine
Cannings Purple
+61 406 775 241 / +61 417 944 616

About Northern Minerals:

Northern Minerals Limited (ASX: NTU) (Northern Minerals or the Company) is one of a few producers of heavy rare earth element Dysprosium outside of China via production from the Browns Range Heavy Rare Earth Project in northern Western Australia.

The Company commenced the production of heavy rare earth carbonate in late 2018 as part of a three year pilot assessment of economic and temporarily technical feasibility of a larger scale development at Browns Range. In March 2020, the operation was placed into care & maintenance as a result of COVID-19.

The work program provides the opportunity to gain production experience and surety of supply for our offtake partner, Thyssenkrupp, as well as allowing the assessment of various project enhancement initiatives including ore sorting and the separation of the product into individual rare earth oxides.

Through the development of its flagship project, the Browns Range Project (the Project), Northern Minerals aims to build the Western Australian operation into a 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, military and high technology solutions.

For more information: northernminerals.com.au.



ASX Code:	NTU	Market Capitalisation:	A\$71.8m
Issued Shares:	3,987m	Cash (as at 31 March 2020):	A\$5.1m