

## MEDIA STATEMENT

25 March 2024

### Thunderbird makes history as first bulk zircon exports leave Broome

- Approximately 10,000 tonnes of zircon from the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project shipped
- First bulk shipment of mineral sands products to be exported from the Port of Broome
- Product will be delivered to KMS' international offtake partners

Celebrating a pivotal moment in the company's history, Kimberley Mineral Sands has today exported the first bulk shipment of zircon mineral sands concentrate from its Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project in the West Kimberley.

The circa 10,000 tonne zircon shipment, which left the Port of Broome onboard the MV Pacific Fortune at the weekend, is bound for KMS' international offtake partners.

Kimberley Mineral Sands Chief Operating Officer Michael Rose said the landmark moment marked a significant achievement for Thunderbird and was the culmination of many years of hard work, planning and investment.

"Thanks to the support of our joint venture partners, the local community, government and investors, today we celebrated the inaugural export of bulk mineral sands from Broome.

Mr Rose said the company was looking forward to further contributing to the local and West Australian economy for many years to come, cementing Kimberley Mineral Sands' position as a key player in the global mineral sands market.

It's estimated that Thunderbird will produce 6.5% of global zircon supply and 3.5% of global ilmenite over the 36 year life of the mine.

Zircon is used primarily in the manufacture of everyday ceramics, including tiles, bathrooms and kitchen crockery. It is also used in a range of production processes in refractories and foundry casting, as well as catalytic fuel converters, and air and water purification systems.

**ENDS**

---

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kimberley Mineral Sands, Senior Advisor – Community, Hilary Wilkins, 0417 987 970, [hwilkins@kmsands.com.au](mailto:hwilkins@kmsands.com.au)



PHOTO: Zircon being loaded onto the bulk carrier in Broome

---

**ABOUT KIMBERLEY MINERAL SANDS:**

Kimberley Mineral Sands Pty Ltd (KMS) operates the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project (Thunderbird) which is located mid-way between Derby and Broome, in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Thunderbird is one of the largest and highest-grade mineral sands deposits in the world and contains valuable heavy minerals including ilmenite, zircon, leucoxene and rutile which are extracted and exported via the Port of Broome.

KMS' head office is based in Broome and is focused on delivering economic and social benefits for the West Kimberley and its communities.

---

**Additional Project Facts:**

- As of 29 February 2024, 371 people are currently employed on the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project by KMS and our key contractors. Of this workforce, 24% are Aboriginal, 20% are female and 52% live in the West Kimberley.
- Of that number, KMS employs 125 people directly, including 27% Aboriginal, 30% female and 82% West Kimberley residents.
- KMS monthly local spend in the West Kimberley in February was \$3.3 million, and the total spent with Aboriginal businesses was \$3.2 million.
- The Project is estimated to contribute a net uplift to Gross Domestic Product in Northern Australia of \$2 billion over the first 20 years.