

## MEDIA STATEMENT

31 January 2024 – for immediate release

### Historic first shipment of mineral sands departs Broome

- Approximately 5,100 tonnes of bagged zircon from Thunderbird shipped from Broome
- Product is en-route to KMS' global offtake partners
- First shipment of mineral sands products to be exported from the Port of Broome

Kimberley Mineral Sands is celebrating the first export of products to depart Broome from its Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project in the West Kimberley.

Approximately 5,100 tonnes of bagged zircon product was loaded onto a chartered vessel which left Broome today, bound for KMS' global offtake partners.

Chief Operating Officer Michael Rose said the first shipment from the Port of Broome signified the start of local exports from the Kimberley port and highlighted the company's commitment to the region.

"These are the first mineral sands products to depart from Broome, and we've worked closely with the Kimberley Ports Authority and local shipping agencies to facilitate this historic shipment," he said.

Kimberley Mineral Sands has also recently commenced transporting rotainers of product into Broome for storage prior to the first bulk export in the near future.

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**

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PHOTO: Bagged zircon being loaded onto a bulk carrier in Broome

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**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.

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**Additional Project Facts:**

- As of 30 December 2023, 339 people are currently employed on the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project by KMS and our key contractors. Of this workforce, 23% are Aboriginal, 19% are female and 40% live in the West Kimberley.
- Of that number, KMS employs 112 people directly, of which 27% are Aboriginal, 27% are female and 87% live in the West Kimberley.
- KMS has spent more than \$70 million with local Kimberley businesses, and \$20 million with Aboriginal businesses project to date.
- The Project is estimated to contribute a net uplift to Gross Domestic Product in Northern Australia of \$2 billion over the first 20 years.