

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

8 January 2024

For immediate release

### **First Thunderbird Product Sets Sail**

- The maiden shipment of product from the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project has sailed from Port Hedland on a scheduled container vessel
- Shipment comprises approx. 300 tonnes of non-magnetic concentrate (zircon) in bulka bags sold to KMS' global offtake partners

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

The first shipment of zircon departed Port Hedland at the weekend for onwards delivery to three of KMS' global offtake partners.

Kimberley Mineral Sands' Chief Operating Officer Michael Rose said it was an historic moment for the mine.

"The first bagged shipment is another significant milestone for the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project.

"The shipment left from Port Hedland to utilise an existing container vessel service that operates regularly between Port Hedland and various Asian ports.

"Products are now being prepared for future bagged and bulk shipments from Broome that will commence early this year," he said.

Zircon is used primarily in the everyday manufacture of ceramics, including tiles, bathroom sanitaryware 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**

### 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.

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Photo caption: Bagged product ready for export



Photo caption: ANL's Blue Nine vessel being loaded in Port Hedland