

## HRE Pilot plant achieves mechanical completion as xenotime concentrate produced

Australian heavy rare earths developer, Northern Minerals Limited (ASX: NTU) (**the Company**) is pleased to advise that the Browns Range Pilot Plant has achieved mechanical completion. All the process plant components have been installed, powered up and tested as part of the commissioning process.

The beneficiation plant, having been load commissioned in June, is performing well at this stage of the operation with approximately 100 tonnes of xenotime concentrate produced through the beneficiation plant to date.

With this stockpile of xenotime concentrate ahead of the drier and kiln, both of which have been load commissioned already, the back end of the hydrometallurgical plant from water leach through to rare earth carbonate product can now be load commissioned.



Night Shot – Browns Range Pilot Plant – 15 August 2018

Northern Minerals' Managing Director and CEO, George Bauk, said "*Mechanical completion is an important milestone for the company and having 100 tonnes of xenotime concentrate stockpiled provides a great base as we move into commissioning the back end of the hydromet plant.*"

*"Given we have only been commissioning the pilot plant for a short period of time, early results from the beneficiation plant are very encouraging. Whilst a lot of work remains in the beneficiation plant to achieve key targets, focus will broaden to include the hydrometallurgical plant."*

Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

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**About Northern Minerals:**

Northern Minerals Limited (ASX: NTU; Northern Minerals or the Company) has commenced commissioning of the Browns Range Heavy Rare Earth Pilot Plant Project in northern Western Australia.

Through the development of its flagship project, the Browns Range Project (the Project), Northern Minerals aims to be the first 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 and high technology solutions.

The three-year R&D pilot plant project will commence first production of heavy rare earth carbonate in Q3 2018. The pilot plant development provides the opportunity to gain production experience, surety of supply for our offtake partner and assess the economic and technical feasibility of the larger full-scale development.

For more information: [northernminerals.com.au](http://northernminerals.com.au).



ASX Code:	NTU	Market Capitalisation:	A\$100m
Issued Shares:	1,161m	Cash (as at 30 June 2018):	A\$10.4m

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