

Test Pit Site Yields Strong Harvest



Harvesting of the DMS Test Pit site was undertaken during December 2022. The barley crop sown in the paddock yielded very highly, demonstrating that effective rehabilitation from mining to productive cropping can be achieved.

Memorandum Of Understanding with Yarriambiack Shire

On 23 November 2022, Astron Corporation Limited executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Yarriambiack Shire Council (YSC).

The MOU provides for Astron and YSC to work cooperatively and collaboratively to maximise mutually beneficial community and economic outcomes from the development and operation of the Donald project and represents an important milestone in the development of the Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project.

The MOU focuses on maximising the local social and economic opportunities associated with the project. Astron and YSC are committed to cooperation in the areas of common interest to achieve positive environmental, social and economic outcomes for the communities within the Shire.

The core areas for collaboration between the two parties are:

- Optimising Economic and Social Outcomes – to work cooperatively and in good faith to facilitate as many positive outcomes from the Donald project as possible whilst also working jointly to minimise and mitigate any potential negative economic employment and social outcomes associated with the project; and
- Building Relationships to support the Donald Project – to work cooperatively and in good faith to develop an advocacy and relationship management program which will aid the timely delivery of the project and wider community benefits.

Astron looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Yarriambiack Shire Council and the residents of the shire.

A full copy of the Memorandum of Understanding can be found at the Astron website:
<https://www.astronlimited.com.au/community/community-engagement/>



Astron Corporation Limited Chairman Mr George Lloyd and Managing Director Mr Tiger Brown pictured signing the MOU with Yarriambiack Shire Council Mayor Cr Kylie Zanker (centre) and Chief Executive Officer Ms Tammy Smith (right)



DONALD RARE EARTH AND MINERAL SANDS PROJECT – Mining Licence Mineral Resource Update

On December 1, 2022 the Mineral Resource within Mining Licence MIN5532, the site of the proposed Phase 1 development of the Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project, was updated

- The Mineral Resource of 525Mt @ 4.0% total HM includes a Measured Resource of 394Mt @ 4.2% HM reported above a 1% total HM cut-off grade
- Contained heavy minerals within MIN5532 increased by 25% to 21Mt with contained zircon increasing by 5% to 3.4Mt
- Contained rare earth minerals within MIN5532 increased by 60% to 511,400t reflecting an 18% increase in the monazite resource and the addition of a 135,500t xenotime resource
- Monazite contains the valuable light rare earth elements neodymium, used in wind turbines, and praseodymium, used in computer hard drives. Xenotime contains the valuable heavy rare earth elements of dysprosium, used in electric vehicles, and terbium, used in the production of electronic devices

MEET THE TEAM

Sean Chelius – Donald Project Director

Sean joined Astron in January 2022 as the Project Director for the Donald Mineral Sands and Rare Earth project. Sean has over 30 years international experience in mining project planning and implementation. His experience involves project management and engineering roles in Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

Sean is a passionate Rugby Union fan.



Ruth Chapman retires

Ruth has been with DMS for sixteen years and describes herself as being fortunate to actively participate in the EES development and panel hearing, culminating in favourable assessment by State and Federal agencies.

Ruth's roles included editor and production of the DMS newsletter, sponsorship program and community liaison as the first point of contact for the Project.

Ruth is looking forward to taking a step back spending time writing, painting, travelling, bushwalking and quality time with family and friends.

Community Sponsorship Program. Applications open in March 2023

The DMS Community Sponsorship Program supports not-for profit community organisations seeking to enhance local communities near the Donald Project area under the headings of:

- Environment;
- Education, training, leadership;
- Arts and cultural activities;
- Sport;
- Health; and
- Community development and wellbeing

Follow the DMS Facebook page for updates.

For the next round of funding, keep up to date by following us on Facebook @Donald Mineral Sands



Mobile screen sponsored by DMS at the Murtoa Big Weekend.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q. How many people will the mine employ?

A. During the construction of the mineral processing plant and associated buildings there will be approximately 100 persons working on the project. Once operational, the mine will employ approximately 80 people within various full time and part time roles.

Q. What is the expected life of the mine?

A. Based on the anticipated mineral resource and the rate of mining, the mine is expected to have a life of at least 40 years

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE DONALD PROJECT

In November 2022, Astron engaged Deloitte’s access economics team to undertake a detailed Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Donald Project’s proposed Phase 1 development, analysing the Project Phase 1’s direct and indirect impacts to the local region and Victorian economy. This was completed using a computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling framework. The Donald Project’s ore reserves support a mine life of well beyond 40 years, however, for the purposes of the study, a 30-year evaluation period was selected from 2024 to 2054.

Key findings are that the Donald Project is estimated to increase economic activity in the Project Area by \$2.2 billion in present value terms relative to the base case. An average annual economic boost to output in the Project Area of approximately \$205 million.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Community information Sessions will occur in late February and early March in Donald, Marnoo, Murtoa, Rupanyup, St Arnaud and Warracknabeal. Dates and locations will be confirmed and advertised on the DMS Facebook page.

Community Sponsorship Program Opens March 2023

Wimmera Machinery Field Days 8 March 2023



GET IN TOUCH

DMS would be happy to present a project overview and update to your organisation. Please contact Paul Atherton Community Liaison Officer on 0474 869 110 or email: paul.atherton@donaldmineralsands.com.au

The DMS Facebook page is also a convenient way to keep up to date with latest project news.

Like, follow or share our page @DonaldMineralSands.