

FACT SHEET

DONALD RARE EARTH & MINERAL SANDS PROJECT

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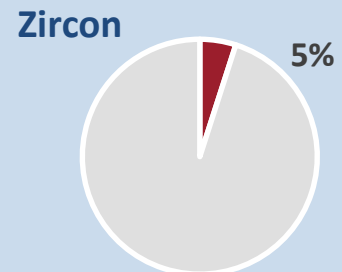
ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PROJECT AREA

Transforming the Wimmera into a Critical Minerals hub

Growing global demand for rare earth elements and critical minerals creates a significant opportunity for Australia. Astron's Donald Project through its various phases of development represents an opportunity to transform the Wimmera Region of Victoria into a global critical minerals' hub, with integrated mining, processing, manufacturing production.

It represents a clear opportunity to develop Australia's capability in the rare earths and critical minerals sector in Australia in alignment with the Commonwealth Government's Australian Critical Minerals Strategy. This strategy outlines a vision to turn Australia into a 'critical minerals powerhouse' by 2030. The strategy aims to create stable supply of critical minerals from Australia to the world, develop sovereign capabilities in downstream processing of rare earths and critical minerals, and promote regional jobs and growth through the industry.

DONALD PHASE 1 PRODUCTION % OF GLOBAL SUPPLY



Annual zircon demand globally is 1.2 million tonnes per annum, source: TZMI, Astron's Donald Project has the potential to increase its output through future phases.

ECONOMIC IMPACT - BY THE NUMBERS



\$2.2 Billion

net increase in gross regional product within the local project region



1/5

Of Project Area capital goods expenditure during construction



1.8%

Annual increase in economic activity for the Project Area



150

FTE direct employee and contracting opportunities at site



536

FTE average increase per year in local project region

Mining Supporting Other Industries

Donald Project is expected to contribute significantly to other sectors beyond the mining sector. Key sectors impacted in the Project Area include services, wholesale trade, construction, dwellings, utilities & transport. Services and construction industries are the largest beneficiaries. This reflects the needs of the Donald Project during the operations phase of the project, drawing on various ancillary services such as professional, financial, food and accommodation services and Donald Project's expected capital investment. The services sector across Victoria is estimated to experience an average increase in output of \$44 million each year, equating to \$594 million over the evaluation period in present value terms. The construction industry is also expected to experience an over \$500 million increase in output over 30 years of Phase 1 of the Project.

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ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PROJECT AREA

The Donald Project descriptions

The Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands project (Donald Project) is a Tier-1 rare earth and mineral sands project located approximately 15kms east to the town of Minyip in the Wimmera Region of Victoria. It has the potential to become a globally significant, long-life source of rare earth elements (including high value neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium and terbium) used in Electric Vehicles and renewable power generation, as well as zircon and titanium minerals which are used in everyday life for paint pigments, ceramic coatings and foundry products.



Donald Rare Earths & Mineral Sands Project

PRODUCTS – A WIDE ARRAY OF APPLICATIONS



Wind Turbines



Electric Vehicles



Ceramics



Foundry Metals



Airplanes



Paints and Pigments

Globally significant, Tier 1 Resource

The Donald Project contains a total of 2.6 billion tonnes of ore¹. It represents the world's largest undeveloped zircon resource, fourth largest titanium resource and the fifth largest, rare-earth project outside of China. Given its scale, it is planned that the Donald Project will be developed in three phases. The initial development (Phase 1) is envisioned to take place on the granted mining licence area MIN 5532, which contains only 17% of the total resource. The mining licence area alone supports a mine life of over 35 years. This significant development is expected to have a positive contribution to the local and Victorian economies, generating wealth for the local area and surrounds.

What is defined as the local area?

The Project Area is defined as the ABS Statistical Area 3 regions of Maryborough-Pyrenees; Loddon-Elmore; Murray River-Swan Hill; and Grampians.



What is the economic impact on the local area?

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, or an average yearly increase of 1.8% in GRP relative to the base case.