



Sheffield Resources' Thunderbird project is located between Broome and Derby. Photo: Sheffield Resources

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# MILESTONES FOR MAJOR PROJECT AFTER **ONE STOP SHOP** APPROACH

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**After benefiting from a coordinated State Government approach, one of the world's largest mineral sands deposits in WA's Kimberley reached major milestones in 2018.**

Construction will begin later this year on Sheffield Resources' Thunderbird project, which has a 42-year mine life and is located between Broome and Derby.

Perth-based company GR Engineering will build the majority of the first stage of the mine, which aims to begin high-grade zircon and titanium production by 2020.

The two-year construction will include a mineral processing plant, power station, an accommodation village and associated infrastructure.

The project received Federal and State Government environmental approval last year, with Sheffield Resources' Managing Director Bruce McFadzean saying he was pleased all key permits had been secured.

"We're looking forward to developing Thunderbird, a project that will make a significant contribution to the economy and to communities throughout the Kimberley," he said.

Late 2018 also saw the company reach a Native Title Agreement with Traditional Owners Mount Jowlaenga Polygon 2.

The Agreement contains payments to the Traditional Owners, with local and Aboriginal employment and business commitments, including other controls for Aboriginal heritage and the environment.

"We can now all work together and provide long term employment and business opportunities for everyone," Mr McFadzean said.

The Thunderbird project will provide 280 drive-in drive-out (DIDO) full time jobs and aims to have 40 per cent Aboriginal employment by its eighth year.

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) Senior Advisor Graham Cobby said the Thunderbird project was considered an important project for the Kimberley in 2014 and, under the State Government Lead Agency Framework, DMIRS was able to provide approval advice and coordination services from feasibility stage through to project commencement.

"As a designated lead agency project, Sheffield was provided with a single point of entry and assigned one department – in this case DMIRS – to assist and coordinate advice on approvals across government," Mr Cobby said.

"This is a relatively small WA company that found something big, and we're pleased to be able to assist them through the approvals process to get to where they are now and provide value to the local community and WA.

"We were able to help the company with coordinating approvals advice across departments, as well as provide regulatory advice regarding tenure, environmental, safety and land access matters.

"DMIRS also provided regulatory information for the Broome and Derby Shires, Port Authorities, industry associations, pastoralists and regional community groups, facilitated multi-agency briefing sessions, which helped smooth the approvals pathway by ensuring the stakeholders were well informed of the process.

"I'd like to acknowledge our department's Liaison Officer for the Kimberley Brian Lloyd – whose experience and local knowledge of the region helped deliver the 'one stop shop' service to Sheffield Resources. ■