

AUSTRALIA'S RICH HISTORY goes global

As mining companies work side-by-side with Aboriginal groups to develop projects and realise mutual benefits, the opportunities are much wider reaching than employment outcomes alone.

AUSTRALIA'S RICH cultural heritage is now being shared across the globe as Sheffield Resources delivers one of the most promising heavy mineral sands projects in the world.

Overseas customers of the company's Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project are getting a taste of Aboriginal culture, gifted traditional symbols and artwork showcasing the talents of local artists.

It is a strategy delivering on two key focuses as Sheffield Resources looks to tap into the emerging minerals sands market.

The explorer and developer is working closely with traditional owners and forging strong relationships with local Aboriginal artists, but also key global trading partners.

The partnership has presented the traditional dot-painting style works of talented locals Patrina Bedford, Tanisha Wungundin-Allies and Edna Dale to customers from China, Europe, India and Malaysia.

"Aboriginal art and culture is of enormous importance, and highly regarded. The presentation of these artworks is a meaningful way for Sheffield to mark the foundation of our long-term trading relationships," said Bruce McFadzean, Managing Director Sheffield Resources.

Each evocative artwork was presented with an image of the artist, the story of the artwork and insights into local Aboriginal culture, and each customer can meet their artist when they visit the West Kimberley to see the Thunderbird operation, supply chain and export facilities at Derby and Broome ports.

The company's Thunderbird project is located in an area rich in art, ceremony, song, story and dance, midway between Broome and Derby on Western Australia's Dampier Peninsula in the remote north-west Australia region of the Kimberley.

With a history stretching back tens of

thousands of years and home to more than 30 traditional Aboriginal language, the Kimberley region of Western Australia is rich in cultural heritage - and now Sheffield's global customers have a piece of their own.

Thunderbird is construction-ready with completed Traditional Owner agreements, offtake agreements with customers and a turnkey contract to build the process plant.

The highly prospective development is one of the most promising, long-life, high-grade heavy mineral sands projects in the world.

With a potential mine life of 42 years and a mineral resource of 3.2 billion tonnes, the company is aiming to enter production by 2020, employing 280 people in full-time, locally sourced positions.

As the Kimberley wet-season subsides, Sheffield has been working to ensure every opportunity to develop the Thunderbird project is pursued.

In January, the company signed an energy supply deal with Woodside Energy and Energy Developments for delivery of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the site.

The Woodside Pluto LNG Truck Loading Facility is now open and will power the Thunderbird project.

Mr McFadzean said the site now has the reliable, low cost and low emissions energy supply it needs for its long-term future.

"LNG is ideally suited to the low temperature roast process we are planning for the Thunderbird project, as it produces a high quality ilmenite product," he said.

Sheffield Resources is a foundation customer for the facility under a 15-year agreement with Energy Developments and Woodside for the supply and transport of LNG from Dampier to Thunderbird's onsite LNG storage.



Bruce McFadzean, Managing Director Sheffield Resources and Rajvindra Dhani Singh, Ruby Ceramics, India, foundation customer of Sheffield Resources.

SHEFFIELD'S MINERALS CRITICAL, IN-DEMAND

Titanium and Zirconium - used in every day products like ceramic tiles and sunscreen - were recently listed as Critical Minerals in Australia's Critical Mineral Strategy 2019, released by the Department of Industry, Innovation & Science.

The Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project is the largest undeveloped zircon deposit in the world and is supported by multiple exploration discoveries within trucking distance of the Thunderbird deposit, confirming a new zircon rich province.

Along with high-grade ilmenite product (titanium feedstock), Thunderbird is positioned to replace maturing supply and declining grades in existing production provinces.

The mineral sands market outlook remains positive and strengthening, with tightening global supply of zircon and rutile leading to climbing prices and sites such as Thunderbird appearing key to meet growing market demand. **RP**