



## Media Release

### Australian Government grants Major Project Status to Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project

*National recognition for Victoria's globally significant critical minerals development*

**20 October 2025, Minyip, Victoria** – The Australian Government has granted Major Project Status to the Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project (Donald Project) through the Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA).

The designation recognises the project's national significance and its potential contribution to economic growth, employment, and regional Australia.

#### National and regional benefits

Tiger Brown, Astron Limited Managing Director, said: *"We are delighted the Australian Government has recognised the national significance of the Donald Project through this Major Project Status designation. This support will streamline our engagement with federal agencies and accelerate our pathway to development.*

*"The Donald Project will create significant employment opportunities and deliver long-term economic benefits to the Wimmera region of Victoria. At the same time, it will strengthen Australia's sovereign capability in critical minerals and advanced technology supply chains."*

#### World-class critical minerals resource

The Donald Project, located in Victoria's Murray Basin near Minyip and Donald, will become a globally significant source of critical minerals. The project features a total mineral resource of 1.81 billion tonnes with a planned 58+ year mine life over two phases.

The resource will produce zirconium, titanium, and rare earth elements including neodymium and praseodymium, supporting technologies vital to clean energy, defence, and advanced manufacturing.

Donald Project Pty Ltd, trading as Donald Mineral Sands (DMS), is developing the project. It is a joint venture between ASX-listed Astron Limited and US critical minerals producer Energy Fuels.

In developing the Donald Project, DMS is committed to responsible land use, progressive rehabilitation, and long-term economic contribution to regional Victoria.

#### Rigorous selection criteria

The federal government awards Major Project Status to projects with an estimated investment exceeding \$50 million and which:

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- Contribute to strategic priorities of the Australian Government
- Contribute significantly to economic growth, industry development, innovation exports, and/or employment and upskilling; and/or
- Have an economic benefit to regional Australia.

#### **About Astron**

Astron Limited (ASX: ATR) is an Australian-based company listed on the ASX. With over 35 years of operating history, Astron has been involved in mineral sands processing, downstream product development, and the marketing and sales of zirconium and titanium related products.

Astron's prime focus is the development of the Donald Project. In addition to its Australian assets, the Company also conducts a mineral sands trading operation based in Shenyang, China. It also owns and operates a zircon and titanium chemicals research facility, which includes a mineral separation facility processing mineral concentrate products into final products, in Yingkou, China.

#### **ENDS**

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