

**18 DECEMBER 2025**

## **FULL-SCALE PROCESSING PLANT TRIAL OF SANDY MITCHELL DRILLING SAMPLES TO COMMENCE**

### **Highlights**

- Full-scale processing plant trial of drilling samples from the Sandy Mitchell Rare Earths and Heavy Minerals Project to commence in January 2026 at Currumbin Minerals' treatment plant
- Samples from the recently completed resource definition drilling program at Sandy Mitchell being used to generate a bulk sample for processing
- Currumbin Minerals to conduct a full commercial-scale trial to assess final product specifications
- Monazite rare earths concentrate to be transported to a downstream processing facility for cracking and splitting testwork
- Commercial-grade material, including titanium, zircon and garnet, to be assessed
- Processing plant trial to commence concurrently with the Sandy Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study currently being progressed by IHC Robins
- In January 2024, Ark signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Currumbin Minerals, establishing a framework for the supply and delivery of Heavy Mineral Sands (HMS) from the Sandy Mitchell Project

**Ark Mines Limited (ASX: AHK) ('AHK' or the 'Company')** is pleased to advise that a full-scale processing plant trial using drilling samples from its wholly owned Sandy Mitchell Rare Earths and Heavy Minerals Project in North Queensland is scheduled to commence in January 2026.

The processing plant trial will be undertaken at Currumbin Minerals' wholly owned and operated licenced treatment facility in South-East Queensland.

Ark and Currumbin have an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which established a framework for the supply and delivery of Heavy Minerals Sands (HMS) from the Sandy Mitchell Project for processing at Currumbin's licenced treatment plant in South-East Queensland.

**Managing Director Ben Emery said:** *"We look forward to commencing this full-scale processing plant trial next month, representing a key step in advancing development of our Sandy Mitchell Project in North Queensland. The results of the trial are expected to provide important information on the processing characteristics of the project's unique rare earth mineralisation"*

*"The processing plant trial with our MOU partner, Currumbin Minerals, will run concurrently with the Sandy Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study, currently on track for completion in early 2026. Together, these programs are intended to provide the technical data required to support the project's ongoing evaluation as a potential supplier of rare earths and heavy minerals."*

**FULL-SCALE PLANT TRIAL**

Ark Mines is scheduled to commence a full-scale processing plant trial of drilling samples from the Sandy Mitchell Project at Currumbin Minerals' processing and treatment facility in South-East Queensland in January 2026.

Samples taken from Ark's recently completed resource expansion drilling program will be used to generate a bulk sample for the plant trial.

Currumbin will undertake a full commercial-scale trial to assess final product specifications. Monazite rare earth concentrate produced during the trial will be transported to a downstream processing facility for cracking and splitting of rare earth concentrates.

All commercial-grade material, including titanium minerals, zircon and garnet, will be assessed as part of the trial.

The processing plant trial will be undertaken by Ark, in collaboration with Currumbin, in parallel with the Sandy Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study currently being progressed by IHC Robins.

In January 2024, Ark entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Currumbin, a specialist producer of heavy mineral sands (HMS), establishing a framework for the supply and delivery of mineral sands containing Rare Earth Elements and heavy minerals from the Sandy Mitchell Project.

Currumbin Minerals operates Australia's latest-technology heavy mineral sands gravity, electrostatic and magnetic processing plant based in Queensland.

**AUTHORITY FOR RELEASE**

**This announcement has been approved for release to the ASX by the Board of Ark Mines Ltd.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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## About Ark Mines Limited

Ark Mines is an ASX listed Australian mineral exploration company focused on developing its 100% owned projects located in Northern Queensland. The Company's exploration portfolio consists of four high quality projects.

### The Flagship Sandy Mitchell Rare Earth and Heavy Mineral Project

- Ark owns 100% of the 147km<sup>2</sup> EPM 28013 'Sandy Mitchell' – an advanced Rare Earths Project in North Queensland with additional 138km<sup>2</sup> of sub blocks under application
- Measured Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) of 71.8 Mt @ 1,732.7 ppm Monazite Equivalent calculated using a 700ppm MzEq lower cut-off grade (see AHK Announcement dated 2 October 2024)
- Very high historical TREO grades including high grade pan concentrates of 17.7% total heavy minerals including 16.1% monazite plus xenotime
- Project contains all critical Light Rare Earths as well as Heavy Rare Earths including dysprosium (Dy), terbium (Tb), holmium (Ho), erbium (Er), thulium (Tm) ytterbium (Yb), yttrium (Y) and excluding only Lutetium
- Up to 25% of the TREO is Nd and Pr (magnet metals)
- Rare Earths at 'Sandy Mitchell' are amenable to panning a concentrate; Planned low-cost, fast start up, straightforward beneficiation by gravity processing

The entity confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data in this public report that materially affects the information included in the relevant market announcement and, in the case of estimates of mineral resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed.

### Gunnawarra Nickel-Cobalt Project

- Comprises 11 sub-blocks covering 36km<sup>2</sup>
- Borders Australian Mines Limited Sconi project - most advanced Co-Ni-Sc project in Australia
- Potential synergies with local processing facilities with export DSO Nickel/Cobalt partnership options

### Mt Jesse Copper-Iron Project

- Project covers a tenure area of 12.4km<sup>2</sup> located ~25km west of Mt Garnet
- Centred on a copper rich magnetite skarn associated with porphyry style mineralisation
- Three exposed historic iron formations
- Potential for near term production via toll treat and potential to direct ship

### Pluton Porphyry Gold Project

- Located ~90km SW of Cairns near Mareeba, QLD covering 18km<sup>2</sup>
- Prospective for gold and associated base metals (Ag, Cu, Mo)
- Porphyry outcrop discovered during initial field inspection coincides with regional scale geophysical interpretation

## Forward Looking Statements and Important Notice

This report contains forecasts, projections and forward-looking information. Although the Company believes that its expectations, estimates and forecast outcomes are based on reasonable assumptions it can give no

assurance that these will be achieved. Expectations and estimates and projections and information provided by the Company are not a guarantee of future performance and involve unknown risks and uncertainties, many of which are out of Ark Mines' control.

Actual results and developments will almost certainly differ materially from those expressed or implied. Ark Mines has not audited or investigated the accuracy or completeness of the information, statements and opinions contained in this announcement. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable laws, Ark Mines makes no representation and can give no assurance, guarantee or warranty, express or implied, as to, and takes no responsibility and assumes no liability for the authenticity, validity, accuracy, suitability or completeness of, or any errors in or omission from, any information, statement or opinion contained in this report and without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing, the achievement or accuracy of any forecasts, projections or other forward looking information contained or referred to in this report. Investors should make and rely upon their own enquiries before deciding to acquire or deal in the Company's securities.