



MEDIA RELEASE
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Fifteenth birthday for world's only fully integrated mining-to-titanium dioxide operation

State Resources Minister John Bowler MLA will visit the Tiwest Kwinana Pigment plant this Wednesday, 15 June, to help celebrate 15 years of Tiwest's operation as an integrated joint venture and its contribution to the local economy.

During his visit, the Minister will unveil a plaque commemorating the milestone and meet with several Tiwest employees who have been with the joint venture since the beginning of its operations.

Over the past 15 years Tiwest has produced almost ten million tonnes of heavy mineral concentrate at its Coojarloo mine two hours north of Perth and manufactured more than a million tonnes of titanium dioxide at its pigment plant in Kwinana. This equates to filling an Olympic sized swimming pool almost 400 times over with titanium dioxide.

Tiwest is the only organisation worldwide that mines its own heavy minerals ore body for processing into synthetic rutile and finally the production of titanium dioxide - a talc-powder like substance commonly used in the production of everyday products ranging from paints to paper to plastics and even cosmetics and toothpaste.

The Kwinana Pigment Plant, Coojarloo mine and the Chandala Minerals Processing Plants are the operating facilities in WA that comprise Tiwest's operations. The company also has a warehousing complex at Henderson, port facilities at Bunbury and a corporate office in Technology Park, Bentley.

General Manager Pigment Operations Tony Martin said he was impressed with the Joint Venture's Partners foresight and persistence in setting up an integrated mining and manufacturing business in the early 1990s.

"We're very proud to celebrate 15 years of operation throughout Tiwest and privileged to employ so many highly skilled local people who contribute to the company and the community," he said.

Aside from manufacturing titanium dioxide, the company also mines and exports a range of other valuable mineral products (zircon, leucosene, synthetic rutile, ilmenite, activated carbon), which are used in everything from ceramics to knives to spacecraft.

Tiwest provides employment to some 800 permanent staff and contractors and contributes more than \$44 million annually to State Government revenue in royalties on minerals extracted, payroll tax and charges for gas, electricity and water.

Tiwest today is a joint venture between US based Tronox Ltd (the world's third-largest producer and marketer of titanium dioxide pigment) and South African based mine and manufacturer Exxaro Ltd.

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