



MEDIA RELEASE

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World's Only Fully Integrated Mining-to-Titanium Dioxide Operation Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Kwinana, Western Australia, 21 June 2006 – State Resources Minister John Bowler MLA visited the Tiwest Kwinana pigment plant on Wednesday, 15 June, to help celebrate Tiwest's 15th anniversary as a fully integrated joint venture and the company's contributions to the local economy.

During his visit, the Minister unveiled a plaque commemorating the milestone and met 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 nearly 10 million tonnes of heavy mineral concentrate at its Cooljarloo mine, located two hours north of Perth, and manufactured more than one million tonnes of titanium dioxide at its pigment plant in Kwinana.

Tiwest is a unique operation that mines its own heavy minerals ore, processes this into synthetic rutile and then produces titanium dioxide. Titanium dioxide is a white pigment with an exceptional ability to impart whiteness, brightness and opacity, commonly used in the production of everyday products ranging from paints to plastics to paper and even sunscreen and toothpaste.

Tiwest's operations in Western Australia include the Kwinana pigment plant, Cooljarloo mine and Chandala Minerals processing plant. Tiwest also has a warehousing complex at Henderson, port facilities at Bunbury and a corporate office in Technology Park, Bentley.

Tony Martin, Tiwest general manager of pigment operations, said the

joint venture partners' foresight and persistence in establishing an integrated mining, processing and manufacturing business in the early 1990s provided the foundation for Tiwest's success.

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

In addition to manufacturing titanium dioxide, Tiwest produces and exports a range of other mineral products (zircon, leucoxene, synthetic rutile, ilmenite, activated carbon), which are used in everything from ceramic tiles to spacecraft.

Tiwest has approximately 800 employees and contractors, generates significant export earnings and contributes more than \$44 million annually to state government revenue in royalties on minerals extracted, payroll taxes and charges for gas, electricity and water.

Tiwest is a joint venture between U.S.-based Tronox Incorporated, the world's third-largest producer and marketer of titanium dioxide pigment, and South African-based miner Kumba Resources Ltd.

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