



# Mahenge Graphite Project Early Works Progress

## Highlights

- Access road resettlement completed, enabling access road construction to commence as soon as project financing is completed and a Final Investment Decision has been made.
- Work commenced on the alignment of the Ifakara to Mahenge 220kV transmission line, providing access to hydro-dominated grid power to transform the Mahenge region.
- Long lead equipment procurement is underway to accelerate the commencement of fabrication and detailed engineering.
- Funding conditions remain supportive for critical minerals across the US, Europe and Asia, and Black Rock's funding discussions are ongoing with a number of parties across a range of equity structures.

**Tanzanian graphite developer Black Rock Mining Limited** (ASX: **BKT**) (**Black Rock, BKT** or the **Company**) is pleased to advise progress on its ongoing early works program at the Mahenge Graphite Project (**Mahenge** or the **Project**). The program is directed at completing sufficient works to support a rapid ramp up of construction activity once Black Rock is fully funded and makes a Final Investment Decision (**FID**).

The scope of the early works program includes the commencement of construction activities including improvement to existing site access roads and plant site earthworks<sup>1</sup>.

## Black Rock Managing Director John de Vries commented:

*"I am pleased with the momentum we are building through our early works program at Mahenge. The completion of the access road resettlement in December 2025 is a landmark achievement, marking the final stage of our Resettlement Action Plan. By finalising these compensation payments in alignment with International Finance Corporation standards, we have cleared the path for immediate road construction once project financing is secured."*

*"Equally important is our progress on the Ifakara to Mahenge 220kV transmission line. By commencing corridor surveys and tower spotting, we are taking tangible steps toward securing hydro-dominated grid power. This infrastructure is a game-changer, not only providing us with a significant cost advantage but also ensuring our graphite products maintain a world-class, low carbon footprint."*

*"While our board remains actively engaged in supportive funding discussions across global markets, these operational milestones ensure we are 'construction-ready'. We are focused on rapid execution, with long-lead equipment procurement already underway to compress our development timeline as we move toward a Final Investment Decision."*

<sup>1</sup> ASX Announcement 29 September 2025 – Early Works to Commence at Mahenge Graphite Project

## Ifakara to Mahenge 220kV Transmission Line

Black Rock has commenced work on the development of the 220kV transmission line between Ifakara and Mahenge.

The construction of the power line and substation are to be undertaken by Black Rock's 84%-owned subsidiary, Faru Graphite Corporation (**Faru**) with ownership to be transferred to the Government-owned Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (**TANESCO**) on completion. The Company will recoup the capital cost of the power line from TANESCO over the first four years of mine production, according to the key agreements in place for this construction milestone<sup>2</sup>.

The new 220kV power line will connect Mahenge to competitively priced, high-voltage hydro-dominated power, representing a transformational development for the whole Mahenge region and community. Access to hydro-dominated grid power enhances the green credentials of Mahenge's graphite products, leading to a much lower carbon footprint than most of its global peers.

Initial activities completed include corridor survey and tower spotting which commenced in December 2025, and this work is scheduled to be completed at the end of January 2026. TANESCO representatives and a local biodiversity specialist accompanied the transmission line survey and tower spotting consultant.

The completion of the survey is a key input to the preliminary engineering and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (**EPC**) Contract process, and also satisfies conditions precedent for project lenders.

## Access Road Corridor Resettlement Finalised

As part of the works associated with the access road, the Company made Compensation Payments to Project Affected Persons (**PAPs**) in the 7.2 kilometre Access Road Corridor. The payment totalled US\$174,000 and was finalised in December 2025. This is the final tranche of the Resettlement Action Plan (**RAP**) required to be completed for the development of the Mahenge Graphite Project. Resettlement of the mining licence area was completed in 2022<sup>3</sup>.

The completion of this milestone enables access road construction to commence as soon as project financing has been completed, and FID has been made.

The access road provides direct access to the Mahenge Graphite Project mine site from the Ifakara to Mahenge road. It also provides access to new farming areas and the area allocated for the construction of the resettlement housing for PAPs who have elected for a house in lieu of cash payment.

Resettlement was completed in accordance with Tanzanian law and aligned with International Finance Corporation Environmental and Social Performance Standards (**IFC PS**) to manage land access and resettlement impacts.

The Faru site team successfully completed the land survey and valuation of all compensable assets onsite, and the valuation report was approved by the Morogoro Regional Valuer. All PAPs participated in the financial literacy training and bank account opening process implemented by Black Rock in association with the RAP.

## Long Lead Equipment Procurement

Black Rock commenced the tender process for long lead equipment packages in November 2025. This will enable fabrication and detailed engineering to commence as soon as project financing has been completed and FID has been made.

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<sup>2</sup> ASX Announcement 12 May 2025 – Black Rock signs two key agreements with TANESCO

<sup>3</sup> ASX Announcement 25 July 2022 – Black Rock Commences Resettlement Activities at Mahenge Graphite Project

## Funding Discussions Ongoing

The Black Rock Board is focused on completing project financing and has been engaged in ongoing discussions with a number of parties across a range of equity structures.

Global funding conditions remain supportive for critical minerals, with formal government policy structures in place in the US and EU, among others, and various international frameworks for supply chain stability between major regions providing strong potential for strategic financing.

With Black Rock's existing strategic alliance with POSCO, a South Korean headquartered leader in battery materials, Mahenge is a key project under the Minerals Security Partnership (**MSP**) a transnational association chaired by South Korea, which includes 14 countries and the European Union<sup>4</sup>. The MSP serves as an important platform for promoting the diversification and stabilisation of critical mineral supply chains, thereby contributing to the strengthening of global energy security.

## Next Steps

The Company will be seeking to complete the Road Access Resettlement. In order to reach completion, the Company will issue a notice to vacate as well as the relocation of graves located in the road corridor and livelihood restoration.

The tender for the earthworks contract is in progress and expected to be finalised within the March Quarter.

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## Forward looking statements disclaimer

This announcement contains certain "forward-looking statements" and comments about future matters. Forward-looking statements can generally be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as, "expect", "anticipate", "likely", "intend", "should", "estimate", "target", "outlook", and other similar expressions and include, but are not limited to, the timing, outcome and effects of the financing process. Indications of, and guidance or outlook on, future earnings or financial position or performance are also forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Any such statements, opinions and estimates in this release speak only as of the date hereof, are preliminary views and are based on assumptions and contingencies subject to change without notice. Forward-looking statements are provided as a general guide only. There can be no assurance that actual outcomes will not differ materially from these forward-looking statements. Any such forward looking statement also inherently involves known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors and may involve significant elements of subjective judgement and assumptions that may cause actual results, performance and achievements to differ. Except as required by law the Company undertakes no obligation to finalise, check, supplement, revise or update forward-looking statements in the future, regardless of whether new information, future events or results or other factors affect the information contained in this announcement.

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<sup>4</sup> ASX Announcement 10 October 2025 – Mahenge Graphite Project Completes Groundbreaking Event

## About Black Rock

Black Rock Mining Limited is an Australian based company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: **BKT**). The Company has an 84% interest in the world-class Mahenge Graphite Project (**Mahenge**) located in Tanzania. The Company released an enhanced Definitive Feasibility Study (**eDFS**) for Mahenge (ASX announcement 25 July 2019). Black Rock has obtained all Environmental approvals, Mining Licences and its Resettlement Action Plan.

Black Rock entered into a Strategic Alliance with POSCO for the development of Mahenge in June 2022, including an equity investment of US\$7.5m, followed by an offtake agreement for the fines for Module 1 (32% of volume) plus a US\$10m prepayment facility. POSCO has also signed an MOU for 6ktpa of large flake graphite (7% of volume) increasing POSCO's offtake interest to almost 40% of Module 1. POSCO approved its US\$40m equity investment in Black Rock and secured the fines offtake for Mahenge Module 2 in September 2024.

Black Rock holds a Special Mining Licence (SML) via a Framework Agreement with the Government of Tanzania confirming a 16% Free Carried Interest shareholding (September 2022).

Black Rock completed a FEED process (Front End Engineering Design), re-estimating the capital and operating costs for Mahenge as part of the eDFS Update<sup>1</sup>. The eDFS Update confirmed Mahenge as a robust project with attractive returns. Key Project metrics comprise:

- *Tier 1 Scale:* Mahenge has a resource of over 200Mt and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest graphite reserve globally
- *Modular development approach:* Initial Capex of US\$231m<sup>2</sup>;
- *1<sup>st</sup> quartile on the global cost curve:* Adjusted C1 Cash cost of US\$359/t<sup>3</sup>
- *Attractive projected returns:* Unlevered IRR post-tax, post free carry of 36%<sup>4</sup>
- *Substantial upside potential:* NPV<sub>10 nominal</sub> post-tax, post free carry of A\$2.1bn or US\$1.4bn<sup>4</sup>

Black Rock announced that it had signed the Facilities Agreement for US\$179m in facilities with DBSA, IDC and CRDB (September 2024). The Company is now construction-ready subject to securing the balance of funding.

The estimated Ore Reserves and Mineral Resources underpinning the production target has been prepared by competent persons in accordance with the requirements in Appendix 5A (JORC Code).

Mineral Resource Estimate and Ore Reserve (JORC 2012) <sup>5</sup>			
Ore Reserves	Tonnes (Mt)	Grade (% TGC)	Contained Graphite (Mt)
- Proven	0	0.0	0.0
- Probable	70.5	8.5	6.0
<b>Total Ore Reserves</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Mineral Resources			
- Measured	31.8	8.6	2.7
- Indicated	84.6	7.8	6.6
<b>Total M&amp;I</b>	<b>116.4</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.3</b>
- Inferred	96.7	7.4	7.2
<b>Total M, I&amp;I</b>	<b>213.1</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>16.6</b>

For further information on Black Rock Mining Ltd, please visit [www.blackrockmining.com.au](http://www.blackrockmining.com.au)

1 Refer market announcement dated 10 October 2022: Black Rock Completes Front End Engineering Design, Reconfirming Mahenge as Tier 1 scale project with compelling projected returns. The Company confirms that all the material assumptions underpinning the production target, or forecast financial information derived from the production target, in the original market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed.

2 Includes US\$182m for Module 1 capex + US\$33m for power line + US\$16m for early works and other costs (not included in the eDFS Update). Power line capex plus interest to be recouped over the first 4 years of the project and power costs expected to be ~US8c/kWh. Forecast Capex is classified as a Class 2 estimate with accuracy of ±10% as defined by AACE.

3 Adjusted for higher ratio of higher-value large flake compared to global peers. Access to competitively priced, hydro-dominated grid power is one of BKT's key competitive advantages.

4 Based on Expert Consensus graphite price forecasts, based on the average graphite price forecasts from Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, Fastmarkets and Wood Mackenzie

5 Resource Estimate as released to ASX on 3 February 2022: BKT Confirms 25% increase in Measured Resources and Ore Reserve Estimates as released to ASX on 8 August 2017: BKT delivers Exceptional Optimised PFS. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcements, and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates of Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves in the original market announcements continue to apply and have not materially changed.