

## Northern Territory Mines & Minerals

- Mining earns more than any other industry in the Northern Territory.
- According to the Minerals Council, the Territory's mining and mineral processing industries contribute at least \$4.1 billion in value of production each year
- Royalties to the NT Government are around \$48 million and a further \$3.1 million is paid by the Commonwealth Government as a grant in lieu of uranium royalties. Offshore oil and gas falls under the Commonwealth Government's taxation jurisdiction.
- The vast majority of the Territory's exports are from the resource industry. Contribution from the resource industry to Gross State Product is around 19 % in 2005/2006 compared to cattle 4% and tourism at 4.9%.
- Mining in the Territory provides direct employment for 4500 people. Indirectly, mining is estimated to provide jobs for another 10,000 people.
- Should the Northern Territory control all its resources?
- Any change to current arrangements may not be automatic upon Statehood.
- They will be negotiated as a part of the terms and conditions the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory discuss at a government to government level in setting the conditions for Territory Statehood.
- The *Mineral Royalty Act* (NT) levies a royalty on mineral commodities and applies to most mines and mineral commodities in the Northern Territory with the exception of quarries for extractive minerals, uranium mines and mines operating under specific royalty agreements.
- Royalties paid from mining on Aboriginal land are paid to the Commonwealth then come back into the Territory
- Current arrangements allow for royalties to be paid directly to the Northern Territory Government, and an equivalent amount paid by the Commonwealth Government to the Aboriginal Benefit Trust Account and distributed according to a formula set out in the Commonwealth *Land Rights Act*.
- The control and development of our minerals is important to Territorians. Through the Statehood process the Commonwealth and the Territory will be deciding who owns and controls what minerals in the Northern Territory. Your views on this are important too.

