



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

20 March 2006

OPTION TO AMEND MINE PROPOSAL

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour said Xstrata now has the opportunity to address the outstanding environmental issues with its proposal for open cut mining.

“Minister Vatskalis has recognised that there are significant long term environmental impacts of the current proposal,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The issue is not just about a river diversion. There are nine significant environmental issues identified by the EPA assessment.

“Xstrata can now address these concerns and re-submit an amended proposal for the EPA to assess.”

Ms Scrymgour said that this is not about making Xstrata start the process from the beginning, but about providing scientific information and data which addresses environmental impacts.

“It is not necessary to revisit issues that were satisfactorily dealt with under the current EIS. The Legislation allows me to deal with an amended proposal.

“The NT Government supports major developments which create jobs for Territorians, but this cannot be to the detriment of our environment.”

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