



**Chris Natt**

MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

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05<sup>th</sup> September 2006

## **MCARTHUR RIVER MINE**

Northern Territory Mines Minister Chris Natt, today indicated that the process for a decision on the McArthur River project was on track.

“I am focused on this project and will continue to consider all relevant information in making a final decision,” said Mr Natt.

The EPA’s Assessment Report provided by the Minister for Environment Marion Scrymgour is being considered by my department and advice will be provided to the proponent.

“As the new minister I am committed to achieving a balance between environmental protection, economic development and social commitments on this, and all other mining projects.

“Providing a mining authorisation will be contingent on Xtrata showing me that their mining management plan adequately addresses these issues.

“A decision can be made after the company has submitted this plan and depending on the company’s timelines this could happen in the next four to six weeks,” said Mr Natt.

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