



Clare Martin
CHIEF MINISTER



13 October 2006

MRM APPROVAL GOOD FOR TERRITORY

The approval of the MRM Mining Management Plan by Mines Minister Chris Natt has achieved the right balance between development, the environment and the community.

Chief Minister Clare Martin said the expansion will deliver a huge boost to the economy and local community – and strict guidelines will protect the environment.

“The approval of the expansion will mean hundreds of jobs for Territorians and hundreds of millions of dollars for the economy,” Ms Martin said.

“The open pit lead and zinc mine will generate \$328 million a year, employ 264 people directly and another 272 indirectly.

“During construction 300 people will be employed directly and another 162 people indirectly.

“We have rigorously followed due process to ensure the economic gains are coupled with environmental integrity and community benefits.

“A \$55.5 million security will be imposed for the first year of the development and that will increase as the mine expands.

“An independent environmental monitoring process will be established – funded by MRM.

“The \$32 million Community Benefits Package which is part of the agreement will make sure locals also gain from this project.

“The agreement will deliver local employment and training, establish new businesses in the region and encourage other initiatives such as a dialysis service.

“We expect royalties from the company from next year.

“This has been a complex decision for Minister Chris Natt to make – but he’s considered the huge volume of evidence – and has delivered the best possible outcome.”

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