

KON VATSKALIS
MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY

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BACKING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, PRIMARY INDUSTRY

The mining and pastoral industries are major contributors to the Territory economy and the Martin Government is continuing to back them to grow with further investments in Budget 2005.

Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister for Primary Industry Kon Vatskalis said both industries were providing training and local jobs for Territorians.

SUPPORTING TRAINING

The Martin Government's commitment to a record 10,000 new trainees and apprentices in four years will support the future employment needs of the mining and pastoral sector.

Support of \$500,000 for *Build Skills NT* to upgrade existing workers skills will allow both industries to improve the work skills of their existing employees. The new \$200,000 *Work Ready NT* scheme will provide young Territorians with exposure to both industries while at school.

BUILDING THE TERRITORY'S MINING RESOURCE BASE

The Martin Government continues its support for one of the Territory's most significant industries, with \$3.8 million allocated to exploration and mining in Budget 2005.

The mining sector contributed almost 20% to the Territory's Gross State Product (GSP) in 2003/04 and employs more than 4600 Territorians every year.

Building the Territory's Resource Base program will see \$3.8 million directed to the Minerals and Energy Group in the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD) for assisting in access to land for exploration and to promote prospectivity.

SUPPORTING PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Budget 2005 supports the Territory's primary industries with a \$34.5 million budget. This includes:

- \$1.1 million for primary industry organisations working in partnership with Government to grow their industries
- \$408,000 to expand Indigenous pastoral and horticultural enterprises on Indigenous-owned land, including employment opportunities throughout the Territory
- \$2.9 million to fund for research, extension and development programs across our horticultural industry
- \$3 million to maintain programs of grower accreditation and certification assurance, management and/or eradication of plant pests and diseases, and the provision of accredited laboratory services
- \$2.8 million commitment to agricultural development programs to ensure continued research, development and extension services to enhance and promote mixed farming in the Territory

MORE ROADS FUNDING

The Martin Government is continuing its strong investment in improving roads that are of strategic importance to the Territory's economic growth and better back our mining and pastoral industries.

Budget 2005 includes \$137 million for Territory roads and National Highways

"The Martin Labor Government is moving the Territory ahead, and we're driving economic growth because it means jobs for Territorians," Mr Vatskalis said.

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