MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY
MINISTER FOR LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

VISTA GETS GO AHEAD

6th February 2013

Minister for Land Resource Management, Mines and Energy, Willem Westra van Holthe, has today announced the Northern Territory Government will proceed with the approval of Vista Gold’s water discharge licence for Mount Todd.

Mr Westra van Holthe said the water discharge licence is the first step in curing the environmental hazards at Mount Todd and opening the area up to economic development.

“This is a prime example of the new Government working with industry to achieve a mutually agreeable goal,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Left untreated the pit waters at Mount Todd are an environmental hazard, particularly the potential for overflow of untreated water during heavy downpours.

“The water discharge licence has many conditions attached to ensure Vista Gold maintains a high level of environmental safety.

“Should Vista Gold choose to proceed with mining the Mount Todd site it will have a booming impact on Katherine’s local economy.

“Our Government is willing to work with industry and overcome hurdles for the development of our 3 hub economy.”

Vista Gold has commenced in-situ treatment of the pit waters. Calcium carbonate and quicklime have been added to the water to improve water quality, increase the pH levels and precipitate out metals.

Vista Gold will be responsible for daily monitoring of water quality in the discharge, upstream of the discharge and downstream of the discharge. In addition, the Environment Protection Authority will conduct independent testing of waters discharged in to the Edith River.

The water discharge licence and a ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ brief are available at: http://www.nепa.nt.gov.au/home

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