Security checks at mining interests

Security audits and reviews are being carried out at mining and petroleum operations around the Territory to ensure they meet national standards for protection against a potential terrorist threat, Business, Industry and Resource Development Minister Paul Henderson said.

"Representatives from my Department have been working closely with the Chief Minister’s Office, Work Health, Northern Territory Police and the Australian Defence Force on a range of security issues relating to the hazardous substances and goods used by the minerals industry,” Mr Henderson.

"While high standards are already being met in the transport and handling of these items to ensure safety and security for workers, this review is looking more closely at ways to prevent these items being used in a potential terrorist threat."

Mines and Energy Officers are carrying out inspections of explosives magazines and other bulk storage facilities to ensure the procedures and security precautions used there meet Australian Standards.

The Mines and Energy officers co-ordinate with Work Health, advising the group of progress of the reviews.

"These reviews and audits are an ongoing process, and are happening in conjunction with the identification and development of a list of our critical infrastructure elements by the Northern Territory Police."

Mr Henderson said mining operators had already shown a heightened awareness of security issues and were leading the way with improvements to their procedures and facilities.

"Offshore facilities are also updating their security measures and procedures are being put in place relevant Commonwealth and Territory organisations to ensure there is quick response in the event of such terrorism-related emergency," he said.

"While it is unlikely that a terrorist or incident will happen in our jurisdiction, the Government will continue to take the necessary steps to protect the Northern Territory community, its facilities and services."