MAJOR PROJECT STATUS TO SECURE TENNANT CREEK MINE OPPORTUNITIES

A $50 million mining industry project that would create hundreds of jobs in Tennant Creek has been awarded Major Project Status by the Territory Government, Chief Minister Paul Henderson announced today.

Businessman Bill Gibbins, working with mining company MineMakers, is proposing to construct a common-user bulk mineral distribution facility in Tennant Creek.

“The Barkly is seeing strong growth in both mining and mineral exploration, and this project would cement Tennant Creek as the region’s mining hub,” Mr Henderson said.

“Both Peko Magnetite and Bootu Creek mines are exporting well, and the $10 million of mineral exploration expected to be undertaken in the region this year points to a number of potential new mines.

“The common-user facility would allow Tennant Creek to take full advantage of this activity, with mining companies transporting their resources into the town for export via the railway and through the Port of Darwin.”

The project would see a $30 million capital investment to construct the common-user facility in Tennant Creek, and up to $20 million investment in the East Arm Port for stock pile facilities.

“These projects could create hundreds of jobs for Tennant Creek and the Barkly, and I am determined to offer all possible support,” Mr Henderson said.

“The proponents will now have a single point-of-access in my Department, providing a co-ordinated response and support on issues such as access to land for development beside the railway in Tennant Creek and at East Arm Port to get the project off the ground.

“Ultimately this project will be a commercial decision, and awarding Major Project Status means my Government is doing all it can secure the project for Tennant Creek.”

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