Minister for Mines and Energy, Willem Westra van Holthe, has announced that the Mining Management Plan for the McArthur River Mine (MRM) Phase 3 Development Project has been approved.

Speaking today at the Katherine Regional Mining and Exploration Forum, Mr Westra van Holthe said the project was going to be worth $369 million and see an increase of 300 jobs at the mine site.

“This is fantastic news for the Territory economy and Territorians. Working with MRM we are making real economic progress and delivering jobs to the bush,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“MRM’s Phase 3 will extend the life of the mine by nine years to 2036 and increase mine production from 2.5 million tonnes to 5.5 million tonnes per year from 2014.

“With the approval of Phase 3, MRM will become the largest zinc resource in the world.

“MRM and their parent company Glencore Xstrata have committed to spending 75 per cent of capital expenditure and 100 per cent of operational expenditure for the project with Northern Territory suppliers and industry.

“Over the life of the mine, this expansion will boost industry output by $8.4 billion within the Northern Territory economy.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to working with mining companies to develop our regional and remote areas of the Territory.”

MRM is located 900 kilometres south-east of Darwin in the Gulf Region.