Teams in the field to discover NT’s buried treasures

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Teams of geologists will spend the dry season camping out at sites across the Territory as they seek to shed new light on the mineral wealth of remote regions.

Nineteen staff from the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) are carrying out geological mapping and sampling in eastern Arnhem Land, the Victoria River district and sites across Central Australia.

Mines and Energy Minister David Tollner said their work would improve understanding of the NT’s geology and potentially pave the way for future mining operations.

“The resources industry is one of the Territory’s biggest drivers of economic growth and employment and it’s vital we discover more about our minerals wealth,” Mr Tollner said.

“The Territory Government is working hard to create more jobs in the resources industry and is investing in projects to encourage exploration.

“Our extra investment is the reason that 2015 is set to be the busiest year for our geological field teams for a decade.”

The field surveys are part of the Territory Government’s Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration (CORE) initiative.

With a budget of $23.8m, the four-year CORE program is designed to stimulate increased minerals and petroleum exploration and development.

Each NTGS team expects to make up to five trips this season to obtain critical new data, spending up to three weeks in the field each time.

As well as basic geological mapping, the geologists are studying the formation of copper deposits in central Australia and assessing shale deposits in the northern part of the Territory for their oil, gas and base metals potential.

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