The Minister for Mines and Energy, Kon Vatskalis, has announced the Government’s intention to review the Mining Act, with the distribution of a discussion paper to all relevant stakeholders to be part of the process.

The Northern Territory Mining Act commenced in 1982, and while it has been subject to a number of minor and several significant amendments, it has never undergone a comprehensive review.

“The review of the Act has been identified as a priority in the Economic Development Strategy, and is something this Government wants to move on this year,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The Mining Act provides a regime that is competitive with other jurisdictions and importantly takes into account local issues such native title and the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

“Now is the time to review the Act to ensure it continues to meet the changing face of the mining industry, and is relevant to current and future exploration and mining developments.”

Mr Vatskalis said a Mining Legislation Working Group has been formed within his department, and has met several times to develop draft terms of reference for the review and identify potential issues needing legislative change.

It is also proposed that a Mining Act Review Officer manage the process and implement any amendments.

“We hope to prepare a discussion paper ready for circulation to mining industry stakeholders by mid-2004,” said Mr Vatskalis.