Mines and Energy Minister, Kon Vatskalis, will today address the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Alice Springs.

The Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development’s Geological Survey Division hosts the two-day seminar, which is a presentation of current and future work programs to senior mining and exploration company representatives. This is the fifth successive year the seminar has been held.

Last year’s seminar was the most successful so far, attracting over 140 delegates from across Australia.

This year, 150 people are expected to attend, reflecting renewed optimism in the mining sector on the back of a cyclical recovery in commodity prices. The audience will include exploration company professionals (exploration managers, project geologists), service suppliers (field logistics, geochemical services, geophysical operators), other Australian government representatives, university researchers and consultants.

As well, this will be the first AGES convened under the Northern Territory Government’s new four-year exploration incentive program, ‘Building the Territory’s Resource Base’.

This program aims to promote the prospectivity of the Northern Territory through the delivery of quality geoscientific data to companies in Australia and around the world.

“Intensive and sustained geological exploration is fundamental to new mining investments in the Territory, and is essential for sustained growth in the mining sector,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“AGES is an important link in communicating the department’s strategy and priorities to exploration industry professionals, highlighting new exploration plays and focusing on current issues facing exploration companies in the Northern Territory.”

And this year, the Department is working with Land Councils in the Northern Territory to convene a workshop called “New Perspectives”, which will run tomorrow afternoon following the close of the AGES seminar in Alice Springs.

The New Perspectives workshop, facilitated by Mr Bill Gray AM, is aimed at increasing the understanding of the
issues involved with exploration and mining on Aboriginal freehold land in the Northern Territory.