The 2003 Northern Territory Ministerial Recognition Awards in Resource Development will tonight be presented at the annual NT Minerals Council Safety Conference.

Mines and Energy Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said 12 nominations were received for the awards, which recognise significant achievement, best practice and innovation in the Territory’s minerals and petroleum industries in the areas of Workplace Safety, Environmental Management, Mining, Petroleum and Process Technology, Local Content and Community Relations.

“This is the seventh presentation of the Minister’s Recognition Awards in Resource Development,” he said.

“Since 1997, a total 62 awards have been presented recognising outstanding achievement.

“The judging panels have reported that the standard received this year has been exceptionally high, and I thank all those who took the time and effort to put in an application.”

Mr Vatskalis said the winners in each category of the Awards are:

**Workplace Safety**

Won by Roche Mining, for commitment to implementing safety systems and encouraging a safety culture resulting in six years Lost Time Injury free at the Granites mine site.

**Environmental Management**

Won by Gemco for achieving industry best practice in rehabilitation through improved work practice, technology and remediation of historic work areas; and also by AngloGold Australia (Union Reefs) for commitment, planning and implementation of best practice rehabilitation throughout all stages of design, operation and closure at Union Reefs Mine.

**Community Relations and Local Content:**

Won by McArthur River Mining for further strengthening of its commitment in the local community and encouragement and support of local business; and Gemco for the establishment of a partnership resulting in an effective training; development and employment program for the local community.