Tennant Creek will once again be a mining town when Chariot Gold mine is officially opened for its first gold pour at the end of this month, Resource Development Minister Paul Henderson told Parliament today.

Mr Henderson will officially open the mine on 30 October.

"For the first time since Normandy Mining closed its operations in 1999, Tennant Creek will have an operational mine," Mr Henderson said.

"The Martin Government is pleased to have provided a $300,000 development grant to assist the mine to come to fruition."

Giants Reef employs around 25 people at Chariot Mine, with a further 35 jobs at the Warrego refurbishing plant. Another 20 people are employed in administration and exploration.

The mine is forecast to produce 60,000 ounces of gold a year during its life span of at least three and a half years.

"This mine will be a significant boost to the economy of Tennant Creek," said Mr Henderson.

"With significant gold mineralisation already uncovered at Malbec, only one kilometre from Chariot, there is a real prospect that this life span could be extended."

Mr Henderson also detailed to the Legislative Assembly a number of other mining projects in Central Australia, including:

- The Peko Rehabilitation Project in Tennant Creek, which proposes to produce gold, copper, cobalt and magnetite. The project has a mine life of about seven years and will employ 25 people.

- Newmont proposes to develop the Minotaur deposit, approximately 33km north east of the Granites Gold Mine, as a satellite open pit. The mine would produce 680,000 tonnes of ore over a one year period.

- Olympia Resources is proposing a garnet sand mining operation in the Harts Range area. The project is expected to commence in 2004 and have a life span of more than 20 years. Initial production is estimated at 60,000 tonnes of garnet sand per year.