The Martin Government will spend more than $1 million this Dry season to begin the rehabilitation process at the Mount Todd mine site.

Mines and Energy Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said Government shares the broad concern over the state of the site, and has been working with the local community and other key stakeholders to determine the best solution.

“The Martin Government acknowledges the problems at Mount Todd – problems we inherited, and problems we are going to address,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“In excess of $1 million will be spent at the site on a program of works that will help minimise the flow of pollutants and heavy metals from the site into the Edith River system during the Wet season, and deal with a number of urgent maintenance issues. Work will start shortly.”

Other works include -

- Site security
- Reinforcing bunds surrounding the heap leach
- Upgraded monitoring system
- Replacement of pumping systems for the retention pond

Mr Vatskalis said the proposed site works have been developed out of a report compiled by an independent consultant who was commissioned by Government in February.

“I will also be seeking advice from the Mount Todd Mine Site Rehabilitation Reference Group on the details of the work to be undertaken,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The work will cover a range of priority issues identified by the independent consultant.”

Mr Vatskalis said it is unfortunate the Territory Government and taxpayers have been left to clean-up this mess, which is a legacy of the previous Government’s negligence.

“A completely inadequate bond had been set and environmental safe guards were ignored, leaving Territory taxpayers with a huge bill,” he said.

Contact: Nikola Lekias 0438 323 660