The Government has allocated $4 million in 2002/03 to provide high quality scientific information for minerals and energy exploration throughout the Territory.

The objective of the NT Geological Survey initiative is to provide improved information to the exploration industry to encourage mineral exploration throughout the Territory and improve the chances of exploration success.

Minister for Business, Industry and Resource Development Paul Henderson said it was imperative further exploration was encouraged to create additional jobs.

"A priority of this Government is to create more and better jobs for Territorians, and the mining industry is well equipped to be a strong contributor," Mr Henderson said.

Other Minerals and Energy initiatives throughout 2002/03 include:

- **Working with Native Title**

The NT Government is working with the *Native Title Act* and the Native Title Tribunal to issue mining and exploration titles. The Government has granted more exploration licences this year than in the last four years due to its use of procedures set out in the *Native Title Act* and complying with the directions of the National Native Title Tribunal.

- **Community Education**

A community education program is operated in remote areas of the Territory, with Department representatives visiting community schools to teach children about the use of products and minerals obtained from mines.

- **Renewable Energy Rebate Program**

This program provides cash rebates to remote off-grid power users to convert diesel-based electricity supplies to renewable energy. The use of renewable energy provides 24-hour access to power and improves the quality of life for people living in remote areas.

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