Minister for Mines and Energy Minister Kon Vatskalis will launch a new handbook promoting Aboriginal employment in the mining industry at the Australian Mining and Exploration Conference (AMEC) in Perth today.

Exploring Country is designed to assist explorers and investors establish successful partnerships with traditional land owners.

Minister Vatskalis said it is important to highlight successful Aboriginal employment and partnership initiatives.

“This handbook showcases successful programs and positive role models that mining companies and land owners can to follow.

“Companies are realising the benefits of employing Aboriginal people and that building trust and relationships with communities pays off in the long term.

“Investors who are already doing this are gaining community agreement and government exploration and mining approvals quickly.”

Mr Vatskalis said attendees at AMEC in Perth have praised the Territory Government for the way it encourages partnerships with Indigenous land councils.

He said the Aboriginal Land Rights has seen the Territory lead the nation with over 30 years experience administering Aboriginal land and mining matters.

“The message for investors is if you want to explore or mine in the Territory, we are here to assist you through each step of the process.

“This handbook demonstrates that Aboriginal partnerships do work, they bring mutual benefits and making an agreement with the community is the way to succeed,” he said.

Copies of “Exploring Country” are available from the Minerals and Energy Division of the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines or online at www.minerals.nt.gov.au

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