Oil exploration picks up pace in the Centre

The Territory's mining boom is gaining pace with another exploration company seeking permits to explore for oil in Central Australia.

Acting Minister for Mines and Energy Elliot McAdam said a new oil operation based out of Alice Springs would provide major economic benefits to the town.

"Traditional Oil Exploration has lodged an application for a proposed work program including an extensive 2D seismic survey over a large area of the Eastern Amadeus and Western Pedirka basins.

"This is the same geological region as the Palm Valley and Mereenie oil fields. The areas are lightly explored but are considered to have high potential for successful exploration.

"The company is seeking three exploration permits covering 20,852 square kilometres of land thought to be highly prospective for oil.

"New exploration activity is great news for the people of Alice Springs and surrounding areas - it creates jobs for Territorians and boosts our economy.

"The permit areas are to the east of the known gas field "Dingo", which is approximately 100km south of Alice Springs.

"Traditional Oil Exploration plans to undertake a program of works over the area valued at more than $8 million over the 5 year life of the permits.

"In much the same way as gold exploration and mining is playing an important role in revitalising the Pine Creek region, so oil has the potential to give Central Australia a boost.

"In addition to Traditional Oils plans, other explorers are already on the ground in the region.

"Central Petroleum will shortly commence seismic work over 473 kilometres of the Amadeus region and drilling and seismic explorations are also underway in the Georgina and Beetaloo basins," he said.

Interested parties have two months to lodge objections to the application.

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