Minister for Mines and Energy Kon Vatskalis will travel to Perth today to attend the 2006 Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) National Congress.

The annual event provides an opportunity for industry and government representatives to showcase developments in Australia’s mining and exploration industry.

Mr Vatskalis said assisting explorers and investors with land access is a priority for the Territory Government.

“In the past, accessing land was a major impediment for investors who want to operate here.

“Today the Territory Government, land councils and bush communities are working together to help industry get projects up and running.

“There are many examples of successful working relationships between industry and traditional land owners in the Territory.

“Business partnerships between industry and Indigenous communities bring mutual benefits and we’ll be doing more to assist companies effectively step through land and Native Title processes.

Minister Vatskalis will present a key note address on the state of mineral exploration in the Territory.

He will also launch a handbook produced in collaboration with Aboriginal land councils to assist industry in consulting with traditional land owners.

“Exploration in the Territory is booming, not just because of a world commodities demand, but because the NT is the last under-explored terrain in Australia.

“The Territory has some of the world’s giant mineral deposits with a total value of $1.6 billion last year - the Territory is ready to assist explorers and investors who want to unlock more of its potential,” he said.


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