Budget 2007 brings good news for the Territory’s primary industry and mining sectors, with a major expansion of the Territory’s mineral exploration program and ongoing support for both sectors.

“These industries contribute significantly to the Territory economy and remain a priority for the Martin Government,” Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, Mines and Energy, Chris Natt said.

“Currently the mining sector is experiencing a nation wide boom with the Territory being a major player and in 2007-08 we are forecasting a positive outlook for the mining sector with commodity prices to remain at high levels and ever increasing levels of investment.

“The forecast is steady for the primary industry sector, which includes growth for our cattle export industry cattle, and other animal production, as well as aquaculture, horticulture and agriculture,” Minister Natt said.

BRINGING FORWARD DISCOVERY AT $12 MILLION

The Government will fund a $12 million four year program, Bringing Forward Discovery, aimed at making the Territory the preferred destination for mineral and petroleum explorers.

This program first formed four years ago and has resulted in a 76% increase in mineral exploration and a 783 % increase in petroleum exploration.

PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Budget 2007 supports the Territory primary industry with a $38 million budget. Spending includes:

- $3.3 million to fund research, extension and development programs across our plant based industries including the horticulture, agriculture and forestry sectors.
- $400 000 for the continued development of the Territory biosecurity system, to prevent or respond to and recover from biosecurity emergencies.
• $620,000 for grants to primary industry associations working in partnership with Government to grow their industries.

• $560,000 for continuation of Indigenous opportunities and participation in the Territory pastoral and horticultural industries.

MASSIVE ROADS INJECTION TO BACK TERRITORY PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND MINING

“A $180 million total roads program – including an additional $35 million over four years for repairs and maintenance - will boost support for primary industries and fisheries.

“This money will support beef and mining roads, roads of strategic importance to the Territory and roads designed to get those living on remote pastoral areas and communities to and from major centres,” Minister Natt said.

“The Martin Government is committed to the expansion of primary industries and mining.

“We see both industries as significant contributors to employment and economic growth into the future,” Minister Natt said.

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