IRON ore from the Katherine region is about to hit the world stage with Sherwin Iron preparing to send its first bulk sample to China through Darwin’s East Arm Wharf, where a Roper River ore stockpile is starting to take shape.

“This bulk sample export is a major milestone for a project that will employ up to 300 people when it is fully operational,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said last week. Sherwin Iron’s Roper River mine is scheduled to move into full production early next year.

“This is the first new iron ore province to be opened up in the Territory in 50 years,” Mr Giles said. “It will be a huge boost to the economy and is another sign the Territory is open for business.”

At least 200 million tonnes of ore from the Roper River mine is expected to pass through East Arm over the project’s twenty-year lifespan. “The mine will deliver substantial economic benefits to the local Roper Region, as well as the Northern Territory as a whole,” Mr Giles said.

“The mine has major project status and the Territory Government is fully committed to doing whatever it can to see this project succeed.” Sherwin’s first shipment of ore is expected to leave East Arm within the month bound for potential clients at Chinese steel mills.

“This sample is a critical step for Sherwin as it moves towards production by the first quarter of 2014,” Sherwin Iron Executive Director Rod Illingworth said.

The shipment comes as Australian Ilmenite Resources prepares to export its first load of Ilmenite sand from its multi-billion dollar SILL80 Project, also in the Roper region.

“This initial export of more than 8000 tonnes is destined for China and is a valuable long-term project with an expected life of more than 40 years,” Mr Giles said.

The mine site is located about 100 kilometres east of Mataranka and represents a brand new mineral industry for the Territory. It is owned by Territory entrepreneur Jerry Ren and the mine is producing the highest grade material available in the world.

“There is very strong demand for this high-grade product and the company’s potential clients stretch from China to Saudi Arabia,” Mr Giles said.

New police officers “hit the streets running”

CONSTABLE 1st Class Shane McCormack, 36, from Ireland, Katherine role model Constable 1st Class Kirsten Engels, 40, and Constable Adam Goldsmith, 27, are among six new police recruits who have started their duty in Katherine this month.

Due to previous policing experience the new recruits only had to undergo an accelerated ten-week training, which included the use of firearms, defensive techniques as well as legislations and policies, before they hit the streets in the Katherine region.

“Between the six of us we’ve probably had about 70 years of previous police experience,” Mrs Engels said. “We hit the ground running.”

Mrs Engels, whose husband Rob is also a member of the Katherine Police Force, said she was excited about being back in the job she loves.

The recruit school graduates will be based in Katherine, but rotate on five-week stints to police stations across the region, including Bulman, Mynyerri and Croker Island.

“New police officers "hit the streets running"”

Community Update
19 July 2013

Vista Gold invites the local community of the Katherine region to come say hello to staff from the Mt Todd gold project at the Katherine Show this week on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 July.

The Show provides us with a great opportunity to keep in contact with the community, discuss the project and to answer questions regarding our mining plans and management.

Vista Gold recently released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mt Todd gold project and will have copies of the document available to discuss at the stand.

The draft EIS will be available for public comment until 12 August 2013.

While the Vista Gold Board is yet to make a final investment decision on the future of the mine, a favourable decision could see construction starting at Mt Todd in 2014 with production commencing in 2016.

The mine will employ approximately 450 people during construction and 350 during operations.

We plan to be active members of the local community and have a strong preference to employ local people, to work with local organisations with regard to training and development and source goods and services from local suppliers at competitive prices.

The Katherine Show is a great way for us to meet directly with the local community, to answer your questions and to obtain your feedback on our future plans for the Mt Todd mine.

Vista Gold’s Mt Todd stand will be located in the Commercial Building near the main arena.

Brent Murdoch
General Manager

www.mttodd.com.au