The Minister for Mines and Energy, Chris Natt, will deliver a keynote address to the 2008 AMEC (Association of Mining and Exploration Companies) National Mining Congress in Perth this week to highlight the Territory Government’s exploration attraction strategies.

“Mining and exploration are key drivers behind the Northern Territory’s economic growth, which is outstripping the rest of Australia”, said Mr Natt.

“Up to 30 per cent of our Gross State Product comes from the mining and energy sectors, with $370 million spent on exploration in 2006/07.

“It’s important that we continue to attract mining and exploration investment to the Territory and continue to build on our economic growth.”

AMEC is one of the largest gatherings of mining industry stakeholders in Australia.

The Minister said he looked forward to addressing conference delegates on the Northern Territory's investment attraction strategies.

“I’m particularly looking forward to talking about Bringing Forward Discovery - the Territory Government’s $14.4 million dollar strategy to encourage companies to take up exploration in the Territory’s vast under-explored land,” he said.

“The plan involves the acquisition of pre-competitive geoscience data to be made available to companies to reduce the first stage exploration risk for industry and accelerate activity.

“This strategy also contains a major focus on attracting Chinese investment to the Northern Territory, which is already producing results.”

The AMEC conference runs from the 22 – 23rd May and is held in Perth.

Media contact: Nikola Lekias 0438323660