12 October 2011

**NT MINERAL INVESTMENT SEMINAR**

Chief Minister Paul Henderson told a mineral investment seminar in Tokyo today that mineral exploration in the Territory has grown by a record 31 per cent this year to more than $195 million.

“The mining, exploration and energy industry continues to be the largest sector in the Territory and makes up more than one quarter of the local economy,” Mr Henderson said.

“And my Government is committed to supporting and increasing that growth through a range of strategies including the extension of the Bringing Forward Discovery initiative – designed to stimulate minerals investment.”

Mr Henderson joined representatives from the Northern Territory mining industry at a seminar today to discuss and highlight the variety of investment opportunities on offer in the Territory.

“Today is an opportunity to talk direct to the key figures in the Japanese mining industry about the full range of mining exploration and development opportunities on offer in the Territory.”

The seminar includes the largest delegation of mineral explorers the Territory Government has brought to Japan, including Dr Steve Ward from Arafura Resources, David Muller from Rum Jungle Resources and Ian Bamborough from TUC Resources, who talk about two important new rare earths discoveries in the Northern Territory.

The seminar is a joint initiative between the Territory Government and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC), which is responsible for securing supplies of oil, gas and minerals for the Japanese economy.

The seminar relates to the Territory 2030 targets of securing new private sector investment to drive economic growth and expansion and support the continued contribution of the resources sector in the Northern Territory.

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