Minister congratulates mining industry on safety record

Resource Development Minister Paul Henderson today congratulated the Northern Territory mining industry on being among the best performing in the country in terms of safety.

During his opening address at the 2002 NT Minerals and Petroleum Industry Safety Conference, Mr Henderson said the Territory industry’s injury record had been consistently among the lowest in Australia and was continually improving.

"In the NT, the frequency of lost time injuries sustained by workers in the mining industry has dropped 31% in the past 10 years," Mr Henderson said.

"The most recent Minerals Council of Australia figures (for 1999/2000) showed the NT coming a close second to Western Australia, with only nine lost time injuries incurred per million man hours worked, compared to WA’s eight. This compares extremely favourably to the Australian average of 13.

"Whilst the NT Mining Industry’s safety record is excellent in national terms, there is still room to improve and I am pleased with industry’s commitment to continuous improvement in the area of occupational health and safety through conferences such as this.

"The conference is an excellent initiative of the NT Minerals Council."

Mr Henderson told the conference that appropriate health and safety legislation was now in place in the Territory following the commencement of the new Mining Management Act on 1 January this year.

"The Act provides the framework and the objectives around which industry can implement its duty of care," he said.