27 March 2003
Resource Industry Awards presented tonight

Minister for Business, Industry and Resource Development Paul Henderson today congratulated mining operators on their commitment to improving safety in the industry, which has seen a significant decrease in the number of mining accidents in the Territory.

Speaking on the eve of the 2002 Northern Territory Ministerial Recognition Awards in Resource Development, Mr Henderson said there had been an 18% decrease in Lost Time Injuries on mine sites in 2001-02 compared to the previous year.

"In the same period, there was also a 14% improvement in the average work days lost per injury," Mr Henderson said.

"There has also been an increase in the number of incidents reported which points to improved attitudes towards safety, health and environmental management and a greater willingness to report, investigate and follow up incidents."

Mr Henderson said tonight's awards were a chance to recognise those companies that had shown a real commitment to achieving high standards in the area of workplace safety. Other award categories include environmental management, mineral and petroleum process technology, local content and community relations.

"The Awards have run for six years and all mining, petroleum, quarry, minerals exploration, processing, supply and service companies working in the Northern Territory are eligible to nominate," Mr Henderson said.

"Twenty-one entries were received for this year’s awards, indicating the high esteem in which they are held within this industry sector.

"I would like to congratulate each of the award nominees for their commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in what is an important industry for the Territory."

2002 Northern Territory Ministerial Recognition Awards in Resource Development

Workplace Safety Category

- **Energy Resources of Australia Ltd – Ranger Mine** (for implementing a safety visit program that positively influenced workplace safety culture and significantly reduced lost time injuries)
- **Northern Cement Ltd – Mataranka Lime** (for implementing safety policies, procedures and staff commitment achieving four years lost time injury free)
- **Henry Walker Eltin** – (for lost time injury free performance in construction and environmental management activities associated with the East Arm Port Project in 2002)

Environmental Management Category

- **Magellan Petroleum Australia Limited** (for adopting a proactive approach to wastewater management by installing a customised grey water processing system in their Palm Valley Gas Field operation)

Mining, Petroleum and Process Technology Category

- **Hercules Offshore Lifting Gear Pty Ltd** (for the design and manufacture of "Herculift" offshore lifting gear)
Innovation in Safety Category

- **Hercules Offshore Lifting Gear Pty Ltd** (for design and manufacture of "Herculift" offshore lifting equipment to achieve a level of safety ahead of existing standards and proposed new guidelines)

Local Content Category

- **Hercules Offshore Lifting Gear Pty Ltd** (for innovation as a Darwin-based company in the design, fabrication and upgrade of lifting equipment for offshore oil and gas industries. For promoting and looking towards expanding offshore markets)
- **Newmont NFM Limited** (for promotion of local content policy that led to an increase in local goods and services purchases from $72 million in 2001 to $120 million in 2002. For employing locally and encouraging potential personnel to relocate to the Territory, resulting in 75% of the workforce being Territory-based by the end of 2002)

Community Relations Category

- **Alcan Gove Pty Ltd** (for on-going development of indigenous employment and training opportunities with the establishment of the YNOTS program)
- **McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd** (for commitment to and development of a program to increase indigenous employment and for a proactive commitment to strengthening and encouraging a healthy relationship with the local community)