



**Kon Vatskalis**  
MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

4 MARCH 2005

## **“A BREATH OF FRESH AIR” – POTENTIAL INVESTORS IMPRESSED BY NT MINES ROAD SHOW**

Mines and Energy Minister, Kon Vatskalis, has addressed more than 150 potential investors at the Sydney Mining Club lunch as part of the Northern Territory Mines and Energy Road Show *Top End Secret*, currently touring Brisbane and Sydney.

Mr Vatskalis told the influential gathering the Northern Territory is open for business and ready to accept new exploration dollars.

“*Top End Secret* defines what we have in the Territory and offers a share to exploration companies across Australia,” he said.

“The Martin Labor Government is moving the Territory ahead, and we want as many people to join us as we build a bright future for all.”

Mr Vatskalis was joined by his ‘mission possible’ team, including officials from the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD) and representatives from Giants Reef Mining and Bootu Creek Resources, who gave an industry perspective of exploration and mining success stories in the Territory.

Robert Rae from Giants Reef Mining praised the quick turn around times in the Territory, saying his company passed through all requirements and went from exploration to production within 18-weeks.

Trevor Tennant from Bootu Creek Resources referred to the ease of access to departmental officers and noted that the Territory is the only place in Australia where direct contact with the Minister is readily available on a day-to-day basis.

“Over the past three days, we have held private meetings, seminars and corporate luncheons in Brisbane and Sydney, and the reception we have received has been very positive,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The common feedback I have been hearing is ‘oh, what a breath of fresh air’. People are impressed by our unique presentation, and importantly, they’re impressed with what the Territory has to offer.

“Unlike other Australian jurisdictions, the Territory does not have a backlog of exploration licences waiting for approval. We mean business in the Territory, and we work quickly to get the job done!”

Mr Vatskalis told potential investors the outlook for exploration in the Northern Territory is very positive. The global and mineral commodity demand is strengthening. Titles applications are flowing through the native title processes. Title holders are reporting increased expenditure on Aboriginal freehold land.



Geoscience data is streaming through to explorers and progress continues in the improvement of community relations and titles administration processes.

“Exploration is the crucial step in setting up the economic benefits that mining eventually brings to all stakeholders. Our dynamic relationship with exploration companies begins with this road show. The pay-dirt for *Top End Secret* is that exploration is the catalyst for more jobs for Territorians. And I believe **that** is a ‘mission possible’,” he said.

*Contact: Nikola Lekias 0438 323 660*