



Kon Vatskalis

MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

20 April 2006

MRM TEST PIT APPROVED - EXPANSION ASSESSMENT CONTINUES

Minister for Mines and Energy Kon Vatskalis has announced the approval for Xstrata to expand its current test pit operations.

Xstrata lodged a separate Notice of Intent earlier this month to address environmental issues as part of its proposal to convert the mine to open cut operations.

The approval for the test pit is subject to an increased rehabilitation bond of \$25 million.

Ongoing environmental assessment and monitoring of the test pit will be carried out under an existing Mining Management Plan.

Contact Minister Vatskalis' Office: 08 8901 4132