



Northern  
Territory  
Government

# Moving Alice Ahead Update

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## MINING EXPLORATION \$2.4M BOOST

A \$2.4 million expansion of the NT Government's Bringing Forward Discovery initiative is expected to boost investment in the mining industry.

Exploration companies will be entitled to apply for 50 per cent, or up to \$100,000 of their costs for drilling and geophysical surveys in greenfields regions.

Mines and Energy Minister Chris Natt said applications would be assessed on their potential to open up new areas for exploration.

"The initiative promotes mining opportunities in the Territory to companies across the world," he said.

The total value of mineral and energy production is expected to increase by 34.3 per cent next financial year to \$7.5 billion, with mineral exploration alone contributing more than \$100 million.

During 2007 the total number of active exploration licences granted exceeded 1000 for the first time and is currently nearing 1200.



Minister Natt and NT Geological Survey Director Dr Ian Scrimgeour

## Final report on West Macs Think Tank available

The final report from the March tourism think tank session on the West MacDonnell National Park is available online.

Parks and Wildlife Service Southern Regional Director Andrew Bridges said the Think Tank gave participants the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the joint management process and the opportunities it presents for tourism.

Mr Bridges said the report included some of the main elements participants identified as important for inclusion in the overall vision for the park's joint management.

Some of these elements include:

- the park will continue to offer a natural experience and increased visitor numbers will be managed;
- Aboriginal cultural experiences will expand;
- There will be partnerships between land managers, the Aboriginal community, the tourism industry and private sector;
- There will be improved economic benefits gained from the park to the region.

The final report will assist the Parks and Wildlife Service and traditional owners to determine a shared vision for the joint management plan, due out for public comment in 2008/09.

To view the report go to [www.nt.gov.au/nreta](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta) and follow the links.

## Mulga walk a new experience

A new \$110,000 mulga walk will enhance the visitor experience at the Alice Springs Desert Park. Stage one of the mulga walk area will open this month and the second stage is due for completion in July.

The four hectare mulga walk site allows visitors to participate in guided nocturnal tours.

The free range enclosure features threatened species and animals no longer found in the wild in Central Australia, such as bilbies and brush-tailed bettongs. The mulga walk area will be open to the public on 29 May.