



MEDIA RELEASE

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA – NT DIVISION

TERRITORY 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

Statement by Scott Perkins, Executive Director, Minerals Council of Australia, Northern Territory Division

The Minerals Council of Australia's Northern Territory Division welcomes the release of the Territory 2030 Strategic Plan. It is comprehensive enough to give good growth guidance but broad enough to be flexible in delivery.

Although mining only occupies a small part of the report, its significance is recognised. The plan includes a commitment to increase mining's contribution to Gross State Product above the already stellar 25 per cent, which is a strong indication of the importance of the minerals sector to the Territory's regional development future.

However, while this commitment is excellent aspiration, the Government should not expect increased revenue from higher taxes and new charges on the mining industry. The NT's distances and low population are an investment hurdle and any attempts to claw more revenue from mining will inevitably act as a deterrent to further investment.

Not surprisingly, the plan is strong on developing remote areas as an immediate focus. As a key economic driver in remote areas, the minerals industry looks forward to continuing to work with Government to enhance the sector's already significant contribution to remote Indigenous employment, developing local business opportunities and fostering better communities.

The inclusion of a commitment to enhancing transport and export infrastructure - with a specific reference to a viability study for the Tennant Creek to Mt Isa rail link - is most welcome. This rail line is an obvious, strategically important piece of the National transport infrastructure that the MCA-NT has been advocating for some time.

The 2030 plan's growth target of 1% above the national average is ambitious but achievable. The mining industry has an important role in contributing to this target and looks forward to working with all levels of Government in creating the infrastructure, workforce and export market to make it come true.