

## MINING BEGINS AT FRANCES CREEK



Final clearing of waste material takes place as Territory Iron begins mining at the Frances Creek site.

**IRON ORE** mining has begun at Frances Creek, 190 km south of Darwin, with ore to be stockpiled for shipment to the port of Darwin and export to China.

Frances Creek has a total resource of 9.73 million tonnes at 60.7 per cent iron and is expected to produce 1.5 million tonnes a year.

The Darwin to Adelaide Railway runs 20 km southwest of the project site, 23 km north of Pine Creek, and an agreement between the company and Freightlink will see the ore transported to the Darwin Port by rail later in the year.

Mining on the site begins as Managing Director Doug Stewart resigns from the Perth-based company, having taken it from its inception to the 'start-up' phase.

Territory Iron will also change its name to Territory Resources, seeking a future direction as a diverse carbon steel commodity supplier.

### Uranium conference held in Darwin

**NEW** developments in uranium exploration and production were discussed at Australia's Uranium Conference 2007 in Darwin this week.

Speakers from a range of backgrounds including government and industry discussed topics such as the environment, health and safety, supply and demand and mining management.

Uranium has been mined in the Territory for most of the past 50 years and more than 30 companies will spend between \$12 and \$15 million exploring for uranium this year alone.

The Territory Government continues to promote and assist in the exploration of the NT's rich mineral deposits with \$12 million recently allocated for the investment and exploration attraction program, Bringing Forward Discovery.

### GBS strikes more gold

**PINE CREEK** gold miner GBS Gold announced a 36 per cent increase in open pit indicated resources at its Union Reef project.

The Canadian-listed company has increased its open pit indicated resources from 362 000 ounces of gold to 492 000 ounces at the Chinese South extension, North Point and Princess Louise open pit gold deposits.

In its first quarter results, the company announced it had spent \$20 million in pre-production and exploration around the Union Reef project in the year to March.

### International Agents discover Alice Springs

**MORE THAN** 200 travel agents from Germany, Austria and Switzerland joined in a special Henley-on-Todd Regatta at the Telegraph Station tonight to kick start a major trade fair event being held in Alice Springs for the first time.

Discover Australia, the premier travel agent training event for the German speaking market, is holding its 2007 workshop at various locations around Alice Springs from May 16 to 20.

Amongst the events being held is the Henley-on-Todd Regatta, a cattle muster, ballooning, camel riding, star gazing and learning about indigenous art.

More than 100 Australian tour operators, including 15 from the Northern Territory, are holding exhibits and workshops as part of Discover Australia 2007 to give the visiting agents up to date information for selling packages to Australia back home.

### Bonaparte Basin opened to oil exploration

**AN EXPLORATION** permit for the North-Eastern Bonaparte Basin has been granted to Alpha Oil & Natural Gas Pty Ltd, one of seven permits to be granted by the Federal Government for exploration offshore around Australia.

The Government says the new permits will result in \$320 million being invested in exploration over the next six years.

Resources Minister Ian McFarland said this was in addition to the \$1 billion explorers planned to invest over the next six years from 12 permits granted in April.