

FIRST NT IRON ORE EXPORTED SINCE CYCLONE TRACY



Stockpiled iron ore is loaded from the East Arm Wharf's new \$24 million bulk handling facility.

TERRITORY RESOURCES loaded its milestone maiden shipment of 65,000 tonnes of high grade iron ore from the Port of Darwin to China.

The occasion was marked by a ceremony at the Darwin Port, with a ribbon cutting by Chief Minister Clare Martin.

The cargo is marketed by the Noble Group of Hong Kong, which have a life-of-mine off-take agreement for the Frances Creek project.

"This will be the first of many shipments for the Territory, with four cargos planned until year's end and initial annual production being 1.5 million tonnes," said Territory Resources Chairman, Michael Kiernan.

Mr Kiernan said the great advantage for Frances Creek is access to quality infrastructure of the Adelaide to Darwin rail line and the world class ship loading facility at Darwin.

"This is a great credit to the Northern Territory Government, which has invested some \$24 million to build the ship loading facility, and which will undoubtedly pave the way for the opening of further development throughout the Northern Territory," Mr Kiernan said.

Ranger mine life extended to 2012

RIO TINTO subsidiary Energy Resources of Australia has extended mining at its Ranger mine until 2012.

The extension is expected to cost \$57 million, largely for extra mining equipment and associated infrastructure, and will create 45 new jobs.

The company said most of the additional production from the extension will occur in 2011, with processing at Ranger to end in 2020.

ERA said it would also spend \$10 million on a pre-feasibility study to examine options to extend the mine further and increase production from the processing plant.

Tourism industry charts growth

TOURISM MINISTER, Paul Henderson, encouraged tourism operators to provide comment on an independent report that will shape a plan to grow the Territory's tourism industry over the next five years.

Mr Henderson said the current five-year strategic plan expires this year, and the report by business consultants, AEC Group, provided an assessment of the current state of the tourism industry and recommendations to take the industry forward.

The report's recommendations include further strengthening the Territory's reputation as the destination of choice for nature and culture-based adventure; targeting emerging tourism markets such as China; and maximising the NT's environmental credentials in the face of growing concern about climate change.

Submissions will close on 19 October and the final strategy will be released in December.

The AEC Group's report into the Territory's tourism industry can be found at www.tourismnt.gov.au.

Airnorth takes on Bali route

TERRITORY AIRLINE Airnorth is to fly to Bali in a codesharing agreement with Qantas.

Codesharing means Qantas can sell seats on the Airnorth flight.

Travellers flying from Cairns to Denpasar will now change from a Qantas aircraft to the 76-seat Airnorth Embraer E170 at Darwin to complete the journey.

Territory travellers can fly direct to Bali on the new service which will operate on Wednesdays and Sundays.

October Business Month takes off

OVER 500 business people celebrated the start of October Business Month 2007 at events in Alice Springs and Darwin.

The main topics covered during this month's workshops and seminars are building a skilled workforce, business planning, managing business growth and making the most of technology.

For the full calendar of October Business Month events go to www.nt.gov.au/obm, or phone 1800 193 111.