



# NORTHERN TERRITORY MINERALS COUNCIL (INC.)

Suites 6 & 7 Raffles Plaza Buffalo Court Darwin NT 0800  
Telephone: (08) 8981 4486 / 8941 2699 / 8941 2591

GPO Box 510 Darwin NT 0801  
Facsimile: (08) 8941 1625

Email: info@ntminerals.org.au

Wednesday, March 02, 2005

**FAXED**  
21/03/05

Mr. Scott Wauchope  
Director  
Pastoral Land Management  
Department of Infrastructure Planning and Environment  
PMB 123  
Katherine NT 0851

Dear Scott,

The NT Minerals Council (Inc.) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the key issues paper for review of the Pastoral Land Act 1992 and views this submission as an opportunity to highlight issues associated between the pastoral and exploration and mining industries.

Many of the issues raised in the discussion are not of direct relevance to the minerals industry, however, the following issues are of interest.

#### Issue 9

The Minerals Council would support increasing the membership to the Pastoral Land Board, however, believes that appointment should be based on merit, relevance and expertise. Given that the exploration sector of the industry does interact with the pastoral industry, it may prove useful to have relevant exploration expertise involved with the board.

#### Issue 14

The extraction of construction materials not associated with the work of a pastoral lease should be regulated by the Mining Act. This will ensure that there is consistency in this area of activity throughout the Northern Territory.

**RECEIVED**

**- 8 MAR 2005**

**DIPE NATURAL RESOURCES  
KATHERINE**



Issue 23

The Minerals Council is not in a position to specify requirements for other industries, however, does support moves towards improving environmental management of the environment in a sensible and sustainable way. If environmental management plans were made a requirement of a pastoral lease then it is important that the main affected stakeholders are involved in the setting of criteria, standards and authorisations. The Minerals Council does not support the public release of such plans if developed as they may contain information that is commercial-in-confidence or jeopardise joint venture management arrangements.

Issue 30

The granting of exploration titles for the extraction of minerals and petroleum is regulated by the Mining Act and the Minerals Council acknowledges that ownership of minerals is vested with the Crown. In conducting exploration on pastoral land, the Minerals Council strongly encourages its members to support and abide by the industry's code of conduct and best practice in all its activities. A copy of this Code is attached.

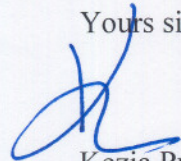
Where there is uncertainty as to the extraction of material by the Government for public purposes, this issue needs to be addressed such that there is no uncertainty as to responsibilities by the pastoral land owner and Government and in the interest of good environmental management.

Issue 44

The management and control of weeds is regulated by the Weeds Management Act and the application of this Act should be throughout the Territory. A separate regime for management of weeds on pastoral lands, which may include exploration tenements, is not supported by the Minerals Council. Having said that, the Minerals Council believes that management of weeds would be included in environmental management plans of a pastoral property, if such plans are implemented under the new legislation.

In closing, the Minerals Council would welcome further advice and information on the review of the Pastoral Land Act and if you need to discuss any aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



Kezia Purick  
Chief Executive Officer