5 May 2026

Northern Territory Budget 2026/27 shows importance of industry, but must not become complacent

Today's Northern Territory Budget presents a critical opportunity for the Government to capitalise on the Territory's strongest economic driver and position it for long-term growth, with an extra $50 million added to the bottom line from the resources industry.

Mining is firmly established as the Territory's largest contributor to the economy, and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) believes now is the time for the NT Government to deliver on policies and investment to unlock new projects that create new jobs and attract investment.

AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Warren Pearce said, "Mining and exploration are the backbone of the Northern Territory economy, and this Budget is the moment to build on that strength.

"With global demand for critical minerals only increasing, the Territory is well placed to benefit, so it is somewhat disappointing not to see an increase in incentives to really capitalise on strong commodity growth and future project development.

"The correct policy settings are already in place, but the NT cannot become complacent and must be looking for new ways to expand the resource sector even further."

The continued funding of the Resourcing the Territory program is welcome. Pre-competitive geoscience remains a cornerstone of successful exploration and NT data is one of the best sources of geoscience information in the country. This is critical in opening up new regions and reduces early-stage risk for investors.

"The Government has an opportunity to reinforce its commitment to exploration by maintaining strong investment in Resourcing the Territory.

"This program has proven its value time and time again, helping to drive discovery and position the Territory as an attractive destination for exploration dollars," added Mr Pearce.

AMEC also pointed to the importance of ongoing support for major project development, including investment in enabling infrastructure such as roads and regional development, alongside the continued role of the Territory Coordinator.

The Territory Coordinator has an important role to play in cutting through complexity and accelerating project development. Backing major projects with the right infrastructure and coordination will be critical to unlocking the next wave of mining investment.

On the back of this Budget, AMEC would like to see a continued focus on reducing regulatory barriers, improving approval timelines and ensuring the cost of doing business remains competitive.

"Industry is looking for certainty, efficiency and a clear signal that the Northern Territory is open for business.

"Other jurisdictions are moving quickly to attract investment. The Territory cannot afford to stand still.

"The foundations are there. Now is the time to act, to be bold, and to ensure the Northern Territory captures the full value of its mineral potential," said Mr Pearce.

This Budget builds on the direction set in previous years, where investment in reform and industry development signals a clear intent to grow the economy through the resources sector.

ENDS

FAQs

What is AMEC's overall view of the Northern Territory Budget 2026/27?
AMEC recognises the importance of the resources sector in strengthening the NT economy, particularly with an additional $50 million contribution. However, the Budget stops short of introducing new incentives needed to fully capitalise on growing global demand and drive future project development.

Why is the resources sector so important to the Northern Territory?
Mining and exploration are the Territory's largest economic contributors, supporting jobs, regional development and investment. The sector underpins economic growth and presents significant opportunities, particularly in critical minerals.

What is Resourcing the Territory and why does it matter?
Resourcing the Territory is a pre-competitive geoscience program that provides high-quality geological data. It reduces exploration risk, attracts investment and helps unlock new regions for development. Continued funding is essential to maintaining the Territory's competitiveness.

What more is AMEC calling for following this Budget?
AMEC is calling for stronger policy settings to drive investment, including reduced regulatory barriers, faster approval timelines, and greater support for enabling infrastructure. These measures are critical to unlocking new projects and ensuring the NT remains globally competitive.

How can the NT Government maximise the opportunity ahead?
By building on existing strengths, avoiding complacency and taking a proactive approach to

policy and investment. This includes backing major projects, supporting the Territory Coordinator's role, and sending a clear signal that the NT is open for business.

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