Supporting the Energy and Mining Industries

Schedule 1.4

Key Issues

The parties agree the key issues to be addressed are:

- In the next 5–7 years, there could be up to $9 – $10bn of investment offshore (upstream) in the Timor Sea and over $3bn of new investment on-shore (downstream), creating demands for engineering and construction skills and opening up new skill opportunities in areas such as process control etc.
- The mining industry makes a significant contribution to the Northern Territory’s economy and consistently accounts for more than 20% of GSP. The key challenges are to attract and retain qualified operational staff. An important aspect is significantly increasing the number of Indigenous people employed in the industry.
- There is considerable scope to identify both niche and broad training opportunities for the University in support of both the energy and mining industries, given the degree of overlap between both industries, e.g. offshore operations.
- The mining industry is one in which significant change is occurring, driving some of the planned capital projects.
- The workforce development needs of the Territory in support of both industries has not been totally defined to date.
- The energy and mining industries can offer opportunities to improve the indigenous employment rates in regions where the industries are active.
- That training in support of both industries is best accomplished in the Territory, and not interstate (i.e., growing resident capacity), especially since much of the training is common (e.g., basic trades).

Strategies

The parties agree the strategies they will employ are to:

- Establish a focus group (university, NTG & key industry players) to identify the future training needs of both the energy and mining industries in the Territory.
• Develop a strong understanding of the emerging training needs, both on-shore and off-shore, in the industries (ie sectors, type and special needs), making particular use of the “Workforce NT” report when it is released in September.

• Establish key alliances, as appropriate, with other established training institutions and organisations to secure access to training technologies for the benefit of the Territory, especially with CIT in the provision of training for offshore activities.

• Provide targeted training for Indigenous groups to improve employment prospects in these two industries.

• Identify any niche opportunities for the Northern Territory.

• Supporting the training needs for the “Centre for Mining Excellence”, as proposed in changes to schedule 1.3.

• Establish cadetships in Earth Science, funded by the NTG, which will involve first year studies at the Charles Darwin University before the cadets complete their studies at another institution.

Performance Indicators

The parties agree the indicators to be used are:

• To establish the focus group with quality industry participation by September 2004.

• Focus group to report on required future training needs by February 2005, and to implement identified training by July 2005.

• To formalise alliances with other training organisations, as appropriate, by end of 2004.

• One earth sciences cadetship will be offered in 2005 and, subject to the success of the program, an additional place will be offered in each subsequent year.