

(iii) ***Mining Roads - Access for Development***

The mining industry's growing economic importance to the Northern Territory and to Australia will be furthered by ensuring suitable all-weather access to mine sites. New projects in 1992/93 included:

McArthur River Mine

As part of the 1993 agreement with Mt Isa Mines Ltd the NT Government has made commitments for the provision of road infrastructure to provide access from the mine site to the port facility. This includes:

- Widening 50km of the Carpentaria Highway; and
- Construction of 63km of sealed road to Bing Bong.

The Territory will provide \$10.6M of the total cost of \$16.5M, with the balance from the Federal Government.

Subject to resolution of outstanding clearances and financial aspects, the project is scheduled for completion early in 1995. At the end of 1992/93 the project design development was well under way.

Warrego Road

This road provides access from the mine and townsite at Warrego to the Stuart Highway, and is an important part of the local economic infrastructure.

Following a submission to the Commonwealth Government \$1.2M has been provided to assist with the upgrading of this road. The remaining \$0.6M of the funds are from the Northern Territory Government and Poseidon Gold. The project will allow for widening, rehabilitating sections and resealing the road. A contract for this work was let just prior to the end of the financial year.

(iv) ***Tourist Roads***

It is essential to develop a better road network to help tourism. Projects underway to support this rapidly growing industry are:

Kakadu Highway

Upgrading of the Kakadu Highway to a two lane sealed standard to be completed in 1995. Total expenditure at 30 June 1992 was \$30M. The three major listed projects for 1992/93 were:

- Mary River Bridge (\$1.8M) completed in October 1992
- South Alligator River Bridge and approaches (\$5.7M)
- Construction of 28km of road way from Jim Jim to Barramundi Creek (\$4.8M) - under construction.