

and capability amongst relevant Aboriginal organisations and groups.

One of the initial tasks is to fence the completed mining lease and this contract is being let to an Aboriginal fencing contractor.

It is hoped that Aboriginal groups will be in a position to take on further rehabilitation contracts including earth moving and ongoing environmental monitoring.

During the year the CLC also has been working in partnership with Newmont under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Government and the Minerals Council of Australia.

Discussions are well advanced with Newmont, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (on behalf of the Australian Government) and the Northern Territory Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development (on behalf of the Northern Territory Government) to develop a Regional Partnership Agreement.

The objective is to increase Aboriginal employment in the mining industry and associated service industry.

The Tanami is one of eight regional project areas under the MOU and the CLC hopes to build on the existing strong relationship with Newmont and, with government assistance, extend the success of the current employment program.

The Tanami Rehabilitation Project is a key part of the Regional Partnership Agreement.

Mereenie Oil and Gas Field – Santos Ltd

A Liaison Committee meeting was held at the Mereenie Field on 15 February 2006.

Traditional Aboriginal landowners inspected a proposed new evaporation pond system which is designed to improve environmen-

tal management of hypersaline water produced in the production of oil and gas.

Santos has also supported the Underanna Camel Farm project, which involved the establishment of camel paddock some 20 kilometres long.

Santos provided valuable help to the Aboriginal people engaged in constructing the fence.

The Camel Farm is a partnership project between traditional Aboriginal owners and Santos arising from the enterprise and employment provisions of the new Mereenie Agreement.

The opening of the Camel Farm took place on 5 October 2005.

Palm Valley Gas Field – Magellan Petroleum

A Liaison Committee meeting was held at Palm Valley on 19 April 2006.

Traditional Aboriginal landowners were provided with information on activities on the field and discussed with the company Aboriginal enterprise proposals.

Tennant Creek - Centralian Minerals Ltd

Chariot Mine ceased operating in November 2005 following assessment that further mining is unfeasible.

A mine closure meeting to debrief traditional owners was held at Tennant Creek in December 2005.

On 27 January 2006 Administrators were appointed to Centralian Minerals Ltd after it became unable to service its debts which included substantial royalty and other payments payable to the CLC on behalf of traditional owners.

Centralian Minerals' failure was precipitated by the failure of its Chariot mine to produce anticipated gold yields.

By 30 June 2006 the Administrators had negotiated the sale of

Centralian Minerals Ltd to two investment companies from Perth. The terms of settlement guaranteed that the CLC would receive full payment of all outstanding debts on the day of settlement and all tenements would remain subject to existing mining and exploration agreements with the CLC.

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS INDUSTRY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The CLC worked collaboratively with the Mines and Energy Division of the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines during the year to maintain productive relationships and ensure an effective meshing of the Department's and Central Land Council's processes with respect to granting exploration and mining titles.

The Central Land Council presented a paper at the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) in March 2006 that provided information and insight into processes and procedures for accessing Aboriginal land.

The CLC also presented at the Northern Territory Government's Land Access for Mineral Exploration pre-congress seminar held on 6 June 2006 in Perth in conjunction with the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies' National Congress

On-going and effective liaison was maintained with the Mines and Energy Division through Senior Manager's Meetings between senior department officials and officers of the Central and Northern Land Councils.

Meetings were held on 8 October 2005 and 22 March 2006, both in Alice Springs.