

## ERA'S RANGER UPGRADE BEGINS



The Ranger plant seen from the open cut pit.

**ENERGY RESOURCES of AUSTRALIA** reported that work has begun on the next stages of its expansion plan to the Ranger project area, including an extension to the operational open cut pit.

The work will increase the mine's life by four years from 2008 to 2012 and create another 45 full time jobs.

The extension, at a capital cost of \$57 million, and the optimisation of the existing pit design, will yield an additional 4,857 tonnes (or 10.7 million pounds) of uranium oxide production.

In addition to the extension to the Ranger operating pit and the pre-feasibility study into further Ranger extension options, work continued on the laterite treatment plant (\$34 million) and radiometric sorter (\$17 million).

Both projects are scheduled for commissioning in mid 2008.

### Uranium exploration moves ahead

**CAMECO/PALADIN** has won the right to explore the prospective Pamela and Angela uranium tenements near Alice Springs.

"This is truly a significant day for the future of Alice Springs – the exploration phase alone will inject millions of dollars in to the economy, creating jobs for Territorians and business opportunities for support and supply services to the project," said Chief Minister Paul Henderson.

"If the Angela and Pamela prospects live up to their potential, their value could run to the billions – creating years of economic benefit for Central Australia."

A record 37 applications were received for the Pamela and Angela prospects, and a rigorous selection assessment was overseen by independent probity experts Stantons International.

Cameco/Paladin's licence application will now progress through the usual administrative procedures under the Mining Act, which includes an advertising period.

### Territory jobs growth remains strong

**LABOUR FORCE** figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics today show the Territory's job growth remains the strongest in the country.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie said today's figures coupled with the ANZ job adverts earlier this week show an active jobs market in the Territory.

"In the last year more than 11 000 jobs have been created in the Northern Territory" she said.

"The Territory has the highest participation rate in the labour force in the country and we seen a 10.9% growth in employment over the last year.

"A 13.4% growth in job adverts in the last year shows there are plenty of jobs available and the economy is strong.

The Territory recorded an increased unemployment rate of 5.2% in January, the rise mainly the result of more people entering the jobs market.

### GBS Gold lodges Maud Creek mining proposal

**PINE CREEK** area miner, GBS Gold has lodged an environmental impact statement for its Maude Creek project with the NT Government.

The proposed gold mine is situated on a pastoral property owned by GBS Gold about 20 km northeast of Katherine.

After community consultation, the company has changed its plan from an open cut to an underground operation.

All ore mined at Maude Creek will be transported to the Union Reef processing plant near Pine Creek.

It will take 15 road trains a day in both directions to truck the ore through Katherine to the plant.

### Mango forum announced

**A DEBRIEF** on the 2007 mango harvest will take place in a forum to be held this Saturday, 23 February at the Palmerston Library Community Room at 9AM.

The forum will include crop forecasting, disease prevention, and labour issues.

Speakers from the Department of Primary Industry, NT Horticultural Association and others will address the forum.

For more information call the NTHA on 89833233.