Minister Welcomes EPA Recommendations

Environment Minister Karl Hampton today welcomed the independent Environment Protection Authority’s recommendations for the ecologically sustainable development of the Territory.

Mr Hampton said he would look closely at the EPA’s recommendations before formulating a detailed response later this year.

“The Territory Government is committed to preserving the Territory’s unique environmental and cultural heritage,” Mr Hampton said.

“That’s why we established the Territory’s first independent EPA and this body of work is the first of many that will help Government shape the future of sustainable development in the Territory.”

The EPA’s recommendations are:

- The adoption of a Territory-wide definition of Ecologically Sustainable Development;
- The adoption of the six guiding principles of ESD to inform legislation, policy and decision making across the whole of Government;
- The development and implementation of governance mechanisms to ensure the application of ESD principles; and
- The commitment by Government to leadership on ESD and adoption of a public sustainability statement towards achieving ESD in the Northern Territory.

“The Territory Government will also push for the passing of legislation to strengthen the independent EPA at this month’s Parliamentary sittings,” Mr Hampton said.

“We were the first Territory Government to create an independent EPA and the legislative amendments we introduced last November will make it even stronger.”

Mr Hampton said the EPA is a statutory body that provides independent advice to the Northern Territory on the state of our environment and how best to protect it.

These legislative changes make the EPA a more effective and stronger watchdog that better connects to the needs of Territorians.

The EPA's recommendations and advice are required to be made public and are not subject to Government direction.

Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563