(Green) Thumbs up for NT commitment to reform

20 November 2015

Environment Minister Gary Higgins has welcomed the support from the Federal Environment Minister for the Territory Government’s proposed reform of the NT’s environmental regulatory system.

Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt says the proposed reform included measures designed to meet the national standards set out under the Australian Government’s One-Stop Shop policy.

He praised the new system saying the business certainty from the measures will be achieved while raising environmental standards.

The Territory Government announced this week it was adopting a raft of recommendations from the Review into Environmental Assessment and Approvals Process report by Dr Allan Hawke AC.

“This will strengthen our environmental assessment processes and provides for a more robust regulatory regime,” Minister Higgins said.

“We have opted for Option Three from the report, potentially as a stepping stone to moving to a single environmental approval at a later time.

“One of the key moves is to strengthen the audit and compliance role for the independent NT Environment Protection Authority and provide for clarity in the roles and responsibilities of government agencies and the EPA in the system.

“Overall, the new regime will give the community more confidence, proponents more clarity and provide for an overall more transparent process.”

The report’s release is the beginning of an extensive consultation phase which will encourage stakeholders and the community to be part of the process to deliver the new more robust regime.

“Government will engage with key industry and community stakeholders to develop the best model for the Northern Territory,” Minister Higgins said.

Editor’s note: Minister Hunt’s release can be found here - https://environment.gov.au/minister/hunt/2015/index.html
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