



Northern Territory Government

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Have your say on how the Territory manages its natural resources

Individuals, community groups, businesses and government agencies have the opportunity to have a say in the future management of the Northern Territory's vast natural resources.

The NT and Federal governments have signed a joint agreement to invest in managing regional natural resources. This requires the development of an *Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan* and accompanying *Investment Strategy*, in close consultation with the community and other stakeholders.

The NT Regional Natural Resource Management Planning Team has been formed to coordinate community and stakeholder consultation. Chairman Jim Forwood said: "The Landcare Council of the NT will develop the plan and oversee its implementation."

A Territory-wide network of facilitators - representing government, industry, indigenous land management and other interests - will help the planning team achieve maximum community participation. The consultation phase will take place between May and July this year.

During the consultation phase, the plan's development team will be looking for views and suggestions on broad-ranging issues associated with natural resource management. These include fire, weeds, feral animals, capacity building in regional and remote communities, soil conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources.

A draft plan will be drawn up by September. It will be exhibited publicly for two months, and comment will be sought from all interested parties before a final plan is completed.

Lands and Planning Minister Dr Chris Burns said the final plan would identify, review and prioritise the issues, and set management targets to address them.

"The final plan will be the Territory's blueprint for natural resource management," Dr Burns said. "The process gives all Territorians the opportunity to influence the future management of our magnificent natural resources."

During the consultation phase, respondents will have access to a range of convenient mediums through which to express their views. These will include group discussions, presentations, written submissions and comment by phone, fax or email.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr Robyn Delaney, Senior Planner (DIPE) Phone: 8999 4847

Ms Libby Benson, Manager Community Programs (DIPE)

Phone: 8999 4464 0401 118 342

Fax: 8999 4445

Email: [inrm.dipe@nt.gov.au](mailto:inrm.dipe@nt.gov.au)

Or visit the website: [www.inrm.nt.gov](http://www.inrm.nt.gov).