A sub-committee comprising 26 government and community representatives has been appointed to develop an integrated Coastal and Marine Management Policy for the Northern Territory.

The Minister for Lands and Planning, Kon Vatskalis, said the Government sent out invitations to various organisations and individuals last year to ensure wide representation.

"It was crucial we gathered as much expertise and knowledge in this group to develop a policy for the Territory," Mr Vatskalis said.

"This sub-committee will create a policy that has relevance to those using or managing coastal and marine resources, and encourage a co-operative approach between all stakeholders."

Mr Vatskalis said the new Coastal and Marine Management Policy would set the overall direction for sea resources in the Territory, and will be implemented through a series of regional plans.

The first regional plan linked to the new policy is the Plan of Management for Darwin Harbour, now being prepared by the community-based group announced last August.

"Like the Plan of Management for Darwin Harbour, the new Coastal and Marine Management Policy for the Northern Territory will ensure a balance is created between protection of our natural resources and the need for future development and jobs."

Membership of the sub-committee is as follows:

John Harrison – AFANT
Mark McCallum – Australian Petroleum Production and Explorations Association Ltd.
Greg Haigh – Darwin Marine Services Association
Steve Tatzenko – Mines and Energy
Richard Sellers – Fisheries (DBIRD)
Barry Russell – Museum and Art Gallery of the NT
Sarah Lunn – Department of Justice
Nanikiya Munungurritj – Dhimurru Land Management and Aboriginal Corporation
Kirsten Blair – Environment Centre of the Northern Territory
Greg Lambert – Lands and Planning (DIPE)
Christine Long – Conservation and Natural Resources (DIPE)
Garry Mayer – Marine Branch (DIPE)
Janice Warren – Office of Environment and Heritage
David Lawson – Parks and Wildlife (DIPE)
David Ritchie – Conservation and Natural Resources (DIPE)
Bruce Wilson – Darwin Ports Corporation
Eric Fejo – Larrakia Nation
Merrilyn Barnes – Local Government Association of the NT
Sue Jackson – Marine and Coastal Community Network
Patrick O’Leary – Northern Land Council
Kezia Purick – NT Minerals Council
Iain Smith – NT Seafood Council
David Parry – Northern Territory University
Randall Scott – Power and Water Corporation
Darren Hillier – Territory Construction Association
Kate Hadden – Tiwi Land Council

The sub-committee met for the first time last month, and will hold its next meeting in the next couple of weeks.

A draft policy is expected to be presented to the Minister by the end of this year, before going out for public comment.