Terry Mills  
Leader of the Country Liberals

Media Release

27th July 2008

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A Country Liberal Government would establish an independent Environment Protection Agency to oversee the protection of the Territory’s unique and beautiful environment.

Terry Mills, the Leader of the Country Liberals, launched his party’s environment policy at the Nightcliff foreshore.

“The threat of continual erosion of the Nightcliff foreshore is an excellent example of how environmental degradation can impact on our quality of life,” says Terry Mills.

“As one of the world’s last great wilderness frontiers, the Territory’s environment must be protected by a fully funded, completely independent EPA.

“Labor Promised to deliver an independent EPA at the last Territory election, like so many Labor promises it was broken upon being returned to office.

“In its place Labor created an emasculated EPA, attached to the Environment Department and at the whim of the Minister, Len Kiely.

“The environment is too important to be subject to back door political pressure without independent scrutiny by an EPA.

“The EPA would be able to initiate its own investigations into any matter it considers necessary and it would table all its reports in Parliament.

“The Environment Minister and the Parliament’s Environment and Sustainable Development Committee would also be able to refer matters to it.

“The Country Liberals would immediately initiate a scientific review of the Territory’s river flows and water resources to form the basis of a River Management Plan.
“The development of sustainable management practices for our magnificent river systems is critical for both the environment and the economy.

“A Country Liberal Government would also close the infamous ‘poo shooter’ at Lamaroo Beach; the time for pumping raw sewage into the harbour is past.

“The Country Liberals recognise the important role of The Environment Centre NT as an advocate for the environment and a vehicle for reducing household energy use.

“As a consequence the Country Liberals would increase funding to the Environment Centre and its Cool Mob household environment audit project to $485,000 per annum.

“Recognising the importance of mitigating the effect of and preparing for climate change the Country Liberals will promote energy efficient house design by having a $50,000 competition for the most energy efficient designs for a house costing less than $300,000.”

To arrange further comment: Greg Charter 04000 14059