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LEADING THE WAY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Leading policy development firm, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, has been appointed to help formulate the Territory’s first comprehensive climate change policy.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said the Territory Government is committed to tackling climate change and making a difference.

“Climate change is a critical issue that governments across the country and the world are facing – it’s a top priority and I am determined that we lead by example,” Mr Henderson said.

“Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu will play a major role in the development of the Territory’s first Climate Change policy – which aims to ensure we play our part in emerging national policy.

“The Deloitte team will be led by Jon Stanford, a nationally recognised expert in climate change policy development, and will draw on expertise from the Deloitte office in Darwin.

“Mr Stanford will provide advice to the Government leading up to key COAG climate change meetings in September and a climate change policy will be finalised by February 2009.

“The company brings with it a wealth of expertise in the area of climate change and presents an opportunity for skills transfer between Deloitte and our public servants.

“Working alongside such nationally recognised experts in climate change will certainly build on the already substantial expertise here in the Territory.

“The Territory is the best place to live, work and raise a family – let’s keep it that way by acting now to address climate change,” he said.

Deloitte will work closely with the newly-created Territory Government Climate Change Policy and Co-ordination Unit and the Climate Change Working Group.

A select tender of leading companies was sought and the best candidate was chosen.

The Deloitte team will meet with the Territory Government Steering Committee and the community based NT Climate Change Focus Group in early April.

Deloitte will also work with two of the Territory’s leading environmental scientists, Professor Stephen Garnett, Director of the School for Environmental Research, at Charles Darwin University and Dr Jeremy Russell-Smith.

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Background
For most of the past decade, before helping to establish Insight Economics (which merged with Deloitte in December 2006), Jon was a director of the Allen Consulting Group. He has developed a strong consultancy practice in economics and policy issues related to greenhouse, the resources sector, industry development and defence.

Professional and academic qualifications
Jon Stanford’s qualifications include an MBA from London Business School and Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in Economics from Manchester University.

Core expertise
• Economics of key policy issues, including climate change and energy
• Modelling of economic impacts of public policy responses to climate change

Relevant experience
In the mid-1990’s, Jon was Chair of the Council for Australian Governments’ Gas Reform Implementation Group, which developed and implemented the National Gas Code. Since then he has worked on a number of major projects relating to the energy and resources sector, analysing the economic impact of possible major investment projects for both government and major corporates.

Over the last decade, Jon has developed a strong practice in the economics and public policy aspects of climate change.

He has analysed the appropriate public policy responses and modelled the economic impact of possible policies for a number of clients, including the Commonwealth and State governments and industry groups.

Most recently he directed two major projects in this area. A report by the Australian Business Roundtable on possible deep cuts to greenhouse gas emissions was published in March 2006 and was largely based on the consultancy work directed by Jon Stanford. In addition, during 2006 the National Emissions Trading Taskforce, comprising all State governments, developed a proposal for an emissions trading system again based in part on our consultancy reports.

Over the last few years, Jon has contributed a number of articles on greenhouse policy to the opinion pages of The Australian Financial Review. He has also acted as an expert witness and has regularly addressed conferences on the issue.

Before becoming a consultant, Jon Stanford had a significant career with the Australian Public Service in Canberra. His final position with government was as head of the Industries, Resources and Environment Division in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
Summary Terms of Reference

A CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Objectives

(a) To develop a climate change policy for the Northern Territory that promotes on-going development of the NT economy and positions the NT in the context of future national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and mitigation policies.

The policy should have regard to the Territory’s unique circumstances relative to those jurisdictions reliant on coal as a source of energy and with historical legacies of broad acre land clearing and agriculture, to ensure that the Territory is advantaged and that national climate change outcomes are maximised. Considerations will include the Territory’s potential to be a significant provider of clean energy fuels, the opportunities associated with reducing emissions from clearing and bushfires, and the potential for Indigenous Territorians to participate in the emerging carbon economy.

(b) Having regard to the Territory’s current and projected emissions profile, provide expert advice and strategies in developing the Territory’s position on the COAG climate change agenda, including emissions trading, renewable energy targets, land clearing, carbon offsets and water management.

Acknowledging that national climate change measures will be adopted, NT-specific adaptation, mitigation and offset policies and strategies will be required and must have a high probability of being implemented by individuals, households and industry, particularly SMEs.

(c) Based on the policy and national developments, develop a climate change implementation plan for the NT.

Background

As the Minister for Climate Change, the Chief Minister has requested that a climate change policy and implementation plan specific to the Northern Territory be developed.

The Territory accounts for 2-3% of total Australian greenhouse gas emissions. The Territory economy is growing and with this growth it is expected that the Territory’s contribution to greenhouse emissions will increase. The Northern Territory has a unique emissions profile compared to other states, the ACT and Australia as a whole:
The national and international climate change agenda remains fluid at this time: the Bali roadmap has established the way forward for international negotiations to replace the Kyoto Protocol; and in mid-2008 the Garnaut Climate Change Review will recommend a model for an Australian Emissions Trading Scheme and medium and long-term policy options.

The Northern Territory Government is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to work with the Territory in developing an NT Climate Change Policy and an implementation plan. The consultant will also provide expert advice to assist the Territory in national negotiations on climate change.