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GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT

Chief Minister and Minister for Climate Change Paul Henderson has announced Government agencies will be required to cut their carbon footprint under the Territory’s first Policy on Climate Change.

Delivering the Northern Territory Parliament’s first Ministerial Statement on climate change, Mr Henderson said the Government will lead by example in combating climate change.

“Climate change is one of the most critical issues facing the Northern Territory and the world, and I am determined that my Government will lead by example,” Mr Henderson said.

“It’s a complex issue that presents significant challenges and opportunities for the Territory, and we must act now if we are to make a difference.

“Within the next 12 months, we will develop the Northern Territory’s first Policy on Climate Change, setting a course of action to ensure the Territory continues to develop while playing our part in reducing greenhouse emissions and tackling climate change.”

“Central to the Climate Change Policy will be the requirement for Government agencies to develop strategies to reduce their carbon footprint, including cutting their energy use, and ensuring major cleaning contracts include recycling provisions.

“It’s essential that any climate change measures meet a cost-benefit analysis and checks and balances will be needed.

“To that end, I have asked the Auditor-General to develop a performance management system that will monitor outcomes of these carbon reduction strategies, highlighting which strategies are working and which require attention.”

Mr Henderson said the Government was in the process of retaining a climate change expert to assist in the development of the NT Climate Change Policy.

The consultant will work closely with the newly-created Climate Change Policy and Co-ordination Unit and the Climate Change Working Group.

“The Territory is the best place to live, work and raise a family – it is essential we act now against climate change to keep it that way.”

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