In a Northern Territory first, dedicated funding will be allocated to combatting climate change as part of Budget 2008.

Chief Minister and Minister for Climate Change, Paul Henderson, said addressing climate change presented many challenges and opportunities for the Northern Territory.

"The Territory is the best place to live, work and raise a family, and I want to keep it that way by tackling climate change now," Mr Henderson said.

"Under my Government you don't have to choose between development and the environment - you can have both.

"I am determined my Government will lead by example in addressing climate change, and $11 million will be spent over the next three years to reduce greenhouse emissions in Territory households and Government buildings."

SUPPORTING TERRITORIANS TO CUT EMISSIONS

Of the $11 million, $5 million has been set aside for incentives to help households and businesses cut their energy consumption and $6 million will be targeted at making Government buildings more energy efficient.

Mr Henderson said the Territory's first Climate Change policy - currently being developed by leading policy development firm Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in conjunction with the new Climate Change Policy and Co-ordination Unit - would be central to the Government's future initiatives.

"This policy will guide our decision making, including setting emission reduction targets and implementing measures to help get us there," said Mr Henderson.

Budget 2008 also delivers $200,000 to support the Climate Change Policy and Coordination Unit.
ENVIRONMENT

Environment Minister Len Kiely said Budget 2008 was delivering for Territory families by investing in our parks.

"The Henderson Government is committed to protecting our pristine natural environment for future generations of Territorians," Mr Kiely said.

"Budget 2008 delivers $106 million to protect our environment, including improving facilities within our world class parks."

TERRITORY PARKS

"The Territory has some of the best national parks in the world and they are enjoyed by Territorians and tourists alike," said Mr Kiely.

"Budget 2008 will deliver important upgrades to our so visitors can have an even better experience."

Funding includes:

- $4.4 million to upgrade facilities at Litchfield National Park, this is the first year of a three year $7.5 million program.
- $1.5 million to develop the Red Centre Way Interpretive Centre in the West MacDonnell National Park.
- $1.5 million for the Fogg Dam Monsoon Forest Boardwalk.

AIR QUALITY

Mr Kiely said Budget 2008 provides $700,000 to establish an Air Quality monitoring program in the Darwin region.

"This delivers another of the Government’s election commitments and will set benchmarks to ensure the quality of air is protected," he said.

BUSHFIRES

"Bushfires NT will receive a $2 million funding boost, bringing its budget to $6.7 million," Mr Kiely said.

"The 1,000 hardworking members and volunteers of BushfiresNT do a magnificent job combating wildfires across 99% of the Territory.

"The extra $2 million will deliver more training, resources and support to help them do their important work.

"The Henderson Government will continue to invest in our environment so it can be enjoyed by Territory families today and into the future."

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