TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE TOGETHER

Chief Minister and Minister for Climate Change Paul Henderson said the unique conditions and challenges faced in the Northern Territory will be key considerations in developing the Northern Territory’s first Climate Change Policy.

Launching the Government’s discussion paper on *NT Climate Change Issues* on World Environment Day 2008, Mr Henderson said the paper and community feedback would help shape the Territory’s first Climate Change policy.

“Climate change is one of the most critical issues facing the Northern Territory and the global community,” Mr Henderson said.

“As Chief Minister, I am focused on balancing economic development with protecting the environment.

“The discussion paper was developed by leading climate change policy expert Jon Stanhope of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in consultation with the Government and stakeholders from across the community and identifies key climate change challenges and opportunities for the Territory.

“The Territory’s unique conditions – our dispersed population, tropical and desert climates, vast savanna lands, and rich natural resources – are significant factors in our greenhouse emissions.

“There are also real climate change opportunities for the Territory, including harnessing a growing demand for LNG, expertise in fire and pastoral management, and development of infrastructure and planning management to meet extreme weather conditions.”

Mr Henderson encouraged Territorians to have their say on the Climate Change discussion paper and the unique issues and opportunities it identifies.

Public forums will be held on 12 June in Darwin and 19 June in Alice Springs. Submissions to the Discussion Paper close on 4 July, and the final strategy will be released in early 2009.

The discussion paper is available at [www.climatechange.nt.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.nt.gov.au), via email at [climatechange.dcm@nt.gov.au](mailto:climatechange.dcm@nt.gov.au) or by phoning 1800 244 763.

“The final Climate Change strategy will chart our course to tackling climate change while continuing to drive the Territory’s economy forward,” said Mr Henderson.

“We can all play our part in tackling climate change in a sustainable way and together we can make a real difference for future Territorians.”

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