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FIXED FOUR YEAR TERMS TO BE INTRODUCED

The Northern Territory Government will introduce fixed, four-year parliamentary terms to deliver certainty in the electoral process, Chief Minister Paul Henderson announced today.

Mr Henderson said the new Cabinet made the decision at its first meeting today.

“In the assessment of the election results, it’s apparent the low voter turnout was due in part to the early election date,” Mr Henderson said.

“The decision to go to an early election has been shown to be a concern to many Territorians.

“Today, the Cabinet has responded, and the Government will introduce fixed four-year parliamentary terms to provide more certainty in the electoral process.

“Fixed parliamentary terms will ensure Territorians have appropriate time to get on the electoral roll, and plan for postal and absentee votes.

“It will give the business community more certainty about the management of the Territory’s economic future.

“Fixed terms will ensure Territorians have a clear timeframe to which Governments can be held to account – it will ensure certainty in our electoral process.”

Mr Henderson said the Government will implement the necessary legislative reform before the end of the year, with the next Territory election due to be held in 2012.

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