Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage Karl Hampton today thanked and farewellled one of the Northern Territory Government’s shining stars Larry Johns at the Katherine Golf Club.

Mr Johns has recently retired from his position as a District Weeds Officer (Victoria River District) with the NRETAS Weed Management Branch based at Timber Creek, a position he has held for some 21 years, with a total of 37 years service to the Territory Government.

“During his long spell with the Northern Territory Government, Larry has been a fantastic role model for people living in regional and remote parts of the Territory,” Mr Hampton said.

“Mr Johns is a highly respected traditional owner of the Ngaliwurru (Timber Creek) and Ngaringman (Bullita) country, which he has served exceptionally well in his conservation efforts.

Some of Mr Johns’ achievements include the eradication of Parthenium Weed from Elsey Station and Mimosa pigra from Legune Station, both Weeds of National Significance.

In 1996 Mr Johns received the Chief Executive Officer Outstanding Achievement Award and in 1998 was awarded the perpetual achievement and service award.

“Throughout his long career, commencing as a farm hand in Katherine through to a District Weed Officer at Timber Creek, Larry has made a significant contribution towards a healthier, sustainable environment.” Mr Hampton said.

“Whilst with the Weed Management Branch in particular, Larry has been instrumental in developing effective weed management outcomes with all landholders in the Victoria River District; a legacy that benefits the whole community.”

“On behalf of the Northern Territory Government I commend Mr Johns on a fantastic career and his contribution to the health of our country and our communities.

“We wish him all the best in his retirement and look forward to seeing his legacy continued in the region.”

Mr Johns’ plans for post retirement include working with the Timber Creek Aboriginal Rangers program on weed management in the region and assisting the Parks and Wildlife Division with tourism adventures in the surrounding Gregory National Park.

Contact: Patrick Hastwell 0427 017 803