Darwin Hosts AELERT Conference

Environment Minister Karl Hampton will officially open the 2011 Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators neTwork (AELERT) conference in Darwin tomorrow.

The annual conference brings leading environmental regulators from Australia and New Zealand together with this year’s theme Connecting Regions, Connecting People.

“The Territory Government is the greenest in the Territory’s history and progressing targets within the Territory 2030 strategic plan shows we are heading in the right direction,” Mr Hampton said.

“We stand proud of our environmental record that includes better outcomes and protections for our environment.

“These achievements include establishing an independent Environment Protection Authority, banning plastic bags and introducing the popular cash for containers scheme.

“This Government has also increased research and monitoring of Darwin Harbour and made a significant investment in more compliance officers.”

The AELERT conference runs until Friday and features a diverse group of the nation’s regulators and keynote speakers such as Sean Willmore from The Thin Green Line Foundation, The Lizard King author Bryan Christy, Environment Protection Authority chairman Professor Grahame Webb, Dr David Lawson from the Wildlife Conservation Society and John Fogarty from the United States Environmental Protection Authority.

AELERT formed in 2003 with the first national conference held in Melbourne in 2004 and it now has more than 80 member agencies.

The objective of the network is to promote inter-agency cooperation, raise professional standards in the administration of environmental law, facilitate development of bilateral and multilateral relationships and establish nationally agreed competency and training standards.


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