Minister for Parks and Wildlife Karl Hampton today invited the public to contribute towards a new Joint Management Plan for the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve.

“The Alice Springs Telegraph Station marks the original site of the first European settlement in Alice Springs and was established in 1872 to relay messages between Darwin and Adelaide,” Mr Hampton said.

“In addition to this historic value, the Reserve encompasses 1171 hectares of natural, rugged terrain traversed by cycle and walking tracks that are much loved by the Alice Springs community.

“The joint management plan will provide direction for the management of the Reserve for the next 10 years, outlining how the interests of the community, Traditional Owners, heritage and conservation values will be served.”

A public forum is set for 5 - 6.30pm, Thursday 18 November 2010 at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

Mr Hampton said Community involvement and support is vital in the development of the plan.

“We’re looking for ideas and fresh insight and perspective into the Reserve’s managements and all comments, whether contributed at the public forums, online or by mail will be considered during the planning process,” Mr Hampton said.

“This is the first opportunity for the public to contribute towards the planning for the Reserve. The public will also be able to have their say on Draft Plan, when it is released for public comment in 2011.

“I urge Centralians to contribute and have their say making this wonderful community and historical asset an even better place for families and tourists.” Mr Hampton said.

The new joint management plan will replace the 2001 Plan of Management.

The Reserve will be jointly managed in partnership by the Lhere Artepe native title body and the Northern Territory Government.

For further details and to have your say go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/consult or send a written submission to Park Planning, Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 1120 Alice Springs NT 0871.

Community consultation closes on 31 December 2010.

Media contact: Nicole Manison 0448 693 279