Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Gary Higgins
Minister for the Environment

Let’s have a discussion on a Balanced Environment

1 February 2016

The Territory Government wants to hear from Territorians.

The Government has released its Balanced Environment Strategy Discussion Draft paper for public input.

“We’re serious about ensuring the Northern Territory environment remains sustainable and healthy into the future,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The Balanced Environment Strategy will be the Government’s overarching plan for environmental stewardship. As well as the experts, we want to ensure we also tap into local knowledge – Territorians have a strong cultural identity, rich traditions and a unique understanding and affinity with our natural environment.

“This consultation phase is a very important part of the process to develop a final strategy. Everyone has a role to play in this – government, business, industry and the community.”

The draft strategy identifies nine principles which will guide future decision-making to ensure the responsible use, management and safeguarding of the unique Northern Territory environment.

The Balanced Environment Strategy Discussion Draft covers a broad range of issues that are important to Territorians.

The balanced environment objectives reflect progress of the NT Government’s environmental regulatory reform agenda following Dr Allan Hawke’s Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry and Review into the Northern Territory Environmental Assessment and Approval Processes.

“The strategy will complement the ongoing consultation and reforms being undertaken to progress the recommendations Dr Hawke made to ensure the Territory’s environmental performance is strong and that there is a robust regulatory system in place to support our growing economy and communities,” Environment Minister Gary Higgins said.
“These are important reforms. They will provide for the community to have greater confidence in environmental assessments, with a clear role for everyone in the system including the NT’s independent Environment Protection Authority.”

As part of the public consultation process on the discussion draft paper there will be community forums held in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Darwin.

Feedback can also be submitted through [http://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/balancedenvironment](http://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/balancedenvironment)

In **writing** to:

Balanced Environment Strategy

Department of Economic and Environment Policy

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By **email** to:  balancedenvironmentstrategy.dcm@nt.gov.au

The closing date for feedback on the draft Balanced Environment Strategy is **18 March 2016**

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