A new environment grant scheme which is open to all Territorians has attracted 70 applications from around the Northern Territory, Environment and Heritage Minister Marion Scrymgour announced today.

The grant scheme – EnvironmeNT Grants - is a first for the Territory, and was officially launched by the NT Government earlier this year.

The scheme is part of the NT Government’s record $1 million spend this year supporting grass roots action by environment and heritage organisations.

“This is an unprecedented spend by any Territory Government on community-based environment initiatives, and we are doing this because we are committed to protecting our great environment on which our lifestyle depends,” Ms Scrymgour said.

Ms Scrymgour said $460,000 was available for EnvironmeNT Grants in 2004-05.

“Over 70 applications were received – an overwhelming response from community groups, schools, indigenous groups and other Territorians committed to an environmentally sustainable future.

“There have been some excellent projects addressing weeds, feral animals, endangered species and improving community awareness.”

Ms Scrymgour said the applications were now being assessed by an expert panel, with the successful applicants to be announced next year.

“Obviously with such an unprecedented response to this unique scheme, the panel is going to have a tough time assessing the applications.”

EnvironmeNT Grants are available for projects that reduce environmental impacts, improve the environment, promote conservation and increase environmental awareness.