The Minister for Environment and Heritage, Dr Chris Burns, has welcomed the decision by the Development Consent Authority (DCA) approving a pilot power station, to be fuelled by one of the Northern Territory’s most noxious weeds.

Dr Burns said the Power and Water owned plant will use the declared weed *Mimosa pigra* to generate electricity.

"This will truly be a cleaner and greener power station," Dr Burns said.

"Not only will it utilise a weed choking the Northern Territory’s wetland areas, but also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Dr Burns said the pilot power station will be located on the edge of the Adelaide River floodplain, due to the 17,000 hectares of easily accessible mimosa pigra infesting the area.

Annually, about 80 hectares of the weed will be removed, chipped and treated, to prevent decomposition and seed spread, before being burnt to produce electricity.

"This power plant is expected to generate a minimum of 350kW of power, which represents about 0.25% of Darwin’s electricity consumption," Dr Burns said.

"Most importantly, it will save over 2400 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, which is good news for our environment."

Removal of the mimosa will aim at returning the weed infested pastoral land to agricultural production and will be strictly controlled under the Weeds Management Act.

Power and Water will be required to prepare an environmental management plan for the pilot plant and compliance will be closely monitored by the Office of Environment and Heritage.