NT GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

The NT Government will introduce an Environment Protection Agency (EPA) into the NT, bringing the Territory into line with the rest of Australia.

Environment and Heritage Minister Marion Scrymgour made the announcement today following the tabling of the Sessional Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development Report to Parliament.

The NT Government will also introduce an Environment Protection and Management Act which will bring together relevant legislation currently existing within several different acts.

“The Northern Territory has one of the greatest environments in the world – yet we are the only state or territory without an EPA …it is now time we had one,” Ms Scrymgour said.

Ms Scrymgour said that she welcomed the Sessional Committee’s Report, adding that the NT Government will now examine the options presented and respond in detail when the report is debated in March.

“I thank the Committee members and the community who contributed their ideas on how to better protect the Territory’s unique environment and great lifestyle,” she said.

“The report presented by the Committee will assist Government create an EPA that best suits the Territory’s needs and will keep the Territory moving ahead.”

Ms Scrymgour added that a core function of the EPA will be to assist developers and industry understand and adhere to Environmental regulations.

“The NT Government has protected the mangroves of Darwin harbour, introduced land clearing controls, said “No” to cotton in the Territory and this year we are spending a record $1 million on grass roots environment and heritage projects.

“An EPA will ensure Labor continues to balance growth with lifestyle while protecting the environment.”

Ms Scrymgour said that the CLP Opposition had already ruled out an EPA for the Northern Territory.
Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746