Michael Gunner
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**NT Government’s Renewable Energy Panel Holds First Meeting**

15 December 2016

The NT Government’s target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 took a major step forward today with the announcement of the Expert Panel to deliver a *Roadmap to Renewables Report*.

The panel – chaired by renewable energy expert and businessman Alan Langworthy – is meeting in Darwin this week for the first time.

The $700,000 in funding this financial year to deliver the *Roadmap to Renewables Report* fulfils a key Territory Labor election commitment.

“The Territory has one of the most spectacular natural environments in the world and it is important we do our part to act on climate change,” Chief Minister Michael Gunner said. “Continued increases in temperature will have major impacts on not just our natural environment, but our economy, lifestyle and quality of life.

“The Territory Labor Government came to office in August with a very clear promise of a target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 – something that will put us in line with the rest of the country.

“Major economies around the world are increasing the use of renewable energy sources to avoid the economic, social and environmental implications association with the use of fossil fuels.

“Smart communities realise that investing in renewable energy is good for the environment and great for jobs. It’s also the long term key to cheaper and more secure energy supply for all Territorians.

Mr Gunner said the *Report* – to be delivered next year – will set out the options to achieve the target of 50 per cent by 2030.

“It will be delivered by a team of experts led by Mr Langworthy, and provide options and advice to meet the future energy needs of the Territory while reaching the 50 per cent renewable target,” he said.

Mr Gunner said the NT had produced world leading research and researchers in renewable energy through the Charles Darwin University and the Centre for Appropriate Technology.
“We need to continue this tradition but also do a better job at ensuring these breakthroughs create jobs right here in the Territory. It is imperative this research plays an integral role in the plan to reach the 50 per cent target by 2030,” he said.

*Biography of Renewable Expert Panel attached.

Renewable Energy Expert Panel