A draft Joint Management Plan for a popular Territory conservation reserve is now available for public comment.

Parks and Wildlife Minister Marion Scrymgour today invited Territorians to provide their input into the Rainbow Valley Draft Joint Management Plan.

Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, located 100km south of Alice Springs, takes its name from colourful sandstone cliffs.

More than 10,000 people visit the Reserve each year to take photographs, enjoy short walks and learn about the area’s natural and cultural values.

The Reserve is also a living cultural landscape, the traditional country of the Upper Southern Arrernte Aboriginal people.

“The Draft Rainbow Valley Joint Management Plan is the first to go out to public comment since the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act was amended in 2005 to provide for joint management,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Jointly managed parks must be managed for purposes that will benefit traditional Aboriginal owners and the wider community.

“They must also protect biological diversity and serve visitor and community needs for education and enjoyment.

“I strongly believe this Draft Plan encapsulates these objectives and I am confident the public will welcome the Reserve’s future as outlined in the Draft Plan.

“Some of the pathways moving forward include combining knowledge and expertise of the joint management partners to look after culture, country, flora and fauna, and developing economic opportunities for Traditional Owners through flexible employment and training, direct employment, enterprise on the Reserve and contracts.

“I congratulate the Traditional Owners of Rainbow Valley and the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service for completing this Draft Joint Management Plan.
“I also extend my thanks to the Central Land Council for their tireless efforts in helping bring this Draft Plan to fruition.”

Territorians can go to www.nt.gov.au/consult and make a submission online. Copies of the draft Plan can also be requested by calling 89518250

Submissions must be received by close of business on Friday 17 August.

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