Territorians have two-and-a-half weeks left to comment on the government’s proposed whistleblower protection legislation.

Public consultation via a discussion paper on the issue has been ongoing since July last year. The draft Public Interest Disclosure Bill results from the comments received on the discussion paper.

The proposed legislation was posted on government websites in early February.

“This is an important piece of legislation because it gives potential whistleblowers the protection they need to expose wrongdoings in the public service,” Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne said.

“As I’ve said before, where there has been substantial mismanagement of public resources or improper conduct within the bureaucracy, it is important it is reported.

“The proposed legislation is designed to promote an environment where those who wish to make disclosures, can do so knowing they will be dealt with appropriately.”

Components of the draft bill provide for:
1. making a disclosure;
2. protection of those making disclosures;
3. determination of public interest disclosures; and
4. investigation of disclosures.

Copies of the draft legislation can be accessed at www.nt.gov.au/justice

“The public comment deadline is 18 March so I hope all those potentially affected by this legislation take the time to have a look at it, or at least the executive summary on the website,” Dr Toyne said.

“This is another key election promise being delivered and another example of the Martin Labor Government Moving the Territory Ahead,” Dr Toyne said.

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