GOVT SEEKS FEEDBACK ON TERRITORY PLACE NAMES

The Government has launched a six-week public consultation process into the naming of localities across the Northern Territory.

Planning and Lands Minister Dr Chris Burns said numerous localities have “unofficial” names, while others have no name at all.

“As a result, different organisations may use different names for the same place,” Dr Burns said.

“To resolve this issue, all suburbs, towns and localities in the Northern Territory that have not already been officially named will be registered under the Place Names Act.

“Most of these localities are outside the greater Darwin area.

“For example, residents of Katherine and Alice Springs have no official suburbs.

“It is proposed that the unofficial names used locally for these areas will be legally defined.”

Outside the population centres, areas that are currently defined as NT Portions will receive official locality names.

Registering place names under the Place Names Act will mean these names are recognised nationally, and will allow organisations such as emergency services, Telstra, government organisations and other service providers to align their services or respond to emergencies more easily.

Names have been selected by the Place Names Committee, and are now open to public consultation.

Public forums will take place during June in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. Further information on dates and venues can be found at www.placenames.nt.gov.au. To check proposed names, click on “inspect the proposal”, click on locality maps, and select a region from the menu on the right hand side.

Suggestions or comments on the proposed names may be submitted before 14 July 2006.

Submissions will be considered by the Place Names Committee, with recommendations forwarded to the Planning and Lands Minister for approval.

For more information, or to submit your comment or suggestion, visit www.placenames.nt.gov.au, your local library or council office, or email placenames.dpi@nt.gov.au, or telephone 8999 6440.

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