



Media Release:

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EPA to develop principles of sustainability

The independent Environment Protection Authority announced today it would commence developing overarching principles of sustainability for the Northern Territory.

EPA Chairman, Dr Andrew Tupper, said the principles of sustainability for the Territory's environment would become a benchmark for the EPA to utilise, along with business and government.

"The EPA's key function is to advise government on issues of ecologically sustainable development" Dr Tupper said.

"There are many ideas about what sustainability means but none of those ideas have been tested or applied to the unique environment within the Territory.

"By developing overarching principles of sustainability the EPA will have a benchmark to use in its future work when dealing with sustainability issues on an environmental, social and economic level."

Dr Tupper said community consultation would occur in developing the Territory's principles of sustainability.

"The EPA will prepare a discussion paper on principles of sustainability and seek public comment on it in September this year," Dr Tupper said.

"The discussion paper will identify a number of core principles, derived primarily from national and state sustainability strategies, but adapted to reflect our unique environment in the Territory.

"Government, business and the community will share a common understanding of what sustainable development means in the Northern Territory.

Dr Tupper said the development of these core principles will allow business, government and the community to understand what is sustainability and its relationship to development.

"Once we have established these core principles, the EPA can examine what else needs to be done or changed in order to achieve ecologically sustainable development in the Territory."

Media note: For more information contact EPA Chair, Andrew Tupper on 0417 475 269.

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