



Media Release:

21.08.08

Community Consultation on Sustainability Principles

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is inviting residents of Alice Springs to attend a community consultation session aimed at hearing views, concerns and ideas towards the creation of Ecologically Sustainable Development Principles for the Northern Territory.

EPA Chair, Dr Andrew Tupper, said the community consultation sessions, would provide the public the opportunity to contribute to a discussion paper on developing the Territory's principles of sustainability, which will be taken back to the community for comment.

"From these initial consultation sessions, the EPA will prepare a discussion paper on principles of sustainability and seek public comment on it later this year," Dr Tupper said.

"Ecologically Sustainable Development means development that improves the total quality of life both in the present and in the future in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

"The intention behind developing principles of ecologically sustainable development for the Northern Territory is to ensure a long term holistic approach towards protecting the environment by building environmental, social and economic considerations into decision making."

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

"The overall aim of this engagement is to define a set of principles of sustainability relevant for the Northern Territory which will provide guidance for subsequent legislative/policy reviews and development on natural resource management, environment protection and resource development," Dr Tupper said.

The public consultations commence in Alice Springs, with residents urged to attend the session at 2.30pm, Wednesday 27 August 2008 at the Andy McNeil Room, Alice Springs Town Council, 93 Todd Street, Alice Springs.

Public consultation dates in Darwin will be advised in the coming weeks.

Media note: For more information contact EPA member, Professor Gordon Duff on 03 6226 7946

Issued: 3pm Thursday, 21 August 2008