



Media Release:

26.08.08

EPA Consults Alice Springs

The independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is urging residents of Alice Springs to attend a community consultation session tomorrow afternoon held at the Alice Springs Town Council.

EPA Chair, Dr Andrew Tupper, said the consultations were aimed at hearing views, concerns and ideas towards the creation of Ecologically Sustainability Development Principles for the Northern Territory.

“For the first time since its establishment in March, the Independent EPA will be in Alice Springs meeting with the community and business,” Dr Tupper said.

“These community consultation sessions provide the public the opportunity to contribute to a discussion paper on developing the Territory’s principles of sustainability, which once drafted 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.

“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 tomorrow’s 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 Dr Andrew Tupper on 0417 475 269

Issued: 3.10pm Tuesday, 26 August 2008