



**Media Release:**

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## **EPA Online Forum**

The independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is offering residents of Alice Springs the opportunity to participate in an online forum to express their views on sustainability principles, following the community consultation sessions held in Alice Springs on Wednesday 27 August 2007.

EPA Chair, Dr Andrew Tupper, said the community consultation sessions were a valuable way for the community to come along and express their views, concerns and ideas on Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development for the Northern Territory.

“Our consultation sessions in Alice Springs was a great way for members of the independent EPA to hear in person views from Alice residents and members of the business community, and we were pleased to meet those that came along,” Dr Tupper said.

“The online forum is a follow up from these in-person community consultations, and further information including a background paper on *Establishing Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development for the Northern Territory* is available as a starting point.

“We want to hear the community’s views, concerns and ideas on these very important principles, as it affects all Territorians quality of life in the present and future while preserving ecological processes on which life depends.

“Offering this online forum as a follow up to community consultations offers the best chance for as many people as possible to contribute.”

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.

To contribute to the online forum go to <http://www.epa.nt.gov.au/>

Public consultation dates and subsequent online forum for Top End residents will be advised in the coming weeks.

**Media note: For more information contact Dr Andrew Tupper on 0417 475 269**

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