

Review of the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of this review is to examine:

- the role of the WMPC Act in the Northern Territory environmental management framework; and
- opportunities to enhance the Northern Territory environmental management framework through revisions and amendments to the Act.

Scope

The review will:

- consider the role and efficacy of the Act in supporting and contributing to a holistic environmental regulatory framework for the Territory;
- evaluate the effectiveness and/or appropriateness, or otherwise, of the provisions of the Act and Regulations under the Act;
- consider the environmental management regimes of interstate environmental regulators;
- assess the ability of the Act to respond to new environmental pressures as they arise, including emergency response capacity;
- assess the efficacy of the existing licensing and approvals regime;
- consider any other matters relevant and necessary to undertake a comprehensive review of the Act; and
- make recommendations for reform pursuant to issues arising from the review.

The review will be informed by policy objectives to:

- promote ecologically sustainable development;
- protect and enhance the quality of the environment, while promoting the sustainability of economic development to enhance community well-being;
- facilitate delivery of the Territory's local, national and international environmental obligations;
- promote effective waste management and waste minimisation strategies;

- prevent, or minimise, pollution and its impacts;
- adopt cost effective and flexible policy instruments;
- streamline the regulatory burden on people, businesses and organisations, while maintaining appropriate and efficient environmental standards;
- enhance community and business confidence in the environmental protection regime of the Territory; and
- ensure activities under the Act represent the most appropriate, efficient and effective ways of achieving the Government's outcomes and objectives.

Consistent with section 8 of the NT EPA Act, in undertaking the review the NT EPA will:

- encourage community involvement and engagement;
- seek to ensure transparent processes and provide certainty to business; and

consider both long-term and short-term economic, environmental and social equity matters in making any recommendations.

Reporting

The outcomes of this review will provide the basis for advice to the Minister under Part 3 (section 25(1)(b)) of the NT EPA Act.

Any amendments to the Act will be the responsibility of the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment following the response by the Minister to the review.

Dated: February 2013