



MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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Dr William Freeland
Chair
Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 3675
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Noted

[Signature]

Bill
Dear Dr Freeland

This Government has committed to better waste management practices in the Northern Territory.

Recently, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) raised concerns with me regarding waste management in the Northern Territory.

I understand that the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) is currently preparing an Issues Paper for consultation on the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*, with a view to providing advice to me on appropriate reforms to that legislation.

I am concerned that issues associated with waste management in the Northern Territory are broader than any legislative regime, and warrant consideration beyond the advice the NT EPA intends to provide regarding legislative reform.

To ensure this Government is appropriately informed and responsive to the Northern Territory's waste management needs beyond what might be achieved through regulatory reform, I seek advice from the NT EPA regarding opportunities for improving waste management practices in the Northern Territory.

Specifically, pursuant to section 25(1)(a) of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act*, I request the NT EPA provide advice to me that identifies:

1. matters impacting effective and efficient waste management in the Northern Territory, including:

- consideration of remote and regional concerns;
 - approaches for increasing resource recovery; and
 - national obligations;
2. opportunities to improve waste management outcomes for the Northern Territory; and
 3. options and recommendations on how the Northern Territory Government should respond to the identified matters and opportunities.

I understand one such option may be the development of a waste management strategy. If a waste management strategy is recommended, I request that you provide, in conjunction with the advice, a draft strategy which clearly articulates the strategy's purpose, intended outcomes and a rationale for those outcomes.

I understand section 8 of the NT EPA Act requires the NT EPA, in performing its functions, to encourage community involvement and engagement. In preparing the above advice, I request the NT EPA, in addition to general community and government consultation it may undertake, specifically consult with LGANT and municipal and shire representatives from the Top End, Katherine/Daly and Barkly/Central regions of the Northern Territory and the Departments of Health and Lands, Planning and the Environment. I understand the NT EPA has the power under section 11 of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* to establish such committees as it thinks fit to provide information or conduct research or for another purpose. I encourage you to consider establishing one or more such committees to facilitate consultation on waste management in the Northern Territory and the development of any waste management strategy.

I request preliminary advice on the issues regarding waste management in the Northern Territory be provided to me by 30 June 2014, and final advice including any proposed waste management strategy be provided to me by 31 December 2014.

Yours sincerely



PETER CHANDLER

23 JUL 2013