

## NT GREENHOUSE POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Northern Territory Government recognises that addressing climate change issues is both complex and challenging. Abating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to impacts of climate change requires a timely response to uncertain risks. The Northern Territory Government policies in relation to the greenhouse effect will be guided by scientific consensus and take into account current and future environmental, social and economic needs.

This policy framework provides guidance for the development of comprehensive, practical and achievable greenhouse initiatives for the Northern Territory.

### Goals

- To manage the risks and maximise the opportunities for the Territory in dealing with issues associated with climate change.
- To develop and implement practical and cost effective ways to limit the impacts of enhanced global warming resulting from human induced greenhouse gas emissions.
- To respond to greenhouse emissions and climate change issues in an holistic manner, taking into account environmental, social and economic considerations.

### Principles

The Territory's greenhouse strategies will be guided by the following principles:

**Promoting awareness:** All sections of the community have a role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The NT Government's initiatives will focus on improving Territorians knowledge of the causes and effects of climate change and providing information on how the community can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Early action:** Greater understanding of, and adaptation to, climate change now will lessen future social and economic impacts of climate change. Consideration will be given to the development of short, medium and long-term strategies to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Action (or 'adaptation') in response to, or anticipation of, climate change also needs to be considered to reduce or avoid adverse consequences.

**Focus on Sustainable Development:** Greenhouse initiatives will promote sustainable development across all sectors. Government, industry and the community all have a role to play in ensuring that resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised. In developing greenhouse related policy, the Government will be guided by accepted sustainable development principles.

**A comprehensive and integrated approach:** Greenhouse strategies will be comprehensive taking into account the environmental, social and economic needs of the Territory. Greenhouse objectives will be integrated into Government policies, which may influence or be affected by climate change. Decision making related to planning and development will consider greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change.

**Shared responsibility:** Government, industry and the community all share responsibility for human induced greenhouse gas emissions. The NT Government will provide leadership, and encourage partnerships with industry and the community in the development and implementation of practical and achievable greenhouse actions. An open consultative approach will be adopted to explore ways to best facilitate greenhouse action.

**Flexibility:** The greenhouse strategies adopted by the NT Government will need to be flexible to allow for increasing knowledge in climate change science, advances in technology and development of national and international climate change policy.

## **THE WAY FORWARD - IMPLEMENTATION:**

Building on the 1993 NT Greenhouse Strategy and the 2000 NT National Greenhouse Strategy Implementation Plan, an NT Strategy for Greenhouse Action will be developed. The development of the Strategy will be consistent with the goals and principles of this Policy Framework and will provide for a Territory based response to greenhouse gas emissions and adaptations to climate change. The preparation of an NT Strategy for Greenhouse Action will allow for community involvement in developing greenhouse directions for the Northern Territory. The steps in developing a comprehensive Strategy will include:

1. **Development of a Discussion Paper.** The Discussion Paper will outline issues and options and invite suggestions for actions, which could be incorporated into the draft Strategy.
2. **Engagement of Stakeholders.** Initially, key stakeholders will be invited to comment on the Discussion Paper. The circulation of the Discussion Paper will be supported by a series of meetings with key stakeholder representatives from industry, environment and relevant community groups. Following consultation with, and input from, key stakeholders the Discussion Paper will be amended where required and released to the wider community for public comment.
3. **Development of an NT Strategy for Greenhouse Action.** Drafting of the Discussion Paper and the consultation process will facilitate the development of a draft Strategy for Government consideration. Following Government endorsement of the NT Strategy for Greenhouse Action, the Strategy will be widely promoted to key stakeholders and throughout the community.