



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON DRAFT STORMWATER STRATEGY

Guidelines for the management of stormwater in the Darwin Harbour will be developed following the release of the NT Government's Draft Stormwater Strategy today.

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour said the Strategy aims to improve the management and conservation of our waterways - from creeks, rivers and harbour to the wetlands and the sea.

"The Darwin Harbour catchment has become an essential feature of the unique lifestyle and character of the Top End," Ms Scrymgour said.

"It supports the largest concentration of the Territory's population and holds significant social, economic, environmental and cultural importance within the community.

"However poor management of stormwater can lead to natural ecosystems being degraded and can allow stormwater to become a conduit for the transport of sediments, pollutants and nutrients to our waterways.

"Improved management of the flow is integral to maintain the ecological balance of the Darwin Harbour Catchment."

Ms Scrymgour said the Draft Stormwater Management Strategy outlines:

- Impacts of development
- Ownership and responsibility of stormwater management
- key management objectives
- actions for the implementation of the strategy.

"The Strategy will provide the overarching guidelines for the management of stormwater in the Darwin Harbour Catchment, taking into account the vision and goals of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management.

"Through this strategy Stormwater Management Plans for individual sub-catchments and regions of the harbour will be developed. These are essential tools for the management of stormwater and their implementation will assist the future development of the harbour region in an environmentally sustainable way.

"This is the first time in the Territory that stormwater issues will be tackled in a coordinated manner across agencies and with local government."

Comments on the Stormwater Strategy are due May 11. The Strategy is available by going to www.stormwater.nt.gov.au, contacting the EPA on 8924 4218.

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