



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NT Researchers to Adopt National Guidelines**

A seminar to encourage Plant Ecologists to adopt national standards for vegetation survey and mapping will be held at MAGNT on Friday, 9 March.

NRETA senior vegetation resource scientist Donna Lewis said the aim of the seminar is to inform researchers of standards to collect, classify and describe vegetation along with current and future national initiatives for vegetation information.

“We will also launch the NT Guidelines and Field Methodology Manual for Vegetation Survey Mapping,” Ms Lewis said.

“By standardising the way all NT organisations collect vegetation data effectively ensures NT information is comparable across borders.

“Adopting a uniform classification system for describing vegetation is a great opportunity for all organisations to collaborate and share knowledge and resources, locally and interstate.”

Ms Lewis said providing awareness and information on current and future national initiatives is vital to assist improving planning and development practises.

“Defining vegetation types will allow us to create a benchmark to assess the condition of vegetation,” Ms Lewis said.

“The structure of vegetation in an area can then help indicate the condition of the landscape and assist with land use decisions.

“It will also help us define areas of vegetation that should be protected or retained, such as riparian zones that act as buffers and prevent land degradation such as soil erosion.”

Ms Lewis said people attending the seminar will receive a free Interactive CD containing the NT Guidelines and Field Methodology for Vegetation Survey and Mapping and other State and Commonwealth related documents and web links.

“The CD will enable researchers to access information on how to classify and describe vegetation to a national standard,” she said.

“Guest speaker Mr Richard Thackway from the Australian Government Bureau of Rural Science will talk about the history of the National Vegetation Information System Framework, national vegetation information and national initiatives including assessing vegetation condition.”

The seminar ‘The Evolution of Vegetation Survey and Mapping in the NT’ will run from 9am - 12pm on Friday, March 9 at the Museum and Art Gallery Theatre. NT Guidelines and Field Methodology for Vegetation Survey and Mapping will be available from Monday, 12 March on the NRETA website. <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/>

Ends

**Media Note \_ For more information contact Donna Lewis on 8999 3690.**

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