



MEDIA RELEASE

Climate Change Information Session in Alice Springs

One of the world's hot topics is set to be discussed at an information session in Alice Springs tomorrow night.

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology is urging Alice Springs residents to attend the session at the Alice Springs Desert Park exhibition theatre from 6pm to 7pm.

Environment and Heritage executive director Lyn Allen said the session would discuss how the Territory may be affected with regards to:

- Water supply;
- Floods;
- Storm surge;
- Temperatures;
- Health;
- Sea level;
- Habitat for plants and animals;
- Drought frequency;
- Severity of tropical cyclones; and
- How we can adapt to climate change.

"It is increasingly clear the global climate is changing and that human activities are the major cause," Ms Allen said.

"With climate change, central Australia is likely to become warmer with more hot days and fewer cold nights.

"The average yearly number of hot days over 35 degrees Celsius could increase by between 10 and 40 by the year 2030, compared to 1990.

"Little change in annual rainfall is projected but higher evaporation rates would lead to drier conditions overall.

"There is likely to be less run off into rivers and droughts are likely to become more frequent and more severe.

"Increased energy and water demand are likely as a result of these climatic changes and there are also implications for the natural environment, public health and tourism."

Ms Allen said activities such as burning fossil fuels, land clearing and savanna burning release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and these gases are strengthening the way the atmosphere acts like a blanket for the earth.

"By reducing emissions of greenhouse gases we can minimise future climate change but some effects on our climate are now inevitable due to the greenhouse gases already released," Ms Allen said.

“Significant changes have been observed in the Territory’s climate in the past 50 years and more change is projected to come.

“Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to changing conditions are complementary approaches to dealing with climate change, and we need to do both.

“I urge Alice Springs residents to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about climate change and come to tomorrow night’s information session.”

Go to www.nt.gov.au/environment or phone 8924 4139 for further information.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Lyn Allen on 8924 4135

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