

Media Release:

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Investigation Outcome for Darwin Port Corporation

A court decision was reached today regarding the stormwater pollution incident at the Darwin Port Corporation.

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) Chief Executive, Jim Grant said this is the first successful prosecution under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* in 13 years.

“Following a 16 month investigation into a stormwater pollution incident at the Darwin Port Corporation, I’m very pleased with the court’s finding today,” Mr Grant said.

“The conviction of the Darwin Port Corporation for causing an environmental nuisance is the first time under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* a prosecution has been successful.

“This conviction sends a very clear message to the community that the Territory Government will not tolerate offences against the environment.

“We are pleased with the court’s penalties of \$19,000 for an offence of this nature, and the payment of our legal costs for this investigation of \$50,000.

“Throughout this process much has been learnt and we will continue to strengthen the provisions of the Act to enhance the ability to investigate and prosecute under the Act.

“At this point, we feel the Darwin Port Corporation has significantly improved its systems and infrastructure but will be kept under close scrutiny.”

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact James Pratt, NRETAS Director
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