

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Copy No.....**1**..

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**CABINET DECISION**

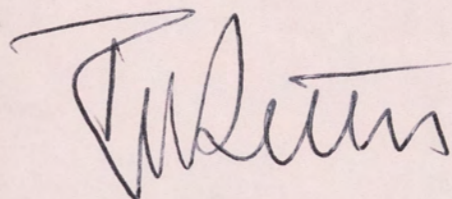
**No. 7170**

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Submission No: 6097

Title: **NT DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN**

Cabinet endorsed the NT Decade of Landcare Plan prior to its release to the public.



**R.A.SETTER**  
Secretary to Cabinet

28 January 1992

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## THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Copy No: ..... 1 .....

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: ..... 6097 .....

Title:	DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN
Minister	THE HON M A REED, MLA, MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
Purpose:	TO SEEK ENDORSEMENT OF THE NT DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN PRIOR TO ITS RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC.
Relation to existing policy:	CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING POLICY. THE PLAN WILL BRING ABOUT THE INTEGRATION OF RESOURCES FROM GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SECTORS FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF LAND DEGRADATION AND WILL ASSIST IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE LAND USE BY THE YEAR 2000.
Timing/ legislative priority:	EARLY 1992 IS BEING CONSIDERED AS THE RELEASE DATE FOR A NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF THE DECADE OF LANDCARE. STATE AND TERRITORY RELEASES OF RESPECTIVE PLANS ARE TO COINCIDE WITH THAT DATE.
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc:	AT MINISTER'S DISCRETION.
Action required before announcement:	NIL
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:	NO CHANGE IN STAFF NUMBERS. WILL LEAD TO MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF STAFF AND RESOURCES ACROSS DEPARTMENTS WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. REFLECTS EXISTING PROGRAMMES.
Total cost:	PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED WITHIN COMMISSION BUDGET. ESTIMATED COST \$5,000. COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING PLAN WITHIN ONGOING DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS AND PROGRAMMES.

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~~Department~~/Authority... Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory.....

**COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.**

**TITLE:** ..... Decade of Landcare Plan.....

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**COMMENTS:**

The Following Departments / Authorities support this Submission:-

Department of Law  
 Department of the Chief Minister  
 Northern Territory Treasury  
 Department of Education  
 Power and Water Authority  
 Department of Mines and Energy - with the additional comment  
 that the Plan is silent on the approach required in dealing  
 with non-renewable economic natural resources.

Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries - with the following  
 additional comments:

- (a) within the context of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Australian Agricultural Council report on Sustainable Agriculture, DPIF recognises landcare as an integral part of sustainable agriculture.
- (b) The concept of whole property management is welcome because it emphasises that this is a process rather than a whole farm plan which may be static.
- (c) the processes of research, development and extension are inextricably linked but this interaction is not reflected in the plan by the division into sections on agricultural lands (Section 2, page 6) and research and development (Section 8, page 11).

SIGNED:

DESIGNATION:

DATE:

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Department/Authority: LAW

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION NO.

TITLE: DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN

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COMMENTS:

There appear to be no constitutional or legal barriers to the proposal.

LEGAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Submission does not appear to raise any additional legal implications at this point in time. The Department may however be involved in the review of legislation which is proposed by the Plan.

OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Submission does not appear to raise any additional resource implications for the Office of Consumer Affairs at this point in time.

*Meredith Harrison*

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SIGNED: *MH* Meredith Harrison  
DESIGNATION: A/Secretary, Department of Law  
DATE: 6 December 1991

*12/6/91*

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Department/Authority: DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

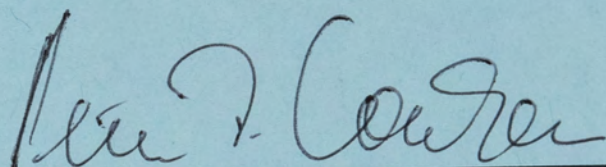
COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: NT DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN

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COMMENTS:

The recommendation is supported.



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SIGNED: PETER CONRAN

DESIGNATION: SECRETARY

DATE: 9.12.91

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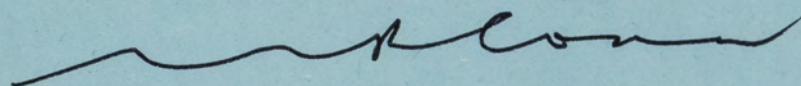
Department/Authority..... **NORTHERN TERRITORY TREASURY**

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: ..... **NT DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN**.....

**COMMENTS:**

The Submission has no significant budgetary or financial implications.



SIGNED: **N R CONN**  
DESIGNATION: **UNDER TREASURER**

DATE: **5 DECEMBER 199** **CONFIDENTIAL**

Department/Authority ..... MINES AND ENERGY .....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: ..... DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN .....

COMMENTS:

The submission is supported.

The Plan, as now presented, is however silent on the approach that will be required in dealing with non-renewable economic natural resources such as mineral deposits.

SIGNED:

*J. H. Mitchell*

DESIGNATION:

Secretary, Department of Mines and Energy

DATE:

10 December 1991

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Department/~~Authority~~..... LANDS AND HOUSING.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: ..... NT..DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN.....

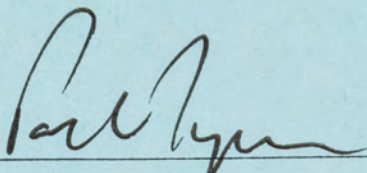
COMMENTS:

The submission requires amendment to reflect a major initiative which the Government has already introduced in the "Decade of Land Care". That is, the introduction of the Pastoral Land Bill.

The concept of that Bill is to change the emphasis of pastoral land administration from full development to caring for the land to ensure sustained productivity. This initiative has been omitted from the submission, the draft Landcare Plan and the proposed Discussion Paper.

The Landcare Plan should include targets relating to the enactment of this Bill.

It is also noted that the Landcare Plan includes the development of Geographic Information Systems to assist Land Resource Assessment and Monitoring. These form a sub-set of the Northern Territory Land Information System and should be developed within the oversight of the Land Information System Executive to ensure that appropriate standards and technologies are used.



SIGNED: Paul Tyrrell

DESIGNATION: Secretary

DATE: 10/12/91

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Department/Authority: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION NO:

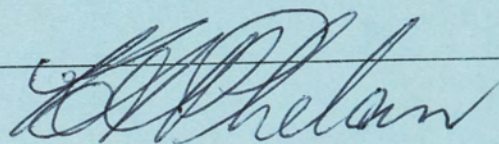
TITLE: NT DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN

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The Department of Education supports the Submission.

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SIGNED:



DESIGNATION: ACTING SECRETARY

DATE: 09/12/91

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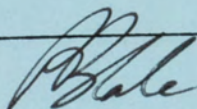
**CONFIDENTIAL**Department/~~Authority~~..... PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES.....**COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.****TITLE:** ..... NT DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN.....**COMMENTS:**

Release of the NT Decade of Landcare Plan is supported. The following comments can be made about the content of the plan and the processes that it represents.

1. The Northern Territory Government, through the Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, has accepted the SCA/AAC report on Sustainable Agriculture and it is committed to implementing the recommendations of that report. Within this context DPIF recognises Landcare as an integral part of sustainable agriculture.
2. The concept of whole property management is welcome because it emphasises that this is a process rather than a whole farm plan which may be static.
3. The processes of research, development and extension are inextricably linked but this interaction is not reflected in the plan by the division into sections on agricultural lands (Section 2, page 6) and research and development (Section 8, page 11).

**SIGNED:**

P G BLAKE

**DESIGNATION:**

SECRETARY

**DATE:**

9.12.91

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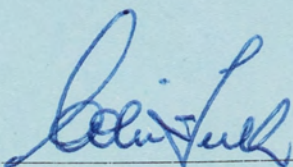
Department/Authority..... POWER AND WATER.....

**COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.**

**TITLE:** ..... NT DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN.....

**COMMENTS:**

The Submission is supported.



SIGNED: C J FULLER

DESIGNATION: CHAIRMAN

DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 1991

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RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the NT Decade of Landcare Plan prior to its release to the public.

BACKGROUND

2. The Australian Soil Conservation Council declared 1990-2000 to be the Decade of Landcare. Council agreed that a plan of action was needed. A process was established to develop a plan for the Northern Territory to determine the best way to avoid and control land degradation through the integration of Government and community activities. Plans are also being prepared by each State and the ACT, with the Commonwealth preparing a national overview in consultation with all States and Territories.
3. The Plan will also allow progress to be assessed during the Decade.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

4. The Australian Soil Conservation Council has agreed to launching a National Overview of the Decade of Landcare on 19 December coinciding with launches of respective State and Territory Plans.
5. Landcare NT, with the support of the Conservation Commission has been responsible for developing the Plan. Industry, Government and community conservation groups have contributed to the Plan laying the foundation for ongoing cooperation in dealing with land degradation issues.

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6. The Plan provides a framework within which increasing levels of detail can be developed. Major reviews of elements of the Plan are required in 1993 and 1996 to ensure that the right direction is maintained.
7. The Plan will also provide the basis for allocating National Soil Conservation Programme funds from the Commonwealth to the Territory in a lump sum which will then be distributed to specific projects in accordance with the priorities determined by the Plan.

OPTIONS

There are two options for Cabinet consideration:

- 8.(a) Option 1: to agree to launch plan.

Option 1 is preferred as it is in accordance with the Soil Conservation Council resolution.

The plan consolidates the range of activities currently being undertaken within Government and across the broader community. It provides a sharper focus in the priority issues and should bring about an increase in the effectiveness of land degradation control.

- (b) Option 2: Not agree to launch plan.

This option is not recommended as further delays in the process of developing the plan will increasingly reduce its effectiveness.

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PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDATION

9. Public impact is likely to be highly favourable. The Plan will be introduced at a time of intense public interest in and sympathies towards landcare issues. The Plan will be seen as a means of co-ordinating activities by the community to provide a concerted attack on landcare problems.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. Implementation of the Plan will be at no additional cost and will be progressed through on-going programmes of the Departments and Authorities concerned. Increased cost effectiveness is likely through the coordination of resources dealing with land degradation across Departments and from increasing the effective utilisation of non-Government community resources.
11. The printing and distribution costs of the plan are estimated to be in the order of \$5000 and have been allowed for within the Conservation Commission budget.

REGULATORY IMPACT

12. N/A

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

13. N/A

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COMMONWEALTH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

14. The Commonwealth, States and the ACT are preparing complementary plans. Local Government should welcome coordinated action by government, industry and landcare groups on landcare issues.

COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

15. Previous drafts of the plan have been made available for public comment. Landcare NT which includes representatives of the Departments of Primary Industry and Fisheries, Mines and Energy, Lands and Housing, Education, the NT Land Board, NT Cattlemen's Association, Grain Growers Association, NT Chamber of Mines and Petroleum Inc., Greening Australia, Keep Australia Beautiful Inc, Environment Centre and all landcare groups directed preparation of the plan.

The Submission has been circulated to the Departments of Law, Chief Minister, Lands and Housing, Primary Industry and Fisheries, Mines and Energy, Education, the NT Treasury and the Power and Water Authority.

LEGISLATION

16. The plan sets out a schedule for review of legislation relevant to land management, in accordance with a realistic timetable and normal review procedures. Relevant Sections of the Soil Conservation Land Utilisation Act may be reviewed.

PUBLICITY

17. The Minister for Conservation will launch the Plan. Landcare NT will provide support publicity associated with the launching and distribution of the Plan.

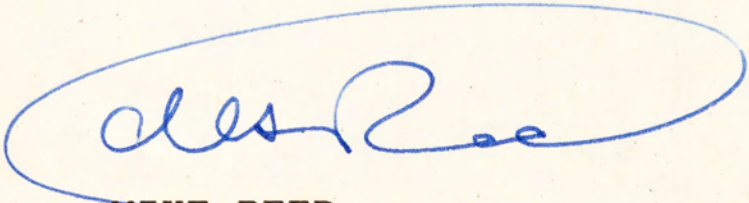
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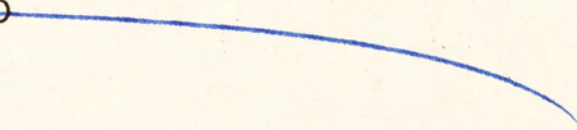
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TIMING

18. The Australian Soil Conservation Council has agreed to the launch of a National Overview of the Decade of Landcare on 19 December 1991, to coincide with the completion and launch of individual State and Territory Plans.



MIKE REED



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# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

December 1991



Photograph of tropical scrub

Photograph of concentric ploughing

Photograph of water scene

Photograph of suburbia

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## FOREWORD

*In 1990, the Australian nation declared the next 10 years to be the Decade of Landcare. In the Northern Territory, as much as anywhere else, the clear goal is to bring about sustainable land use so that the quality of our land is maintained and, where possible, enhanced.*

*There are almost as many perceptions of how care of the land can be achieved as there are proponents for the conservation of the land's resources. The Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan provides the Territory, for the first time, with a coordinated approach to bring about conservation and protection of the land resource upon which the entire NT community is so vitally dependent.*

*Currently there are nine landcare groups in the Northern Territory. These groups are pioneering a new path to achieve conservation of land and are leading the way towards bringing together all the resources needed to protect their land. They are proving that concerted action and integration of all the resources needed is far more effective than individuals operating alone to combat land degradation.*

*In the Territory we have a unique opportunity to develop our land resources whilst at the same time achieving conservation. As vast areas of the NT are relatively intact, it is possible to heed the lessons from the more intensively settled areas of the Australian continent and avoid many of the forms of land degradation that have become prominent features of their landscapes.*

*The NT Decade of Landcare Plan provides a framework in which we can direct our efforts towards a common vision - the achievement of sustainable land use. I urge all interested groups and individuals to actively support its concepts.*

MIKE REED

Minister for Conservation.

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## LANDCARE

Landcare is the name given to community activities which seek to maintain and improve the quality of our land and water resources. It involves the integration of land and water conservation with various forms of land use. The overall objective of Landcare is to achieve the adoption of sustainable land use systems.

Land includes the soil, water, vegetation, fauna and other natural resources of the environment.

For areas in which land is used for productive purposes, landcare works towards sustainable land management. This is the method of using land for a productive purpose, such that the quality of the natural resource base is maintained or enhanced. Continued use of land for productive purposes also requires that the productive activity is profitable.

The quality of land and water resources is measured by the stability of soil, the stability of the hydrological cycle, maintenance of nutrients, the diversity of species, the in-built resistance to pests and weeds, the efficiency of energy use, resilience to stress and change, and lack of build-up of toxic substances.

As the quality of land increases, so does the range of options for its current and future use. Sustainable land management maintains or increases the long-term value of the land.

Land degradation is a set of processes that reduces the quality of land, and consequently the long-term productivity of land.

Thus landcare promotes sustainable land use and improved long-term productivity through the control and prevention of land degradation.

## THE NEED FOR A PLAN

1990-99 has been declared the DECADE OF LANDCARE. Activities during the decade will focus on the development of land and water management practices and systems that can be adopted by all landholders and land managers. In this way, landusers in the Territory can prevent land degradation from occurring and, where necessary, can reverse and repair land degradation and work towards achieving sustainable land use.

Recognition must be given to the individual landholders whose considerable efforts and initiative over the years have resulted in the evolution of relatively stable land management practices in a number of land resource-based industries.

The origins of the Landcare ethic can be traced back to these people.

Today, Landcare in the Northern Territory aims to build substantially on this ethic and bring about the rapid acceleration of its adoption by all walks of Territory life.

At the same time, there is some evidence of accelerated land degradation. If the decade plan is to be successful, it must facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience from innovative land users and from research on land resources and their utilisation to those who have yet to appreciate fully the value of conservative land use. The processes of research, development and extension are inextricably linked.

Land use and land and water management are changing as the risks to ecological sustainability are recognised. However, unless change can be hastened, much more land and water may become seriously degraded, resulting in enormous costs to the people in the affected regions as well as to Australia as a whole.

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

The Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan provides a framework for community participation and the allocation of Government resources. It builds upon the many significant advances in land management and community awareness developed by concerned people, working individually and together, from the time land degradation was first recognised as an issue in the Territory.

The plan looks at future needs and priorities, sets five and ten year targets and proposes future actions and programs.

The plan has been developed recognizing limitations in the scope of existing information. Gaps in information will be addressed as part of its implementation.

Landcare NT will be coordinating the preparation of subsequent, more detailed elements of the NT Decade of Landcare Plan.

## THE NATIONAL DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN

In the national context, current land use must not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainable land use can only be achieved through a continuing partnership of individuals and communities, regions and Territory and Federal Government. Establishing such partnerships is becoming more urgent if land use change is to occur quickly enough to preserve the full, sustainable potential of the country's land and water resources and rural communities.

At the fifth Australian Soil Conservation Council in 1990, Government Ministers of all States and the Commonwealth agreed to the preparation of a **NATIONAL DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN**. Each State is producing its own plan under common guidelines and these, in combination with the Commonwealth component, will constitute the national plan.

## NATIONAL DECADE OF LANDCARE PLAN



*The NT Plan, with those of the other States and the Commonwealth, together make up Australia's National Decade of Landcare Plan.*

The Decade of Landcare Plan provides a means by which the partnership can be further developed through agreed goals, joint objectives, a coordinated and cooperative approach and effective use of resources.

## Scope of the Plan

Land degradation issues neither end at a property boundary nor distinguish between private and public land. The plan therefore includes aspects of the management of reserves and pest plant and animal control where they impinge upon land degradation, sustainable land use and productive capacity. The primary thrust of the plan is to conserve the productive land resources of the Northern Territory. It will complement the NT Conservation Strategy, "Territory in Trust", which aims to establish a framework to achieve balance between conservation and development. The plan also includes vegetation management where this is related to land degradation and sustainable land use.

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## HOW THE PLAN HAS BEEN DEVELOPED

The actions which are identified in the plan have been developed from material which was brought together by Landcare NT.

The background material is available in the "Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan - Background Information" available on request from the:

Landcare Coordinator  
Conservation Commission of the NT  
PO Box 496  
PALMERSTON NT 0831  
Ph: (089) 89 4456  
Fax: (089) 89 4403

## PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

### Principles for Landcare

The Commonwealth Government is developing a strategy for ecologically sustainable development for the major land uses in Australia. A number of these (agriculture, forestry, mining, tourism, transport and energy use) will relate to the decade plan through their interaction with sustainable land use.

For this purpose, five general principles have been defined for ecologically sustainable development:

- \* integrate economic and environmental goals in policies and activities;
- \* ensure that environmental assets are appropriately valued;
- \* provide for equity within and between generations;
- \* deal cautiously with risk irreversibility; and
- \* recognise the global dimension of all action.

These principles are applicable in assessing Landcare activities in the Territory.

### Goals

The national goal for the Decade of Landcare is sustainable land-use throughout Australia. Sustainable land-use can be defined as the use and management of the land resource in a manner that does not degrade it or any associated ecosystem so that future use is maintained or enhanced.

This overall goal needs to be translated into action so that a demonstrable change in community attitude and land management practices can be achieved. The decade plan provides the strategic framework that links community and government planning and activity for sustainable land-use throughout the decade. In order to achieve this goal, implementation of the plan must:

1. provide information on land degradation to enable the community to understand the issues, to direct research and development and to monitor progress;
2. enable all individuals to understand the principles of sustainable land-use and management;
3. facilitate the adoption of sustainable land-use principles by all land users in their management decisions; and
4. protect land from degradation and rehabilitate areas where necessary, to bring about sustainable use.

The primary focus of the Plan is on maintaining the quality of land resources, protecting and enhancing the land's productive potential and preventing land degradation. It also takes into account related aspects of water, flora and fauna management and other factors that are indicators of non-sustainable land-use and management.

Due to the range and varying significance of particular land degradation problems across the nation, the plan aims to set out generally applicable strategies with an emphasis on broad programs. Wherever possible and appropriate, it refers to other existing or developing strategies that relate

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

to sustainable land-use and management. The plan should enable participants to identify their role and determine how their actions can be related to achieving the overall goal.

The strategic framework of the plan provides an indication of:

- \* overall direction and goals for the year 2000;
- \* mechanisms for community involvement;
- \* government commitment and agency support;
- \* the role and involvement of landcare groups;
- \* opportunities for individual action;
- \* the process for monitoring and review; and
- \* the need for regular evaluation of outcomes and modification of the plan if necessary.

## Objectives

1. The plan will enable all land managers to adopt sustainable land-use principles in their land management decisions by the year 2000 by:
  - i) encouraging the formation and operation of landcare groups to determine local land management needs and appropriate sustainable practices;
  - ii) providing relevant information to land managers in a useable format;
  - iii) ensuring that government policies, programs and institutional arrangements encourage and facilitate sustainable land-use and management and involve community input;
  - iv) undertaking research (private and government) on the development

of sustainable land management practices;

- v) ensuring appropriate land-use through land capability planning;
- vi) establishing mechanisms to internalise the cost of land degradation control to the respective land user or beneficiaries of land-use; and
- vii) establishing mechanisms to provide for community contribution to the cost of the implementation of sustainable land-use by individuals where the benefit is to the community and not the individual land user.

2. The plan will provide all sectors of the community with an opportunity to understand the principles for sustainable land-use and management by the year 2000 by:

- i) further developing and refining the principles by 1992;
- ii) including sustainable land-use as a topic in primary and secondary schools by 1995;
- iii) having all appropriate tertiary courses teaching sustainable land-use by 1995;
- iv) encouraging community and adult education courses in sustainable land-use;
- v) publishing updated information for use in the above training;
- vi) developing and operating public awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of sustainable land-use;

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

- vii) providing the community with information to allow members to make informed judgements and to participate from the basis of knowledge in ongoing discussions on the issue of sustainable land-use and the development of a landcare ethic;
  - viii) ensuring that government policy is consistent with the principles of sustainable land-use and management; and
  - ix) providing appropriate technical support to all landcare and other community groups involved in the development and adoption of sustainable land-use practices.
3. The plan will assess the land resources of the NT and also the extent and magnitude of land degradation in 1996 and 2000 to:
- i) assist the community to understand the relevance of the information as it relates to sustainable land-use and management of our natural resources;
  - ii) ensure that research and development addresses identified needs; and
  - iii) develop more appropriate and efficient procedures to determine land capability and monitor land degradation.



# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

These actions represent priority needs for each area of interest concerned with landcare. The plan brings together a comprehensive range of needs to move towards sustainable land use.

From this point on, the task at hand is to provide additional consideration of each action, primarily under the leadership of the responsible action group.

At the same time, coordination across the range of actions is essential. Landcare NT is the one organisation with representation across all sectors and is ideally placed to provide the coordinating role. *Landcare NT should provide the lead role to further develop elements of the action plan, ensure coordination, review progress and identify where changes in direction may be needed.*

## 1. LANDCARE GROUP DEVELOPMENT

### ACTION

### RESPONSIBILITY

#### INTERMEDIATE

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ¥ To meet the priority needs of groups for technical support                                      | Landcare NT, CCNT<br>DPIF, DLH, NSCP |
| ¥ To coordinate the variety of group funding programs.  | Landcare NT                          |
| ¥ To have Geographic Information System facilities accessible by landholders in regional centres. | CCNT, Landcare NT                    |
| ¥ To establish an effective rural/urban network of groups.  | Landcare NT                          |

#### LONG TERM

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ¥ To have all rural land in the NT covered by land management plans which have been developed by and are owned by land users. | Landcare NT,<br>NT Government |
|---|-------------------------------|

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## 2. AGRICULTURAL LANDS

### ACTION

### RESPONSIBILITY

#### Extension

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¥ Maximum integration of regular extension or advisory services into multidisciplinary service groups for whole-property land use management.</li> <li>¥ Land degradation controls consistent with enhancing short and long-term economic viability.</li> <li>¥ Training and professional advice available to all landcare groups.</li> <li>¥ A uniform and consistent policy approach adopted by Government including industry advisory bodies.</li> </ul> | <p>DPIF, DLH, Landcare NT<br/>CCNT</p> <p>CCNT, DLH</p> <p>CCNT, DPIF</p> <p>DPIF, DLH, CCNT</p> |
|--|--|

#### Demonstration Sites

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¥ A network of carefully selected and well monitored demonstration sites on research stations and commercial properties.</li> </ul> | <p>DPIF, CCNT</p> |
|--|-------------------|

#### Guidelines for Land Managers

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¥ Whole property management guidelines developed property by property using (and developing) decision support systems.</li> <li>¥ Develop district specific guidelines jointly between land managers, DPIF and CCNT.</li> </ul> | <p>CCNT, DPIF, Landcare NT</p> <p>CCNT, DPIF, Landcare NT</p> |
|--|---|

#### Financial Assistance Measures

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¥ Financial assistance measures for extensive reclamation/remedial treatment to recognise and be developed around broader property management requirements.</li> </ul> | <p>CCNT, DPIF, Landcare NT</p> |
|---|--------------------------------|

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## 3. NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDS

### ABORIGINAL LANDS

#### RESPONSIBILITY

Respective Land Councils will have responsibility for determining priorities.

#### ACTIONS

- ¥ Develop a more comprehensive data base on the extent of degradation on Aboriginal land.
- ¥ Develop a better understanding of the social, cultural, nutritional and economic value of subsistence land-uses.
- ¥ Develop a better understanding of the extent to which Aboriginal people understand the causes and effects of land degradation and their aspirations in terms of dealing with land degradation.
- ¥ Locate, interpret and record perceptions of land management and seek to integrate these with scientific perceptions.
- ¥ Develop methods of integrating the scientific approach to ecologically-sustainable development with Aboriginal concepts of land-use and development.
- ¥ Provide land resource inventories of Aboriginal land following detailed consultations and provide interpretations to meet the needs of local communities.
- ¥ Promote a more flexible approach by mainstream funding bodies to assist Aboriginal groups in accessing funding programs to recognise their different needs; in particular, their relative inability to provide the normally-accepted contribution percentages and capital item requirements and to demonstrate economic viability.
- ¥ To develop a more comprehensive method of promoting mainstream funding programs such that Aboriginal groups and communities are better able to access such programs on their merit.
- ¥ Encourage the re-establishment of vegetation in and around communities and outstations for dust and water erosion control, shade and food crops.
- ¥ Develop skills for silviculture in communities, with a view to establishing commercial enterprises.
- ¥ Ensure that the providers of extension services offer to Aboriginal landholders assistance with assessment and monitoring of land conditions, and advice and project demonstrations according to the needs of the land and landholders, and ensure that extension services liaise with Land Councils and Resource Agencies servicing Aboriginal land.
- ¥ That Territory agencies consider the outposting of extension staff to Aboriginal organisations.

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## URBAN, INDUSTRIAL, MINING, MAJOR CONSTRUCTION SITES

### ACTIONS

- ¥ Prepare guidelines for control of erosion and sediment on land disturbance sites in consultation with industry.
- ¥ Educate management and site operators to incorporate the guidelines into all developments.

### RESPONSIBILITY

CCNT, DT&W, DLH, DME  
Local Government

CCNT

## 4. PARKS AND CONSERVATION RESERVES

### ACTIONS

#### Land Assessment and Planning

- ¥ Land assessment information to be systematically mapped to provide timely input into area management plans.
- ¥ Land assessment information to provide the basis for planning and to identify the physical constraints on particular activities or forms of land-use.

### RESPONSIBILITY

CCNT

CCNT

#### Implementation Activities

- ¥ Training packages on land conservation incorporated into training schemes for parks and reserves managers.
- ¥ Volunteer groups encouraged to play a valuable role in undertaking works in parks and conservation reserves.
- ¥ Management of public land and adjoining private lands will be coordinated to maximise effectiveness.

CCNT

CCNT  
Conservation Groups

CCNT  
Landcare NT

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

- ¥ Annual reporting will be provided on a regional basis to document the following performance indicators.

CCNT

- \* area of land assessment maps completed;
- \* length of water frontage assessed and planned;
- \* area of land for which management plans have been prepared;

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

- \* area where recommended practices have been implemented; and
- \* length of access tracks and roads constructed to soil protection specifications.

## 5. SCHEDULE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

### ACTIONS

### RESPONSIBILITY

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¥ Review all legislation pertaining to land use and management in the Northern Territory with a view to the close aligning or amalgamation of appropriate Acts and administering bodies.</li> </ul>  | <p>Relevant Government departments.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¥ Enactment and implementation of the Pastoral Land Act, 1992</li> </ul>   | <p>DLH</p>                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¥ Review in 1992 the Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1978, for its effectiveness and make changes as required. This will follow implementation of the Pastoral Lands Act which is based upon landcare principles and should ensure that these pieces of legislation are effectively coordinated.</li> </ul> | <p>CCNT</p>                             |

### FUTURE ACTION

Each of the Acts with a primary function of the management of a component of the natural environment should establish a council, commission or board with the major role of ensuring the most appropriate management of the resource. These boards should review regularly their operation. All subordinate legislation should be reviewed in the Northern Territory every 10 years and appropriate action taken to re-establish it.

Relevant Government departments

## 6. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

### ACTIONS

### RESPONSIBILITY

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¥ The majority of Territorians aware of Landcare initiatives, the need for personal and community action, and the opportunity for action.</li> </ul> | <p>Landcare NT<br/>Community based<br/>conservation groups.</p> |
|---|---|

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| ¥ Contemporary landcare issues in curricula of primary and secondary schools.  | Landcare NT<br>D of E |
| ¥ Participation of urban and rural communities in landcare activities.   | Landcare NT           |
| ¥ The majority of Territorians understanding the whole community's reliance in the management of land resources for economic and social well-being.  | Landcare NT           |
| ¥ The majority of Territorians aware of the interrelationship of the components of the land's natural resources, owning the associated problems and aware of the economic advantages of adopting sustainable land management strategies. | Landcare NT           |

## 7. LAND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

### ACTIONS

### RESPONSIBILITY

#### By 1996:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| ¥ Land Resource Surveys of all priority areas.  | CCNT, DLH,<br>Landcare NT |
| ¥ Biogeographic Regions will be identified Territory-wide.  | CCNT                      |
| ¥ Geographic Information Systems to be further developed.   | CCNT, DPIF, CSIRO, DLH    |
| ¥ Remote sensing systems using satellite-borne and conventional imagery will be developed.                      | CCNT, CSIRO               |
| ¥ Establishment of reference areas.   | CCNT, DPIF                |
| ¥ An inventory of vegetative cover will be completed and maintained   | CCNT                      |
| ¥ Integration of results from research into sustainable land management systems with land resource survey data. | DPIF, CCNT<br>Landcare NT |

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## By 2000:

## RESPONSIBILITY

- ¥ Land resource surveys will be completed on all land at appropriate scales to form a computer-based land resource inventory of the Northern Territory. Information will be incorporated into all land-use plans, including whole property plans so that:

  - (i) sustainable land-use is achieved;
  - (ii) sensitive and hazardous lands are protected; and
  - (iii) significant and representative land types have been identified and managed appropriately.
- ¥ Geographic Information Systems to be fully operational and being used for interactive and resource identification, assessment and for determining appropriate forms of land management. Decision support systems will be available for major land-uses and will allow the fine tuning of land management to cope with seasonal conditions and changes in enterprises.
- ¥ Reference site monitoring will continue and results will be incorporated into operational land management of all major land-uses.

CCNT, DPIF  
Landcare NT  
NSCP

CCNT, DPIF  
CSIRO  
Landcare NT  
NSCP

CCNT  
DPIF  
DLH

## 8. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

### ACTIONS

### RESPONSIBILITY

- ¥ Develop sustainable land management systems for all major forms of land-uses in the Northern Territory by the year 2000.
- ¥ Ensure that results from research into land degradation and sustainable land management systems are in such a form that recommendations can be readily implemented by land-users.
- ¥ Accurate targeting of research resource (funds and expertise) to the most pressing needs for attention while at the same time allocating sufficient resources to long-term, process oriented areas of research.
- ¥ Balanced allocation of research effort to develop cost-effective supporting systems and techniques for:

  - \* establishing base levels of geomorphic processes which are related to land degradation;
  - \* further developing computer-based systems for data

CCNT, DPIF  
NSCP

CCNT, DPIF  
Landcare NT

Landcare NT

CCNT, DPIF  
Landcare NT

# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

storage, retrieval and analysis;

- \* predicting land degradation phenomena and identifying causal factors; and
- \* rapid and timely land resource appraisal based upon remote sensing.

¥ The establishment of a Landcare Research Committee to:

Landcare NT

- \* further develop and refine a research strategy;
- \* develop and endorse annual research programs which integrate resources across Government departments and significantly involve non-Government sources;
- \* provide directional guidance to any changes in land protection research needs;
- \* provide representation of all disciplines and areas of expertise which should be involved in landcare-based activities including technical, social and economic considerations.

¥ Evaluate the economic aspects of undertaking landcare practices.

CCNT, DPIF

¥ Determine attitudes towards landcare issues so that programs can be developed to increase the rate of adoption of sustainable land management practices.

Landcare NT  
CCNT



# Northern Territory Decade of Landcare Plan

## Abbreviations used:

CCNT	- Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory
D of E	- Department of Education
DLH	- Department of Lands and Housing
DPIF	- Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
DT&W	- Department of Transport and Works
NSCP	- National Soil Conservation Program
DME	- Department of Mines and Energy

# Here is wisdom.



# Here is why.

*Landcare. It's about being involved, with all the community working together to ensure the future of our land. It's about using the land for farming, for building, for recreation - and managing the land - to save it from degradation, pollution and erosion. Landcare is also a major change in the way we think and act to conserve the natural resources upon which we all depend.*

*The future of the land is in our hands.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LANDCARE CONTACT THE LANDCARE NT CO-ORDINATOR ON (089)894456**

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