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GREENING THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Country Liberals will increase investment in renewable power to 100MW by 2025 and commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60% across the Territory by 2050.

These are the key initiatives in the Country Liberals new policy – *Growth, Sustainability and the Climate Change Challenge*, released today by Opposition Leader Terry Mills and Shadow Environment Minister Peter Chandler.

The policy, which builds on the one launched in the lead-up to last year's Territory election, sets realistic policy goals which the Opposition believes will provide a benchmark for other jurisdictions.

The policy launch is timed to coincide with this week's Copenhagen Climate conference.

Key initiatives include:

- Allocation of \$10million a year to be used for construction of renewable power generation capacity with a target output of 100MW.
- Establishment of a 5 year, \$5million Renewables Fund to promote development of renewable energy sources
- A 25% renewable energy target by 2025
- A 50% emissions reduction in Government leased buildings by 2012
- Attainment of an 8 Star energy rating on all new Territory Government buildings by 2017
- Energy efficiency audit of all public housing by 2015
- A 50% cut in NT Fleet emissions
- Solar capacity at all Territory schools by 2015

- A procurement weighting given to green focussed businesses tendering for Government work

“The Country Liberals are placing a value on the Northern Territory’s environment,” Mr Mills said.

“The budgetary contributions outlined in today’s announcement state very clearly that preserving the Territory’s environment and tackling climate change are very high policy priorities for the Country Liberals.

“The isolation of the Northern Territory’s population centres means the economies of delivering renewable energy outweigh the cost of supplying power from the grid.

“The Country Liberals will do everything possible to replace the use of petroleum based power generation in remote communities with renewables – and will lead from the front by bringing about reductions in Government emissions.

“We believe if the Government provides the lead in climate change reductions then the rest of the community will follow.”

Mr Chandler said the history of the Country Liberals is steeped in providing green alternatives for the Northern Territory.

“Nationally, electricity generation is responsible for 50% of greenhouse gas emissions, in the Territory that figure is closer to 25%,” Mr Chandler said.

“That’s because a previous Country Liberals Government took the tough decision to construct a gas-based power station and built a pipeline up the Territory’s spine between Darwin and Alice Springs.

“It was the Country Liberals that worked hard in the late 1990s to bring low emission LNG to the Territory and sealed the deal that led to construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway that significantly reduced truck traffic on our roads.

“This policy provides a clear way forward to the reduction of greenhouse gases in the Territory.

“I hope the Henderson Government shares our commitment and dedication to fighting climate change.”

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