



## How will the Kyoto Protocol impact on the NT?

The Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee is holding public hearings in Darwin on 19 and 20 August to hear evidence on the Government's implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The hearing will focus on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions issues in the Northern Territory.

'The Northern Territory faces a unique set of challenges in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adjusting to climate change,' Chair of the Committee, Kelvin Thomson MP said. 'The Committee is keen to ensure that the Government takes these unique challenges into account when implementing the Kyoto Protocol and considering the position Australia takes to future international negotiations concerning the period beyond 2012.'

The Committee will be hearing evidence from a number of Territory experts on, amongst other things:

- reducing emissions from savannah burning, which make Northern Territorians the biggest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases in the developed world;
- designing and building urban spaces and houses better suited to the Northern Territory climate to reduce reliance on air conditioning; and
- preparing the Northern Territory for the extremes of climate change, such as hotter, drier dry seasons and wetter, more intense cyclones during the wet.

The Kyoto Protocol aims to address climate change by enforcing binding international greenhouse gas emission targets. The Protocol sets binding emission reduction targets against 1990 levels.

'The Department of Climate Change has stated that Australia is actively engaged in the discussion on future climate change action, including in negotiations for a second commitment period for the Protocol. This hearing will allow Territorians to be at the forefront of contemporary public debate about an issue of enormous significance for the Northern Territory's future,' Mr Thomson said.

Details of the hearings, including those witnesses due to appear before the Committee, are attached.

Further information is available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/jsct](http://www.aph.gov.au/jsct)

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

**Media contact: Mr Kelvin Thomson MP (Chair)    Contact: Mr Anthony Cianflone Ph: (03) 9350 5777**

**Background: Committee Secretary    (02) 6277 4002 or 0413 085 766**

## **DETAILS OF HEARINGS**

Tuesday 19 August 2008  
Darwin  
Room Red 6.1.05  
Charles Darwin University Casuarina Campus

### **URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY (ROUND TABLE)**

- 9.00am
- Darwin City Council
  - Property Council of Australia NT
  - Darwin Chapter, Australian Institute of Architects

### **SAVANNAH BURNING**

11.15am Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre

1.15pm Innovative Financial Management NT

2.15pm CSIRO Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre

### **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES AND COSTS**

3.15pm Northern Division, Engineers Australia

4.00pm Close

Wednesday 20 August 2008  
Darwin  
Room Red 6.1.05  
Charles Darwin University Casuarina Campus

9.00am Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association

10.00am Frans van der Sommen

11.00am Close