



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
11th Assembly
Sessional Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Reference from the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage
(15 September 2008)

The Minister directed the Committee to inquire into and report upon:

1. **The Northern Territory's capacity to progress agricultural production in an environmentally sustainable manner.**
2. In its Inquiry the Committee will:
 - (a) consider the environmental issues, including opportunities and constraints, facing various types of agricultural production in the different geographical and climatic areas of the Northern Territory;
 - (b) examine best practice agricultural production in the Territory and other locations with similar geographical and climatic characteristics to that of the Territory and the ways in which best practice can be supported through appropriate policy, regulation and education;
 - (c) draw upon existing and emerging scientific research from a wide range of sources;
 - (d) consult widely with relevant stakeholder groups;
 - (e) adopt an inquiry methodology that considers long-term, inter-generational impacts of agricultural production on the Territory's environment;
 - (f) include an analysis of carbon reduction schemes and their likely impact on agricultural enterprise in the Northern Territory;
 - (g) examine the current and possible future contribution of agriculture and agricultural-based products to the Northern Territory economy, including the provision of employment and enterprise opportunities to indigenous people living in remote and regional areas;
 - (h) examine implications of progressing agricultural production on other enterprises reliant upon the natural environment; and
 - (i) as a result of the Committee's inquiries and analysis, recommend relevant strategies to progress agricultural production in an environmentally sustainable manner.