

**Petition**

Registration No:	38
Title:	Modernise subdivision process
Presented on:	23 August 2006
Presented by:	Mr Wood
Referred To:	Planning and Lands (Burns)
Response due:	29 November 2006
Response received:	25/9/06
Response presented:	11/10/06

**Petition**

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

We the undersigned respectfully showeth that subdivision plans in Greater Darwin, including Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield, are being made, and approved by the Development Consent Authority (DCA), without enough regard to environmental sustainability, so important to residents. Catchments become cement drains, escarpments broken by roads, vegetation lost, water wasted, and fauna movement inhibited.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the NT Government modernise the subdivision process, including Specific Use (SU) areas, such as the Chase, so government planners and the DCA are responsible for ensuring the arrangement of lots, roads and open space accords with natural landforms, catchments, drainage lines, fauna needs, water resources, etc. In this process the public must be consulted.

**Response**

Facilitating development which is environmentally sustainable is an issue of importance to my department and the Northern Territory Government. The planning system is currently undergoing transition to ensure that a framework is in place to better assess and control applications for subdivision according to environmental, social and economic merit.

Foremost of those changes will be the introduction of the proposed Northern Territory Planning Scheme, affording greater protection to the environment than can be achieved within the current array of Town Plans. Development will be required to meet standards of best practice environmental management, and sustainable use of land and water resources.

In addition, guidelines are currently being prepared which deal extensively with the principles of sustainable urban residential development and water sensitive urban design. It is intended that these guidelines would be referenced in the Scheme and provide an additional level of detail to support enhanced environmental and social outcomes.

Development in Specific Use Zones will be subject to the same stringent controls as other development applications under the Northern Territory Planning Scheme.