

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

INTERNATIONAL

Roster of Experts

The Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity are to establish a roster of experts on the legal arrangements required for sustainable agricultural management and sustainable forest management. It is anticipated that a meeting of experts, drawn from the roster, will be convened to support the Secretariat in advancing the work program resulting from the third Conference of the Parties.

If you are interested in being considered one of these rosters of experts, then contact:

Biodiversity Convention and Strategy Section
Biodiversity Group
Environment Australia
GPO Box 636
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Major Richard Sharp
Environmental Advisor - Army

Protection Bill will repeal these Acts and replace them with a single law.

The Bill will also provide a mechanism for the A.C.T. to meet several of its national obligations under the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment."

The first obligation is to give full effect to national environmental protection measures, made by the National Environment Protection Council.

A second significant national obligation which can be implemented under the *Environment Protection Bill* will be a move, over time, to a full 'polluter-pays' charging system."

Although the Bill is yet to be debated within the Assembly, it is clear that the Government is keen to improve its environmental performance and therefore it is expected that it will put considerable effort into ensuring the Bill is passed.

Major Richard Sharp
Environmental Advisor - Army

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Environment Protection Bill 1997

On the 15 May 1997, the Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning, Gary Humphries MLA, introduced the *Environment Protection Bill 1997* into the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory. Here are some brief extracts from his presentation speech:

"At present, environment protection in the Territory is achieved principally through administration of five separate pieces of legislation, namely, the *Air Pollution Act 1984*, *Water Pollution Act 1984*, *Noise Control Act 1988*, *Pesticides Act 1989* and the *Ozone Protection Act 1991*. The *Environment*

QUEENSLAND

Environmental Protection Policies

More than two years after the commencement of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* the first environmental protection policy (EPP) under that legislation, the EPP (Water), was approved by the Governor in Council on 5 June 1997.

Essentially:

- * if an administering authority (such as the Department of Environment (DOE) or a local government) is making a decision under the Act (such as issuing an environmental licence), about an activity which may affect water, or which involves stormwater management, waste water recycling, releases or treatment, disturbance of acid sulphate soils or waste reception facilities for ships, the authority:
 - * must consider various specified impacts and risks; and