Minister for the Environment Karl Hampton today welcomed an announcement by Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett of funding for the Darwin Harbour Region Water Quality Protection plan.

“Darwin harbour is a magnificent natural asset and its health is of the highest importance to Territorians and the NT Government, said Mr Hampton.

“We welcome today’s announcement by the Federal Government of funding under the ‘Caring for Country’ program.

“This is funding the Territory Government applied for to enhance our Harbor Protection initiatives and we welcome this investment in the future of our Harbour.

“The project will complement the integrated monitoring program for Darwin Harbour, ensuring we have the best possible range of information with which to manage our harbour.”

The project will evaluate water quality targets, scenarios, identify interventions with stakeholders to improve water quality and develop ecological knowledge.

A water quality modelling tool will be developed, which will provide natural resource managers with better information to inform management decisions.

“Importantly, the program will expand working ties with NRETAS, the Larrakia Rangers and the Northern Territory Natural Resource Management Board,” said Mr Hampton.

“The Larrakia people have been caring for our harbour for thousands of years; this program will draw further on their extensive knowledge to assist in managing this priceless resource.”

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