CONCERNS RISE OF CLP WATER ALLOCATION

Shadow Minister for Environment, Lynne Walker, has joined a chorus of concern about the CLP Government’s rush of water allocation in the Katherine and Tindall aquifers.

Ms Walker said the CLP is snubbing their nose at the amateur fishermen, environment and Indigenous organisations that have all raised concern with the significant allocation of water extraction licences before any Water Allocation Plans for this vital region are delivered.

“How can this latest raft of allocations of 2,320.40 megalitres be based on solid science when even community consultation hasn’t occurred at the NT Water Forum set down for 16 May?” Ms Walker said.

“Ahead of any Northern Australia Development priorities the CLP Government is recklessly giving away the Territory’s precious water resources at an alarming rate.

“On Wednesday public notice was given that the CLP Government intends to grant water extraction licences out of the Katherine River.

“This latest announcement is on the back of the highly controversial 5,800 megalitre allocation to former CLP candidate Tina MacFarlane.”

Ms Walker said the these latest allocations ignored serious community concern and showed rank arrogance given the NT Water Forum that is to discuss the status of water resources had not yet been held.

“Why is the CLP Government in such a rush to give away the Territory’s water resources in our prime agricultural areas?” Ms Walker said.

“Water is such a precious resource; we must ensure the allocations occur based on solid science and water allocation plans to enshrine sustainability of our aquifers and rivers.”

“At the moment the CLP Government doesn’t seem to be applying any science or master plan to the allocations and are handing over large amounts of water extraction licences.
“The Chief Minister, Adam Giles, is touting the Northern Australia plan but how is this plan going to succeed without a strategic science based approach to the sustainable utilisation of the Territory’s precious water resources?

“The broader community and users of our water resources have a right to question the CLP Government’s water allocation in the absence of open and transparent processes.”

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