Management Water Resources Sustainably in the Centre

Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage Karl Hampton today released a draft Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Western Davenport Water Control District.

“The draft Water Allocation Plan for the Western Davenport provides a blueprint for future water sustainability and establishes a framework to share water between human and environmental needs,” said Mr Hampton.

“It aims to create a balance between taking water for short term use and retaining water to maintain the eco-systems, meet social and cultural needs and provide for future public and private use.”

In the Western Davenport Water Control District, water is used for the Public Water Supply, the Environment, Indigenous cultural needs, Horticulture and the irrigation of crops, and Stock and domestic purposes.

“This draft WAP was developed through detailed technical and scientific assessment and community consultation, to determine the right balance between the competing requirements for water,” said Mr Hampton.

The draft plan places limits on the availability of water for extraction, provides rules for managing licenses and sets out the overall objectives of the plan.

“Stakeholder and community participation is vital to the planning process and we are keen to hear feedback from anyone with an interest in the Western Davenport Water Control District and planning for future water sustainability.”

The draft plan is now being released for public comment over the next four weeks, closing on Thursday 15 July 2010.

“Through science, careful planning and responsible practices, we can grow the Territory sustainably for future generations to enjoy” said Mr Hampton.

Copies of the draft plan are available at www.nt.gov.au/consult or by contacting the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport on 89519202

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