PLANT UPGRADE A PLUS FOR THE KATHERINE RIVER

19 July 2013

The Katherine River is set for improvement in water quality due to a $6 million upgrade to the town’s wastewater treatment plant.

Less treated wastewater will flow into the river as a result of three major evaporative ponds and associated hydraulic structures being built at the Katherine Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Minister for Essential Services Willem Westra van Holthe said the plant’s major upgrades were vital due to rapid growth of Katherine.

“Katherine’s population is steadily increasing and Power and Water Corporation has expanded this plant to help meet the increasing demand for this service,” he said.

“The installation of the three extra ponds minimises effluent discharges into the river, and keeps pace with the town’s population and industry growth.”

Mr Westra van Holthe said the upgrade was also part of the Corporation’s commitment to reducing its environmental impact.

“During extreme rainfall and flood conditions treated effluent must be discharged into the river,” he said.

“However, the upgrade will reduce discharges overall and ensure there is no treated effluent discharged to the river throughout the dry season.

“This upgrade will ensure ongoing health of the river.”

Mr Westra van Holthe said Northern Territory contractor DAC Enterprises completed the works earlier this year for Power and Water Corporation.

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