MINISTER FOR LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEES REPLACED TO ENSURE EFFICIENCY

1 August 2013

Minister for Land Resource Management Willem Westra van Holthe believes the time is right to replace two advisory groups with a more efficient community based catchment advisory committee to ensure more effective consultation with the broader NT community.

The Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) and Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) will be replaced by a community based catchment advisory committee.

Mr Westra van Holthe said the new committee would be more efficient to operate, and would advise Government on issues impacting on all catchments of interest across the Top End.

“For example, the new committee could look at Roper River issues over some months and then, if required put their attention on the Darwin Harbour,” he said.

Mr Westra van Holthe said the new body would provide strategic advice to Government on the responsible use of the Territory’s land and water assets within defined catchments.

“The committee will address natural resource management uses within a particular catchment of interest and not focus just the pressure on the Daly River or Darwin Harbour catchments,” he said.

“It will provide an opportunity to have an advisory body with diverse representation and engagement with the community with limited government representation, as well as providing strategic advice on key issues relating to the development of the Territory economy, in particular where use of water includes mining, agriculture and pastoral industries.”

The Terms of Reference for the new advisory body are currently being developed.

The Water Advisory Committees (WAC) established under the Water Act to provide community input into Water Allocation Plans for aquifers and river systems under development pressures will remain.

“DRMAC catered as the WAC for the Ooloo aquifer and while DRMAC has ceased, members have been asked to continue in their WAC role to complete the Ooloo Water Allocation Plan,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

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