More than 80 stakeholders from the agricultural industry, government, environmental and recreational sector are set to converge on Katherine for tomorrow’s inaugural water forum.

Minister for Land Resource Management, Willem Westra van Holthe, said he was looking forward to the forum which would be jointly hosted by the newly formed Northern Territory Catchments Advisory Committee (NTCAC) and Northern Territory Farmers Association (NTFA).

“Water resources will play a key role in unlocking the Northern Territory’s agricultural potential and supporting Northern Australian development,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“The aim of this forum is to provide up to date information to farmers, horticulturists, irrigators and the community on the status of water resources in Northern Territory.

“Focus areas during the day will be about monitoring the impacts of water extractions on the environment, and to share experiences from other jurisdictions such as Queensland and Western Australia on water management.”

Mr Westra van Holthe said he was proud that members of the newly formed NTCAC would be attending this inaugural forum and believed the issues raised by participants would assist the committee in formulating its work program.

“I am confident the NTCAC will be able to guide the Department of Land Resource Management, growers, producers and myself as the responsible Minister in the best future use of our precious water resources.”

Mr Westra van Holthe said NTCAC provided an opportunity for an advisory body with diverse representation and engagement with the community without government over-representation.

“NTCAC will provide strategic advice on key issues relating to the development of the NT economy, in particular where use of water includes mining, agriculture and pastoral industries,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“The Committee will have a range of sub-committees that will allow for both a strategic view and the ability to engage at local catchment level.

“Membership of this committee includes Territorians with recognised experience and knowledge in water policy and planning, land use planning, regional development, Indigenous affairs, agriculture, mining, tourism, environmental protection, irrigated agriculture, horticulture, water engineering and water management.”

A list of the new NTCAC members is attached.

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