Media Release

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Land Resource Management

Health of the Darwin Harbour under the spotlight

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The Northern Territory Government has joined forces with Geoscience Australia and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) to survey the seafloor of the outer Darwin Harbour.

Minister for Land Resource Management Willem Westra van Holthe said the research is important and will improve understanding about the vital seabed.

“The Country Liberals Government is unwavering in its commitment to strike a balance between development and the environment. This survey will assist the government to make informed decisions on future developments within the Harbour,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“Scientists will map around 621 km² of the Harbour, where they’ll measure depth and take sediment samples for analysis.

“AIMS vessel RV Solander will operate 24 hours a day, mapping from Darwin’s northern beaches to the Cox Peninsula,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

The project is being funded through the Ichthys LNG Project’s environmental and social offsets package. The total funding for this specific project is $2.64 million over four years.

Minister Westra van Holthe said the health of the Darwin Harbour is a key priority of the Northern Territory Government.

“The Darwin Harbour is a cultural, recreational and environmental asset; the NT Government is doing everything in its power to ensure it remains healthy long into the future,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“This latest survey work will build on our existing knowledge, with more than 100 sediment samples to be taken during the course of the project.”

Survey works will be undertaken through until June 23 2015. A draft survey report will be available by the end of January 2016, with data layers to be finalised by April 2016.

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