Longevity of Berry Springs Dolostone Aquifer secured with implementation of Interim Development Control Order

10 June 2016

The NT Government has made an Interim Development Control Order (IDCO) for the Berry Springs Dolostone Aquifer to ensure the longevity of this valuable water resource.

Lands and Planning Minister David Tollner said the IDCO means that consent must now be sought for any future development within the affected area, including subdivisions.

“Consent will only be considered if it can be confirmed that the development proposed does not rely on groundwater or will not detrimentally impact on the sustainability of the aquifer,” he said.

“Developments such as shade sails, extensions to existing single dwellings, small sheds and other minor structures remain exempt from the requirement to lodge a development application.”

Water resource risks in Berry Springs are associated with the high number of unregulated users in the area and have been compounded by two back to back poor wet seasons which have reduced recharge of the aquifer

“The prohibition on the granting of new bore permits within the Berry Springs area in association with the IDCO will allow time to identify a regulatory and management regime to protect the groundwater resources and the environmental flows that feed Berry Springs and sustain the waterways and habitats of the Territory Wildlife Park,” Minister for Land Resource Management Gary Higgins said.

“The IDCO also accords with the proposed Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan, in that it recognises the need for careful management of water resources in Berry Springs.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to protecting the established rural lifestyle and the sustainability of our precious water sources in tandem with increasing population in well planned activity centres.”
The NT Government recognises the impact this IDCO has on applications for development that would have been permitted prior to its introduction and fee waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you have questions as to whether a development you are proposing requires consent due to the IDCO please contact Development Assessment Services on 8999 6046.

A map showing the boundaries of the IDCO can be found at https://nt.gov.au/property/building-and-development/development-one-stop-shop-applications-and-processes/interim-development-control-orders

Media Contact:

Minister Tollner - Marnie Hobson 0409 527 909

Minister Higgins – Sean Conway 0400 165 743