The Martin Labor Government is delivering on an important election promise to protect the long term water supply in Alice Springs.

Natural Resources Minister Delia Lawrie today announced the first stage of a Water Allocation Plan for the region.

“We’re committed to a water plan that’s long term, it’s not just about protecting the water supply for the next year or two it’s about the next 100 years and beyond,” said Ms Lawrie.

“The Water Allocation Plan for Alice Springs will ensure no more than 25 percent of accessible groundwater is used during the next 100 years.”

“Alice Springs is one of the driest places on earth and more than anywhere in the country people living in Alice Springs have a huge appreciation for the value of water and the importance of protecting a long term supply.”

“Residents are already taking advantage of Government rebates on water saving devices and Green Plumbers trained by the Government are beginning to install rainwater tanks and greywater diversion devices.

“There is a plentiful supply of underground drinking water in Alice Springs, but experience in southern states has shown we must act now to protect the supply.”

“The water plan will allow residents and farmers to continue using water at a sensible and cautious
rate.”

Ms Lawrie said the water plan is still in the early stages and a long term Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee (ASWAC) will be formed to oversee its implementation.

Terms of reference under which the ASWAC will operate are being drawn up and Government is seeking nominations for ASWAC members.

“The water plan and advisory committee will move Alice Springs ahead into a sustainable future as the water plan underpins economic development in the region.”

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