With the recent release of the *River Health in the Daly Catchment* report, Minister for the Environment, Karl Hampton, said the results are a clear indication that this Government’s actions are protecting the health of this iconic waterway.

“The Daly River is the lifeblood of one of the most important parts of the Territory, and significant values include tourism, recreational fishing, customary (Indigenous) use, cropping, grazing, forestry and urban development of local towns,” Mr Hampton said.

The assessment makes clear that the rivers of the Daly catchment are currently in good condition overall, especially compared to those in the more developed parts of Australia. However, some sub-catchments are more developed than others and are experiencing greater pressure on river health than others.

Local Member for Daly, Rob Knight, said the Daly River is in good health because of good responsible management.

“A dam and/or broad scale land clearing will kill the river. The CLP and their Coalition partners need to reconsider their plans to dam the Daly,” he said.

River health was assessed using information from several one-off, short-term surveys and research projects that were often localised, rather than long-term monitoring designed to assess river health.

It reports not only on ecological indicators but also on indicators of human activities and stressors.

Minister Hampton said the rivers and streams of the Daly catchment were found to be in good condition overall, though some impact is detectable in areas of intensive land uses.

“Government has taken the time to get it right on the Daly, you only get one chance,” Mr Hampton said.

“We had a mandate to avoid making the same mistakes as our southern counterparts, that’s why this Government placed two development moratoriums over this region from 2003-2010, which allowed for time to put the science in place.

“Furthermore, this Government also established the Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) in 2006 to help provide Government with the best advice about how to best manage and protect this valuable resource.

“This Government is determined that the Daly will be a 21st century showcase of modern sustainable management – that is what the community expects, that is what Government is delivering and that is what most land holders want as well.

“We have protected water resources by putting in place more water monitoring stations and are developing a water allocation plan that will ensure the river gets the water it needs first.”

The River Health Report shows all these actions are protecting the health of this iconic waterway.

**Media Contact:** Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794