MINISTER FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

SAVE WATER TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE

15 October 2013

Minister for Essential Services, Willem Westra van Holthe, has today said that with the greater Darwin region’s growing population, Darwinites cannot continue to waste as much water as we currently do.

“Darwin River Dam, our primary water reserve, is sitting at around 60% of capacity. After a rather lacklustre wet and a long dry season we cannot afford to keep wasting water in Darwin,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Darwin River Dam’s capacity has been as low as around 35% in the past. Fortunately, we have already seen some downpours ahead of the coming wet season.

“If we continue to waste water, Government and the Power and Water Corporation may be forced to bring forward significant infrastructure spending to augment supplies and maintain water services. This may include bringing Manton Dam online earlier. This is something Government wants to avoid.

“Of note, almost half of our water supply from Darwin River Dam evaporates during the dry season each year.

“People in Darwin use three times as much water as people living in cities down south and use twice as much water as people living in comparable locations like Cairns and Townsville.

“Darwinites are used to high levels of water usage but with our growing population this cannot continue.

“If we collectively focus on reducing our water consumption we can avoid potential risk and expense.

“The Country Liberals will be unveiling a new Water Smart strategy next week (National Water Week) which will outline specific details of how we will curb our water usage.”

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