DARWIN WATER PLANNING REQUIRES MULTI PRONGED APPROACH

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says that future water requirements for Darwin and the rural area must be looked at from a number of aspects such as

- New dams
- Bores
- Environment
- Water conservation

Gerry says that at a forum on water held at Girraween Primary School late last year, many of these matters were raised for discussion including the future building of the Warai Dam near Adelaide River and the raising of the dam wall at Darwin River Dam.

Gerry says that the government has had the Warai Dam on the drawing board for many years. He says the government needs to say if it has completed

- the engineering plans (wall design and pipelines)
- native title matters
- sacred site approvals
- environmental impact statements

for the new dam so that if it is needed to be built sooner rather than later, then construction can commence quickly.

He says that at the Girraween meeting people were told that the new dam is not proposed to be built for another 20 years. But Gerry says if the Darwin River Dam does not receive enough water in its catchment this wet season, the Government should be looking at building the new dam sooner rather than relying on production bores from the rural area to top up Darwin’s water supply, which would be detrimental to people living in the rural area who rely on bore water for their water supply.

Gerry says that the government also needs to look at water conservation especially in government. He says one example of the classic contradictions in government is where Power and Water advertise to use drip irrigation and plant natives whilst at the same time the Department of Transport and Infrastructure continues to plant exotics or rainforest plants along their roads. Gerry says the government could also look at a rainwater tank subsidy to encourage people to conserve water.