



**Northern Territory Government**

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Alice Springs Water Resources Strategy**

A strategy for managing the future of Alice Springs water supplies will be released for public comment this week and is vital in deciding how long the town can survive as we know it.

The draft Alice Springs Water Resources Strategy will be released for public exhibition on October 15.

Alice Springs residents are urged to attend a public forum at the Araluen Centre on October 22 to help determine the future use of the town's water supplies.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, Natural Resource Planning Officer Jonathan Vea said it is critical that Alice Springs residents voiced their opinions of the Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy.

"The current drinking supply in Alice Springs is not renewable, unlike many other parts of Australia," Mr Vea said.

"If Alice Springs water consumption grows at the same rate as forecast population growth, then the town's good quality drinking water is predicted to run out in 90 years."

"It's a question of what sort of town and environment we want to hand down to our grandchildren."

Mr Vea said the public forum, titled "Myths, Facts, and Future of Alice Springs" will be held on October 22 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and provide those attending with an understanding of Alice Springs water and how their opinions will be influential in shaping the strategy's future direction.

He said the strategy could only be strengthened by as much input as possible from those who it would affect.

"There's a moral responsibility for us to have a comprehensive debate to determine the longevity of Alice Springs water," Mr Vea said.

"The public forum is a way to facilitate informed discussion so people understand how much water we have, where it is found and what the effect of future demands on our water might be.

"Alice Springs water consumption is currently around 1000 litres per person per day which compares with a national average of about 630 litres per person per day."

Residents, groups or organisations have until 5pm on December 2 to make a submission on the Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy.

Submissions can be made via the Internet at [www.alicewaterplan.nt.gov.au](http://www.alicewaterplan.nt.gov.au)

**Media note – For more information contact Jonathan Vea on 8951 9254**

Ends

