Northern Territory Government
Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Steady Flow of Flood Advices

Water resources personnel at the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts have been busy during the current wet season.

Almost 100 flood height advices have been issued to the NT Emergency Services since January.

Natural Systems senior director John Gilmour said this number was a substantial increase on last year's poor wet season, when only a total of 32 flood advices were issued.

Mr Gilmour said flood prone communities are reliant on receiving the earliest information on potential floods to enable them to respond to flood threats.

"While we are not the official public mouthpiece, we do supply this vital information to organisations such as Emergency Services and Police who in turn add value to the data, publicise it and take necessary action to reduce the flood impacts," Mr Gilmour said.

Mr Gilmour said NRETA monitors some of the Territory's main rivers such as the Todd River, Katherine River, Victoria River and Daly River.

He said flood height advice was issued to Emergency Services for the communities of Alice Springs, Nauiyu, Beswick, and Katherine as and when required where population impacts could be substantial should river levels rise.

Mr Gilmour said locations to have exceeded their respective watch-point levels this current wet season included Beswick Bridge on Waterhouse River, the Victoria Highway Bridge on Victoria River, Daly River Crossing at Daly Police station and Williams Crossing on Wickham River.

In addition several river level alerts for the Victoria River and Cullen River have been provided to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to enable road bridge closure assessments to be made.

Mr Gilmour said the near real-time data from river height and rainfall monitoring stations are used to predict whether a river is likely to flood and the work involved was consistently challenging and interesting.

Heavy or prolonged rainfall that results in flood events in key catchments is closely monitored, but as rivers respond differently depending on rainfall intensity, where the rain occurs and other runoff characteristics, each flood event is different.

"All predictions are event specific, we do not produce a stock standard prediction," Mr Gilmour said.

"Every flood event is different as we have to work out how much it has rained, where it has rained and over what period of time it has rained and therefore different information is put into the model, so we totally depend on near real time data.

"We work closely with the Bureau of Meteorology and the modelling technology is state-of-the-art and plays an integral role in the safety of Territorians."

Ends

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