



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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NEW WATER PROJECTS FOR TERRITORY

New initiatives aimed at conserving the Territory's rivers and catchments will be funded by the Territory and Federal Governments by more than \$3.7 million.

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today welcomed the Federal Government's contribution to two important water studies in the Gulf and Daly/Darwin area.

The Federal Government announced today that it will contribute \$1.8 million, with the NT Government providing \$2 million towards preparing a Gulf Water Resources Study, and a Model for Sustainable Water Use in the Daly/Darwin area.

"Our rivers are the arteries of our unique Territory environment – they are central to our fantastic lifestyle and they are of immense economic and cultural importance," Ms Scrymgour said.

"These initiatives will provide important and invaluable information on our catchments in Northern Australia, especially as demand on our water resources increases with population expansion.

"The Gulf study in particular will provide fundamental tools to enable a better understanding of groundwater availability and the location of groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Gulf region.

"Scientific and indigenous knowledge systems will be used to collect the data, with the local knowledge substantiating the science and providing historical accounts of the dynamics of the water resources and dependent ecosystems."

Ms Scrymgour said the model for sustainable water use will provide a framework for water access entitlements, water allocation planning and better monitoring and accounting of water resources for the Daly and Darwin regions.

This will include improving our knowledge about the current utilisation of water and modelling to improve understanding of the links between land use, groundwater behaviour and river flow.

"This is important because of the environmental and cultural values of water flows, particularly towards the end of the Dry Season."

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