



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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WATER – OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE: SCRYMGOUR TELLS CONFERENCE

Budget 2006 will introduce rebates of up to \$50 for Central Australian residents purchasing water saving devices, said Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today.

The Minister made the announcement as she opened the Australian Water Association's 2nd National Conference at the Alice Springs Convention Centre.

"Water is a precious resource and it has to be used wisely," Ms Scrymgour said.

"The NT Government is taking a leadership role by encouraging Territorians to save water in simple ways which saves money on bills while protecting the environment.

"The \$50 rebate - a pre-election commitment - is available to Alice Springs and Tennant Creek residents who purchase water saving devices, including devices such as shower heads."

Ms Scrymgour today addressed the largest ever gathering of Australian water educators to meet in Alice Springs.

"More than 130 water educators from across Australia are meeting to discuss the challenge of improving community understanding about water, as well as the need to improve education and training for people working with water.

"Given the region's unique environment and social and economic systems – it's a place that needs to consider the sustainability of the water resource in a whole-of-community way.

"The Martin Labor Government has also initiated the Alice Springs Water Efficiency Study, Waterwise and effluent re-use programs.

"In 2006/2007 the Territory Government will spend \$50 000 towards the rebate system. This will generate real savings by encouraging the use of simple cost effective water saving devices."

Ms Scrymgour today delivered a speech on behalf of Chief Minister Clare Martin at the National Conference, outlining the Territory Government's commitment towards water conservation.

"In many ways Central Australia is leading the way in water resource management.

“Our approach is all about understanding the environment, being innovative in managing it, and educating the community in how best to conserve our precious water resource.

“It is work that can be applied across the Territory and in desert regions throughout the world.”

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