



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Australasian Hydrographic Conference Held in Darwin

More than 100 water experts from the Asia Pacific Region will gather at Darwin's SKYCITY Casino this week as part of the Australian Hydrographers Association Biennial Conference/Workshop 2006.

AHA Conference chair and Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts coastal and marine hydrology senior manager David Williams said the conference, starting tomorrow, would discuss how governments and business can better interact with the community and focus on the essentials of good data management and information sharing.

Mr Williams said the theme of the four-day conference is "Interactive Hydrography – Future Directions", which reflects how understanding the dynamics of water is essential for successful infrastructure design and the ecologically sustainable use of the world's environment.

"It has become increasingly important that the application of new and innovative technologies and data management are able to present information to the community and industry in an effective and useable way," Mr Williams said.

"The conference aims to encourage discussion on projects that improve the interaction of hydrography, industry, research and community groups."

Mr Williams is scheduled to give two presentations during the conference, with one focusing on Darwin Harbour.

"Darwin Harbour is the smallest and least environmentally degraded harbour out of the commercial trading harbours in the Asia Pacific Region," Mr Williams said.

"There now exists an opportunity for science to provide solutions for assisting resource development and urban expansion without compromising the sustainability of living resources and the quality of urban and traditional life.

"My presentation describes the water circulation in Darwin Harbour, focusing on its flushing properties and the fate of sand and mud."

Mr Williams said the biennial conference continues to grow with 20 trade exhibitors displaying the latest water quality products and strong sponsorship supporting this year's conference.

He said professors Bob Wasson and Eric Valentine from Charles Darwin University would be this year's keynote speakers.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact David Williams on 8999 3694**

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