



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

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BORES REPLACED ON BATHURST ISLAND

Water supply to hundreds of Bathurst Island residents is set to improve with existing bores currently being replaced.

Natural Resources Minister Marion Scrymgour today inspected the works conducted for the Power and Water Corporation (PWC) by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) land and water division.

Ms Scrymgour said work began last week, with six new production bores set to replace seven older ones by the time works are complete before the end of the year.

She said one hole had already been drilled into the Van Diemen sandstone aquifer and is currently being tested.

“The estimated cost of the bore replacement program is around \$400,000 with the end result producing a water supply able to meet increasing demands,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The Power and Water Corporation has an equipping program to follow, so the total amount of money spent by the NT Government on the bore field is about \$750,000.

“The seven bores that required replacing could only meet a combined peak supply capacity of 19 litres per second when actual peak demand was at times 23 litres per second, and NRETA has told me the bore field has a capability of a continuous instantaneous yield of 60 litres per second from current annual recharge of the aquifer.

“Maximum pumping rates from the seven individual bores, the majority of which were drilled during the 1970s and 1980s, was largely limited by the gradual erosion of fine sands from the soft sandstone aquifer.

“But these replacement bores will be of long lasting stainless steel materials and constructed to ensure sand free pumping, providing a total supply capacity of 42 litres per second once the works are complete.”

Ms Scrymgour said all remaining replacement bores would be tested by pumping in due course to confirm their performance.

She said this wasn't the first time bores had been replaced on the Tiwi Islands.

“A crew from NRETA’s land and water division worked at Milikapiti a number of years ago and did a fine job, so this is another example of the good work they are doing throughout the Territory,” Minister Scrymgour said.

“NRETA’s land and water division spend much of their time out and about working towards ensuring people are supplied with the best quantity and quality water available to them.

“I’ll closely monitor the good work being done as it progresses through to the end of the year.”

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