



**Marion Scrymgour**  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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## **WATER SUMMIT OPENED IN TOP END**

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today officially opened the North Australian Water Use Summit in Darwin, stating that it was vital that Northern Australia acted now to avoid the drastic action taken in southern states.

“In some places down south water restrictions are so severe that people are not even allowed to wash the car windscreen unless it is a safety issue,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“We want to avoid this happening in Northern Australia, and this summit will present possible solutions to the urgent concerns over water allocation to all sectors of the community and industry in tropical Australia – especially the wet/dry tropics.

“Both the wet tropics and the dry interior face uncertainty over water security exacerbated by climate change.”

The two-day summit will involve experts and academics, Indigenous community representatives and senior government officials evaluating potential solutions, and is being hosted by the NT Government and Charles Darwin University.

“Northern Australia is unique,” Ms Scrymgour said. “For Territorians, our rivers are intrinsically part of our identity –but we truly do stand on the cusp of what may be the last opportunity to ‘get it right’.

“By getting our river and water planning right, I believe we will go a long way towards a productive and sustainable northern landscape.”

Ms Scrymgour added that she was pleased to see a focus on indigenous concerns over water.

“Indigenous people for too long have been considered outsiders on this issue – however it is vital everyone is included in addressing this vital issue.”

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