



MEDIA RELEASE

New Water Gauging Stations

A new water gauging station incorporating the latest technology will help monitor water quality in the Douglas Daly Region.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) aquatic health manager Dr Simon Townsend said the newly constructed water gauging station at Hayes Creek 150km south of Darwin would enable automated water sample collection.

“The gauging station will measure water levels and collect water samples as flows in the creek change,” Dr Townsend said.

“The gauging system was constructed by the NRETA Hydrographic team at a cost of \$70, 000 and will form the basis of the first long-term study to monitor water quality in the Daly River Region.

Dr Townsend said the new gauging station will be run using satellite telemetry, a technology that allows the facility to be monitored from his Palmerston office.

“Previously, we would visit such a station not knowing whether a visit was required,” he said.

“This technology will enable us to decide when field visits are necessary, improving work efficiency.

“We will still need to visit regularly, so that the water samples can be collected and tested for sediments and nutrients.

“The creek is dry at the moment, we are waiting for the onset of the first rains so that sampling can start at this new facility.

“The data will be used to assess how land-use affects water quality in the area.

“It is important development in the region proceeds without harming the environment.

Dr Townsend said the NRETA Hydrographic unit also built and upgraded several water gauging stations in the Darwin region to monitor water quality.

“There are about 150 gauging stations in the NT of which eight measure water quality and collect water samples,” he said.

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Media Note – For more information contact Simon Townsend on 8999 3413.

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