



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

February 21, 2007

Katherine Water Advisory Committee Announced

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced the formation of the Katherine Water Advisory Committee (KWAC).

Ms Scrymgour said KWAC would operate as a sub-committee to the Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC), advising DRMAC about the level of allocation recommended for each of the declared beneficial uses in the Katherine region.

Declared beneficial uses, also known as water values, is a legislated process that reduces the effects of water pollution and assists in the protection and management of water.

Ms Scrymgour said the community decides how a particular water body should be used by choosing one or more beneficial use categories, with those listed below applying to the Katherine region:

- **Agriculture** – to provide irrigation water for primary production including related research;
- **Aquaculture** – to provide water for commercial production of aquatic animals including related research;
- **Public water supply** – to provide source water for drinking purposes delivered through community water supply systems;
- **Riparian** – public rights to take water for domestic and/or stock purposes;
- **Manufacturing industry** – to provide water for secondary industry including related research;
- **Environment** – to provide water to maintain the health of aquatic ecosystems; and
- **Cultural** – to provide water to meet aesthetic, recreational and cultural needs;

“KWAC’s creation has been canvassed with government and industry and to date has received widespread support, including that of the recently formed DRMAC,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The Northern Territory Government is highly committed to protecting and preserving water resources throughout the Territory and KWAC’s formation recognises this commitment.

“All the available data focusing on the Tindall Limestone Aquifer feeding the Katherine River will be provided to KWAC, and KWAC will in turn be required to provide DRMAC with advice in regards to water allocation to the declared beneficial uses.

“The NT Government is moving forward in regards to water management by developing water allocation plans through a fully consultative process, DRMAC and KWAC have both been formed to provide advice to government on water allocation.

“The formation of these committees is also in line with the National Water Initiative (NWI) to develop water plans that make best use of our water resources.”

KWAC will consist of Katherine Mayor Anne Shepherd as chairperson and 12 voting members from various stakeholder groups, such as pastoral, Indigenous, community and tourism.

“The committee’s initial emphasis will be on the Tindall Limestone Aquifer and will advise DRMAC on policy matters and regional development issues that may impact on the sustainable management and development of groundwater use in the Katherine Water Control District,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The KWAC will assist in the development and review of the Katherine/Tindall Water Allocation Plan which will include the determination of water allocations to the beneficial uses under the *NT Water Act 1992*.”

Ms Scrymgour said KWAC would also focus on recommendations for granting licences to take groundwater from the Katherine Water Control District and the conditions contained in such licences.

Katherine Water Advisory Committee Members 2007

Chairperson:	Ms Anne Shepherd, Katherine Mayor
Local Government:	Ms Jodie Locke, Katherine Town Council Alderman
Pastoral:	Mr Rohan Sullivan, NTCA Chairman
Conservation:	Mr John Ety, Katherine region organic horticultural producer Mr Warren De With, AFANT President
Indigenous:	Mr Preston Lee, Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation Trainee Manager
Wardaman Indigenous:	Mr Bill Harney, Katherine region Traditional Owner
ADF:	Mr Gary Want, Manager Base Services, Tindal
Horticulture/Agricultural:	Mr David Higgins, Katherine region horticulturalist
Power and Water:	Mr David George, PWC Natural Systems Engineer
Community:	Mr Mick Pierce, Katherine irrigator
Tourism:	Mr Mick Jerram, Owner, Gecko Tours, Katherine
Industry/Commerce:	Mr Peter Sinnott, Farm Manager, Manbulloo Mangoes, Katherine

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746





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