



MEDIA RELEASE

Bore Meter Project Meetings Held This Week

There has been a positive response to a call for volunteers to participate in the Bore Metering Project for Darwin rural and Daly region, which aims to obtain information about groundwater consumption and management in these areas.

An aim of the project is to fit 200 meters to bores in Darwin's rural region and 100 meters to bores in the Daly region.

Almost 150 people have visited the www.nt.gov.au/boremeter website since it was launched two weeks ago, with about 60 people having already volunteered to participate in the project.

Horticulturalist and Australian Flower Exports owner Ben Hoffmann was the first person to volunteer to have bore meters placed on his cut flower operations in the Darwin rural region.

Mr Hoffmann said flowers are a very thirsty plant and he had recently changed his irrigation systems from large overhead sprinklers to smaller basal sprinklers, as well as watering primarily at night, and monitoring soil moisture, as part of an overall regime to reduce water use.

"A fundamental reason as to why I'd like to get involved in this project is that responsible water users, particularly those in the horticultural industries, see monitored water use as being inevitable," Mr Hoffmann said.

"In bringing about change, we would like to be seen as being proactive and participatory by conducting water research into our crops, monitoring water use, adopting best management practices, as well as being integrally involved in the decision-making process, rather than being reactive after the processes have been conducted."

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts Water Management Branch director Ian Lancaster said people seeking further information about the Bore Metering Project were invited to attend this week's information sessions.

The first information session is from 6.30pm to 9pm on 13 March at the Berry Springs Recreation Reserve Hall along Cox Peninsula Road.

The second information session is from 6.30pm to 9pm on 15 March at Girraween Primary School Assembly Hall, 25 Carruth Road (off Girraween Road).

Mr Lancaster said the information sessions would include a short presentation about the project but would act primarily as a question and answer activity.

"While the reaction to the project has been quite positive so far with about 50 people having already volunteered, I understand people might be sceptical when we say the project is aimed at gathering information, rather than serving as a forerunner to imposing water charges," Mr Lancaster said.

"I assure Territorians there is no hidden agenda and that we are simply seeking information to provide us with a more accurate estimation of bore water use in these areas so that in turn, better planning will ensure we have water for our future."

To find out more about participating in the survey or receiving a free bore meter go to www.nt.gov.au/boremeter or contact the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts Water Management Branch on 8999 4611 or by emailing water.nreta@nt.gov.au

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Ian Lancaster on 8999 4892

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