

**Media Release:**

**14.10.11**

## **Celebrate National Water Week in Central Australia**

Central Australians are invited to celebrate National Water Week from Sunday, 16 October 2011 to Saturday, 22 October 2011 with a series of events sponsored by the Northern Territory Government Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS).

Southern Region Water Resources Planner Anne Pye said the focus of this year's Water Week is to raise awareness of the importance of taking care of our catchments.

"A catchment is an area of land that drains to one point, which is usually a creek or river, and the way we live and work on those catchments can impact the quality of the water draining into these waterways," said Ms Pye.

"If we have poor management practices, that water quality deteriorates, which means it can be damaging to our natural environment.

"Our aim during National Water Week is to remind people how important water is and give them ways to be more waterwise in Central Australia, where we face a limited supply of water."

Throughout the week, NRETAS staff will have information stalls set up around Alice Springs to provide posters, water rebate information, brochures and DVDs on a range of water issues.

The stalls can be found at Alice Plaza from 11:30am to 2pm from Monday, 17 October to Friday, 21 October 2011 and at Yeperenye Shopping Centre from 11:30am to 2pm on Monday, 17 October and Friday, 21 October 2011.

NRETAS is also sponsoring a bus tour in which women from Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation will visit important Arrernte water sites in Alice Springs from 10am to 1:30pm on Thursday, 20 October 2011.

The tour will be followed by a lunch and water stories by women from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Tickets to the women-only event are \$50 and are available by calling Lhere Artepe on 8953 6555.

Ms Pye said local residents can also take advantage of increased water rebate amounts through the Territory Government's Central Australia Waterwise Rebate Scheme.

"This scheme allows property owners, tenants, businesses and community groups in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek to receive rebates for water-efficient products, water-saving plumbing work and rainwater tanks," said Ms Pye.

With the recent increases, those residents can now receive \$250 for large products (up from \$150), \$200 for toilet product rebates (up from \$150) and \$200 for toilet retrofit rebates (up from \$100).

For more information on the Waterwise Rebate Scheme or National Water Week events, visit [www.nt.gov.au/waterwise](http://www.nt.gov.au/waterwise) or phone 8951 9209.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information, contact Anne Pye on 8951 9202.**

Issued: 4pm Friday, 14 October 2011