



## Guidelines for Water Extraction as they relate to Road Construction and Maintenance

The Northern Territory Administrator has signed an exemption to Section 45 *Licence to take or use water* (surface water) and Section 60 *Grant of licence to take groundwater* of the *Water Act*. This effectively exempts the Department of Lands and Planning (DLP) and contractors from the requirement to obtain a water licence when undertaking water extraction associated with road works on public roads.

In order to protect the environment and ensure any other authorised use of water is not affected, the following guidelines should be employed by all contractors when extracting water for the purposes of road works.

### Where possible efforts should be made to use underground water supplies i.e. bores

DLP maintains a list of all bores that have been used or specifically constructed for the purposes of road works on its RIMS system. This list can be obtained through DLP when tendering for road works. NRETAS Maps on the internet <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/nretamaps/> can be used to display all the bores in the NT and also provide details on yield and depth through the bore reports. These services should be used, where possible, to find appropriate bores to service road works.

### Where any surface water is used

Notify the Water Resources Branch (see contact details) of the location, expected water use and how it will be extracted for each and every occasion. This should be done prior to extracting any water. This

information will automatically be forwarded to Road Projects, Construction Division, DLP.

For all water bodies, every effort should be made to ensure that any water extraction will not reduce the supply utilised by local landholders and the environment, to the point where such users are adversely affected. The general guideline is that only 20% (5% in Southern Region) of any flow in a river or 20% (5% in Southern Region) of any standing water body should be used. Where a standing water body is less than 500mm deep or extraction from the water body (river or waterhole) is likely to exceed 20% (5% in Southern Region) as detailed above, every effort should be made to source an alternative water supply. Should an alternative water supply not be available contact Land Water Division, NRETAS for advice and guidance. Every effort should be made to protect the banks and beds of any waterhole or river used for water extraction. Any inadvertent damage should be fixed immediately and pads and tracks likely to contribute to erosion should be rehabilitated as part of the contract, this would include soaks used from seasonally dry river beds. No fuels, lubricants, equipment, other than pumping equipment, should be permitted to enter or remain in the water body.

#### Contact details:

**Water Resources Branch** - Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport

**Palmerston** - 3rd Floor Goyder Building, PO Box 496  
Palmerston NT 0831 Ph: 8999 3678

**Katherine** - 32 Giles Street—PMB123, Katherine NT  
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