

## DRMAC Meeting in Darwin

A research forum featuring some of the Northern Territory's top scientists is set to be one of the highlights of this week's Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) meeting in Darwin.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) aquatic health manager Dr Simon Townsend said his presentation to DRMAC members would focus on water quality of the Daly River.

"While we have a lot of information about the aquatic health of Darwin Harbour, much less is little known about the water quality of the Daly River," Dr Townsend said.

"NRETA, together with Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK), are planning to fill the knowledge gap that has been identified by DRMAC since its formation last year.

"For the first time, intensive water monitoring will be done in the Daly River this wet season," Dr Townsend said.

"Samples will be collected every day over the wet season. This will tell us how much sediment and plant nutrients enter the estuary of the Daly River.

"A water quality model will be developed for the Daly River to assess what effect nutrient pollution could have on the river's plants during the wet season.

"Nitrogen and phosphorous are the nutrients of most concern. Extra nutrients from human activities could cause undesirable growth of algae and in extreme cases low amounts of oxygen in the river."

Other highlights of the research forum include presentations by Charles Darwin University's Michael Douglas and Lindsay Hutley.

DRMAC chair John Childs said this week's two day meeting on 9 and 10 August would also focus on land clearing, water management and subdivision issues.

"We will be meeting with Natural Resources Minister Delia Lawrie to discuss with her the issue of land clearing in the Daly region," Mr Childs said.

"We will also be discussing the performance of DRMAC with the Minister.

"Another important part of the meeting is receiving a progress report on the Katherine Water Advisory Committee (KWAC) which was formed earlier this year as a DRMAC sub-committee, to advise on water allocation and management.

"And we will be going through a subdivision briefing paper that identifies the main issues."

DRMAC was created to work with relevant Government agencies and other key stakeholder groups to develop options for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources within the Daly River region.

Go to [www.nt.gov.au/drmac](http://www.nt.gov.au/drmac) for more information about DRMAC.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information about DRMAC contact John Childs on 0438 083 074. For more information about Daly River water quality contact Dr Simon Townsend on 8999 3413.**

Issued: 10am Wednesday, 8 August 2007