

**NORTHERN TERRITORY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**  
**for the**  
**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON A NATIONAL WATER INITIATIVE**

**JUNE 2006**

**KEY ELEMENT 7: URBAN WATER REFORM**



**Northern Territory Government**  
Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

## ACRONYMS USED

CD-ROM	Read Only Computer Disc
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COAGWTG	COAG Water Trading Group
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation
EPA	Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority
EPHC	Environment and Heritage Ministerial Council
EPHSC	Environmental Protection and Heritage Standing Committee
ESCAWRI	Executive Steering Committee for Australian Water Resources Information
GL	Gigalitre (1 billion litres)
KL	Kilolitre (1 thousand litres)
ML	Megalitre (1 million litres)
IGA	Inter-Governmental Agreement
JSCHEG	Joint Steering Committee on Health & Environmental Guidelines
GAB	Great Artesian Basin
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
NCC	National Competition Council
NRMMC	Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council
NRMSC	Natural Resource Management Standing Committee
NRETA	Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
NWIC	National Water Initiative Committee
PWC	Northern Territory Power and Water Corporation
NT	Northern Territory
NTT	Northern Territory Treasury
NT UC	Northern Territory Utilities Commission
NWI	National Water Initiative
SA	South Australia
SAWM	Smart Approved Water Mark
TOR	Terms of Reference
WELS	Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme

## KEY ELEMENT 7: URBAN WATER REFORM

### Key Action 7.1: Demand Management

National Water Initiative IGA paragraphs 91 (i) - (iv):

*States and Territories agree to undertake the following actions in regard to demand management by 2006:*

- i) legislation to implement the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) to be in place in all jurisdictions and regulator undertaking compliance activity by 2005, including mandatory labelling and minimum standards for agreed appliances;*
- ii) develop and implement a 'Smart Water Mark' for household gardens, including garden irrigation equipment, garden designs and plants;*
- iii) review the effectiveness of temporary water restrictions and associated public education strategies, and assess the scope for extending low level restrictions as standard practice; and*
- iv) prioritise and implement, where cost effective, management responses to water supply and discharge system losses including leakage, excess pressure, overflows and other maintenance needs.*

#### Context

Northern Territory legislation is currently being drafted to support national legislation for the implementation of the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme.

The Northern Territory is participating through the EPHC in the development of the Smart Approved Water Mark

No permanent water restrictions have been applied in the Northern Territory and no impact assessments have been undertaken.

A detailed Water Efficiency (demand management) Study was undertaken in Alice Springs, which may result in the development of a Water Efficiency Program. Demand management initiatives in Alice Springs may be significantly more extensive than the minimum recommended in the NWI.

#### Implementation Timetable

Actions	Start date	End date	Lead Agency
<b>7.1.1 NWI Paragraphs 91 (i)</b>			
Implement Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme	2005	Ongoing	NRETA
<b>7.1.2 NWI Paragraphs 91 (ii)</b>			
a. Participate in the activities of the EPHC Working Group to develop options for ongoing engagement to support effective implementation of the Smart Approved Water Mark, as follows:			NRETA
▪ EPHC to establish Working Group and prepare TOR		Complete	EPHC
▪ Working Group to undertake an assessment of the SAWM scheme to determine if there are areas where EPHC support is required		Complete	EPHC
▪ EPHC to establish a policy framework to support implementation of the SAWM scheme in all jurisdictions, including mechanisms for		Dec 2006	EPHC

ongoing engagement			
▪ Implement Smart Water Mark Scheme	TBA	Ongoing	NRETA
<b>7.1.3 NWI Paragraphs 91 (iii)</b>			
a. Participate in the proposed national review of the effectiveness of temporary water restrictions, lead by the NWC	TBA	TBA	PWC
b. Review water restrictions policies and associated public education strategies	TBA	Ongoing	PWC
<b>7.1.4 NWI Paragraphs 91 (iv)</b>			
Incorporate leakage performance indicators into water access entitlements for public utilities	2005	Ongoing	NRETA

**Cooperation with other Jurisdictions**

Not applicable

**Link to Outcomes in the NWI**

The actions above are linked to the outcomes at NWI Paragraph 90.

**Link to Relevant Performance Indicators**

Step/Deliverable 7.1 c links to draft Performance Indicator 8.7.

## KEY ELEMENT 7: URBAN WATER REFORM

### Key Action 7.2: Innovative Capacity Building to Create Water Sensitive Cities

#### National Water Initiative IGA paragraph 92:

The Parties agree to undertake the following actions in regard to innovation:

- i) develop national health and environmental guidelines for priority elements of water sensitive urban designs (initially recycled water and stormwater) by 2005;
- ii) develop national guidelines for evaluating options for water sensitive urban developments, both in new urban sub-divisions and high rise buildings by 2006;
- iii) evaluate existing 'icon water sensitive urban developments' to identify gaps in knowledge and lessons for future strategically located developments by 2005;
- iv) review the institutional and regulatory models for achieving integrated urban water cycle planning and management, followed by preparation of best practice guidelines by 2006; and
- v) review of incentives to stimulate innovation by 2006.

#### Context

The Northern Territory is participating in the Joint Steering Committee for Water Sensitive Cities, which is coordinating the actions under NWI paragraph 92 (ii – v). The Northern Territory is also participating in the Joint Steering Committee for Health and Environmental Guidelines, which is progressing NWI paragraph 92(i).

#### Implementation Timetable

Actions	Start date	End date	Lead Agency
<b>7.2.1 NWI Paragraphs 92</b>			
a. Continue demand management, water sensitive design and wastewater reuse initiatives in Alice Springs as pilots for extension to other regions;	2005	Ongoing	NRETA
b. Complete <i>Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Guidelines for Hot Arid Residential Developments</i> .	2005	December 2006	DPI
<b>7.2.2 NWI Paragraphs 92 (i)</b>			
Participate in the activities of the NRMMC and EPHC Joint Steering Committee to develop national guidelines, as follows:			NRETA
▪ Public consultation for draft Phase 1 Guidelines		Oct 2005	JSCHEG
▪ Joint Steering Committee seeks Council's endorsement for Phase 1 Guidelines		April 2006	JSCHEG
▪ Joint Steering Committee to scope phase 2 of 92 (i) and develop a paper for EPHC and NRMMC about progressing 92 (i) and phase 2 and proposing that a working group similar to the Joint Steering Committee for the National Guidelines on Water Recycling lead on these tasks		April 2006	JSCHEG
▪ Establish specific working group(s) to		April 2006	JSCHEG

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progress these tasks through consultancies			
▪ Complete terms of reference for required consultancies		May 2006	JSCHEG
▪ Consultancies commence. Work overseen by EPHC NWI Working Group/NWI Committee and Joint Steering Committee		June 2006	
▪ Draft document(s) to public consultation		Nov 2006	NWIC /EPHC / NRMMC
▪ Clearance sought of documents for item 92 (i) phase 2 by EPHC and NRMMC		TBC	

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### 7.2.3 NWI Paragraphs 92 (ii)

Participate in the Joint Steering Committee for Water Sensitive Cities process for developing national guidelines for water sensitive urban developments

March 2006

Dec 2006

EPA

### 7.2.4 NWI Paragraphs 92 (iii)

Participate in the Joint Steering Committee for Water Sensitive Cities process for evaluating 'icon water sensitive urban developments'.

March 2006

Dec 2006

EPA

### 7.2.5 NWI Paragraphs 92 (iv)

Participate in the Joint Steering Committee for Water Sensitive Cities process for reviewing institutional and regulatory models for achieving integrated urban water cycle planning and management

March 2006

Dec 2006

EPA

### 7.2.6 NWI Paragraphs 92 (v)

Participate in the Joint Steering Committee for Water Sensitive Cities process to review incentives to stimulate innovation for 2006

March 2006

Dec 2006

EPA

### Cooperation with other Jurisdictions

Through ongoing participation in national forums.

### Link to Outcomes in the NWI

The actions above are linked to the outcomes at NWI Paragraph 90.

### Link to Relevant Performance Indicators

No relevant Performance Indicator has been drafted.