



**Marion Scrymgour**  
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

February 23, 2007

## **Volunteers Invited To Help Plan Future Water Use**

Natural Resources Minister Marion Scrymgour today invited residents in Darwin's rural region and Daly region to participate in one of the Northern Territory's most important water projects.

Ms Scrymgour said the Bore Metering Project for Darwin Rural and Daly Region was aimed at obtaining information about ground water consumption and management in these areas.

"The Territory's water resources are not limitless, so if we want future Territorians to have the same great lifestyle and healthy environment we currently enjoy, then we need to take stock and plan," Ms Scrymgour said.

"NT Government scientists have a solid understanding of how big our water resources are and how rainfall recharges the water in the ground but the missing piece of the puzzle is how much water are we using," Ms Scrymgour said.

"You cannot make good decisions about the future without good information about the present.

"The information obtained from groundwater consumption, through the installation of bore meters, will allow for improved planning through analysis of real data.

"Improved planning will ensure the Darwin rural and Daly regions will continue to have water now and in the future.

"It is not our intention to introduce water consumption charges as a result of fitting meters to private bores but rather to protect the investment people have made in living in these areas and installing their own bores."

Ms Scrymgour said the first of the project's two components involves a survey of landholders to gain an understanding on attitudes to bore metering, general water use and water management.

The second component calls for volunteers to have meters fitted to their bores free of charge for a period of two years - 200 in Darwin's rural region and 100 for the Daly region - for both small and large users.

"These meters need to be monitored for two years and then participants have the option of having the meter removed or kept in place at no cost to the participant.

"Water use is increasingly becoming a topic of nationwide debate and this project will help us determine how much water is being used in the Darwin rural and Daly region.

"As part of the project, information kits are being sent to landholders."

Landholders wanting to find out more about the project may attend information sessions, the first being held from 6.30pm to 9pm on 13 March at the Berry Springs Recreation Reserve Hall along Cox Peninsula Road.

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

People can go to [www.nt.gov.au/boremeter](http://www.nt.gov.au/boremeter) to obtain more information about the project and information sessions, or to complete the survey online.

Ms Scrymgour said managing our water resources means understanding:

- How much water is stored in the ground;
- How much is replenished each year through rainfall; and
- How much is used by the environment and by people.

Ms Scrymgour said volunteers representing a range of bore water consumers will be sought, including owners of bush blocks with minimal garden to larger horticultural enterprises.

“This range of users will enable a more accurate estimation of overall bore water use to be made, and in turn, better planning to ensure we have water for the future,” Ms Scrymgour said.

To find out more about participating in the survey or receiving a free bore meter go to [www.nt.gov.au/boremeter](http://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](mailto:water.nreta@nt.gov.au)

The metering project is part of a larger Water Smart Australia project, jointly funded by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments

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