

DARWIN REGION WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Community Update | Issue 3



Welcome to the third community update for the Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program (the Program), which includes the Manton Dam Return to Service (RTS) and the Adelaide River Off-stream Water Storage (AROWS) projects. We will continue to provide these updates across the year to keep you informed on the progress of these projects.

Keep reading for recent updates on the following:

- Freds Pass Rural Show
- Lake Bennett community BBQ
- Northern Australia Foods Future Conference
- Transition to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- Upcoming tender releases

Visit the [Water Security website](#) to learn more about the Program.

Freds Pass Rural Show

Staff from NT Government and Power and Water Corporation attended the much-loved Freds Pass Rural Show on 27 and 28 May.

The team spent the weekend talking to Darwin's rural community about the Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program, explaining how the Program will secure Darwin's short and long term water supply. Sharing a stall with the NT Government's Biosecurity team, the Program team showcased the new augmented reality technology that brings the AROWS 3D model to life.

The event provided a great insight into community interests, which is key to helping us develop the best outcomes for the Program and the wider community.

The NT Government ran a YETI giveaway competition with three lucky winners walking away with a brand new YETI bottle at the show.

The NT Government will be at the Darwin Show on the weekend of 27 to 29 July 2023 to speak with community about the Program.



Community BBQ at Lake Bennett

The Lake Bennett Association held a community BBQ event on 6 May at Lake Bennett to engage with the local community about the Program.

Representatives from the Program's Community Reference Group (CRG), NT Government, Power and Water Corporation, and GHD Pty Ltd, as the environmental consultant for the AROWS project, attended the event.

The purpose of the BBQ was to provide the local community with an opportunity to talk to government representatives and CRG members about the Program and specifically, AROWS.

About 50 people attended the event with most attendees residing in Lake Bennett and surrounding areas.

CRG members Dheran Young, Member for Daly; Ruth Palmer, Executive Director of NT Property Council and Public Officer of the Lake Bennett Community Association; Sharon

Hillen, Chief Executive Officer of the Coomalie Community Government Council; and CRG Chair Darryl Day addressed the community and discussed the importance of consulting and engaging with community on the Program.

It was a wonderful morning with lots of insightful conversations about AROWS and the opportunities, interests and needs of the Lake Bennett community.



Northern Australia Food Futures Conference

Staff from the NT Government's Facilitated Projects and Infrastructure attended the Northern Australia Food Futures Conference at the Darwin Convention Centre on 22 to 25 May.

The event is Australia's leading conference on agricultural development in the north, with community stakeholders, industry, investors and politicians from around Australia and the world attending the conference to explore innovative agricultural opportunities in the north.

Lambells Lagoon Agribusiness Precinct

The Facilitated Projects and Infrastructure team discussed the proposed Lambells Lagoon Agribusiness Precinct, which was identified in the [AROWS Project Detailed Business Case \(2022\)](#) as a potential horticultural development opportunity that could be enabled by AROWS.

AROWS has the potential to expand agribusiness development in the greater Darwin region, which is currently water-constrained. Water supplied from AROWS could unlock approximately 2,000 ha of agricultural land for development.

Given its close proximity to the future AROWS infrastructure, Lambells Lagoon was identified as an ideal location for an agribusiness precinct, including both greenfield development and brownfield expansion in the region. There is land identified as suitable for high-value

agricultural and horticultural activity. Existing horticulture in the area includes mangos, melons, bananas, pineapples, pumpkins, and plant nurseries.

The proposed Lambells Lagoon Agribusiness Precinct is progressing through the stages of project development, with a detailed business case process, including stakeholder consultation to get underway shortly. This process will ensure there is a detailed understanding of the commercial and economic viability of the opportunity and confirm the suitable arrangements for facilitating its development.



Transition to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

The Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program will transition to Infrastructure NT within the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) on 1 July 2023. This includes oversight of the Manton Dam Return to Service Project (being delivered by Power and Water Corporation) and delivery of the planning and approvals phase of the AROWS Project.

The transition is a re-alignment of government's function. As a large scale infrastructure project, AROWS is best placed in DIPL as the NT Government's lead infrastructure agency.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) has done well to get the Program to this point and it has established a dedicated team. The transition to DIPL makes sense now that the Program has progressed past the feasibility stage.

Given their extensive work and knowledge on the Program, which includes establishing key relationships, the existing project team will be transitioning across. This includes existing leadership to ensure continuity in the Program.

Future tender opportunities

The following Future Tender Opportunities have been published:

- [Provision of Lead Engineering Consultant](#) to deliver the Concept Design for the AROWS project.

If you would like to receive notifications on any upcoming NT Government procurement activities, please register your interest with NT Government's [Quotations and Tenders Online](#).



Contact us

We value your input and look forward to working with the community as the Program progresses.

Community members can reach out to Community Reference Group members directly or contact the Project Team at any time to discuss matters related to the Program. Please send us an email at WaterInfrastructure.DITT@nt.gov.au.



watersecurity.nt.gov.au