

Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program

Community Reference Group Communique



ISSUE 2 | APRIL 2023

The second Community Reference Group (CRG) meeting for the Darwin Region Water Infrastructure Program (the Program) was held at De Lago Resort at Lake Bennett on 31 March 2023.

The purpose of the CRG is to provide the community with information on the Program and report back any matters raised by the community to the Northern Territory (NT) Government. The CRG opens a direct line for community voices to be heard and aims to take the community on the journey with the NT Government as the Program progresses.

PROGRAM BRIEFING

CRG members were provided with briefings on the following topics:

- Water Allocation Plan – delivered by Simon Cruickshank, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS)
- Adelaide River Off-stream Water Storage (AROWS) update – delivered by Evan Tyrrell, Department of Industry Tourism and Trade
- Manton Dam Return to Service (RTS) update – delivered by Liam Early, Power and Water Corporation (Power and Water)

WATER ALLOCATION PLAN

Simon Cruickshank, Director of Water Planning and Engagement, presented on the Water Allocation Plan that is being undertaken by DEPWS for the Adelaide River Catchment.

Simon highlighted that Water Allocation Plans are a mechanism to ensure community and stakeholder input into the allocation of water in regions where there is competing uses for water.

In developing the Adelaide River Catchment Plan, DEPWS are undertaking the science to improve our understanding of the surface and groundwater resources within the catchment. The Plan will ensure that key social, environmental and cultural values associated with water are identified and their water requirements prioritised, and that the rules for the management of water are transparent.

Simon also noted an Aboriginal Water Reserve will be established as part of the Water Allocation Plan to set water aside for sustainable development by Aboriginal people.

The Water Allocation Plan will inform a sustainable allocation of water to AROWS.

ADELAIDE RIVER OFF-STREAM WATER STORAGE (AROWS) UPDATE

Evan Tyrrell, Senior Director of Facilitated Projects and Infrastructure, provided an update on the AROWS project, including the procurement processes for a lead environmental consultant to start the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and a tender to engage a lead engineering consultant to undertake the concept design process. The announcements of the environment tender award and the engineering tender going to market are expected in April 2023.

Evan outlined how government is working with land owners within the AROWS Basin Catchment area. He noted that the NT Government is confident they can work collaboratively with landowners to manage any risks from their properties to the water source.



*Pictured from left to right: Darryl Day, Dheran Young, Ruth Palmer and Evan Tyrrell.
Credit: Ruth Palmer*

MANTON DAM RETURN TO SERVICE (RTS) PROJECT UPDATE

Liam Early, Senior Project Manager in Water Services, updated the CRG on the Manton Dam RTS project that Power and Water has been working on for the past decade. He explained that detailed engineering work is to be completed, including updating and refurbishing various components, such as the inlet tower, building a new pump station and a new pipeline to the proposed Strauss Water Treatment Plant (Strauss). He noted the design of Strauss will go to market in the second quarter of 2023.

Questions were raised from the CRG about the impact on recreational fishing and Liam advised that Power and Water is working with DEPWS on developing appropriate management arrangements for continued recreational use, including an assessment of facilities at Manton Dam.

CRG MEMBERS

Members present at the CRG meeting included:

- Darryl Day, Chair
- Stephen Hoyne, CEO Litchfield Council
- Gary Higgins, community member and former Member for Daly
- Kezia Purick MLA, Member for Goyder
- David Ciaravolo, CEO Amateur Fishermen's Association NT
- Paul Burke, CEO NT Farmers
- Ruth Palmer, Executive Director NT Property Council and Public Officer at Lake Bennett Community Association Inc.
- Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
- Sharon Hillen, CEO Coomalie Community Government Council
- Karen May, CEO Territory Natural Resource Management

It is noted that Joe Martin-Jard, CEO Northern Land Council, and Anna Malgorzewicz, former CEO Coomalie Community Government Council, have stood down as CRG members and nominated their replacements. The two new members to join CRG are:

- Sharon Hillen, CEO of Coomalie Community Government Council; and
- Graham Kenyon, Custodian of Limilngan-Wulna land and owner of Pudukul Aboriginal Cultural Tours.

Members who were apologies and unable to attend the meeting were:

- Greg Ireland, CEO Chamber of Commerce NT; and
- Graham Kenyon, Custodian of Limilngan-Wulna land and owner of Pudukul Aboriginal Cultural Tours.



Pictured: 3D model of AROWS project site

MATTERS RAISED BY THE CRG

CRG representatives raised several matters from the community, particularly in relation to whether AROWS will have any impact on Lake Bennett. The NT Government advised that no significant impacts are anticipated as Lake Bennett and AROWS are separate water sub-catchments, but further studies will be undertaken as part of the AROWS EIS by the environmental consultant.

MEET AND GREET WITH COMMUNITY

Following the CRG meeting, community members had the opportunity to meet with CRG members to discuss the Program. The CRG answered questions about the AROWS project and recognised the interests of the community members and how the project may impact them. They informed community members about the progress of the project and outlined the next steps. It was addressed by CRG that the AROWS project is only in its planning and approvals phase and will be for the next three to four years. This phase of the project is where community engagement is critical to delivering a project that benefits the community.

The NT Government showcased a 3D model of AROWS, which is a physical representation of the proposed development. The model allowed the CRG and community members to visualise the large scale of AROWS and understand how the naturally occurring basin will be used to store water.



OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Lake Bennett Association will be holding a community BBQ event on Saturday 6 May at Lake Bennett for the AROWS project. This will provide community the opportunity to meet and speak directly with CRG members and NT Government on the project. All members of the community are welcome to attend and further information is provided in the invite below.


**THE LAKE BENNETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
INVITES YOU TO A**

COMMUNITY BBQ

Saturday, 6th May 2023, from 9-11 AM
in the Common Area, just over the causeway before the
North Shore Residents turn off.

This is an opportunity to speak with government
representatives and the Community Reference Group
about the AROWS Project and how it may impact you.

Community members welcome



THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL MEMBER FOR DALY, DHERAN YOUNG FOR
SUPPORTING THE BBQ BY PROVIDING THE SAUSAGES!

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next CRG meeting is scheduled for June 2023. It is proposed that this meeting will provide members with site tours of AROWS and Manton Dam.

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to receive more information regarding the Program and upcoming events in your community, sign up to the community e-newsletter [here](#).

CONTACT DETAILS

Community members are encouraged to contact their CRG representative to voice matters related to the Program. Alternatively, community members can contact the NT Government Project Team by email on WaterInfrastructure.DITT@nt.gov.au.



Sign up to receive Community Updates
on the Darwin Region Water Supply
Infrastructure Program.