

Media Release:

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National Water Week in the Red Centre

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) invites Territorians in central Australia to celebrate National Water Week with a series of programs and events being held throughout the region from 18 - 24 October 2009.

NRETAS water conservation officer Tanya Howard said National Water Week is held annually to encourage the protection, rehabilitation and improvement of our water environments, with the focus in Alice Springs on using less water.

"This year's national theme is 'Securing our Water Future', with three key messages including; water supplies are limited, our water comes from a number of different sources and most importantly that we're all responsible for our water future," Ms Howard said.

"National Water Week in Alice Springs kicks off this Sunday, 18 October from 9am-1pm at the Todd Mall Markets, with an information stall and balloons for the children.

"This is followed by a public forum on water issues affecting Alice Springs at 5.30pm Monday, 19 October in the Andy McNeil room, Alice Springs Town Council.

"The forum will feature guest speakers from Power and Water, Centreprise Resources Group, desertSMART COOLmob and NRETAS.

"On Wednesday, 21 October 2009 at 7pm a free community film night will screen two locally produced films that address water management from different cultural perspectives at the Alice Springs Desert Park Exhibition Centre.

"The first short film, *Water in Alice Springs* was produced by the Climate Action Group and focuses on local attitudes to water and where our water comes from.

"The second film to be screened is, *Mer Rrkwer-akert*, by April Campbell and Lisa Watts, and records the journey of Traditional Owners from Ti Tree to visit *Rrkwer* (Brooks Soak) to respect their ancestors, to perform ceremony and to see how the country has changed."

Ms Howard said in addition to these events students from the Ti Tree School will have artworks on display at the Alice Springs Public Library throughout National Week.

"Indigenous Language and Culture students undertook a unit of study in water sources, water uses and how to look after their water supply and a selection of their posters will be on display," Ms Howard said.

For more information go to www.nt.gov.au/waterwise or www.nationalwaterweek.org.au.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Tanya Howard on 8951 9209
A photo opportunity is available when 'Wurgle' the big water drop visits children during Story Time at the Alice Springs Public Library at 10.30am Tuesday 20 October 2009.**

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