



It's all about the Territory

## MEDIA RELEASE

# WEAK AS WATER

December 14th, 2011

"Central Australian Minister, Karl Hampton, should explain why the draft Ooloo Water Management Plan sat on his desk for such a long time before being handed to the Territory Agricultural Association to start the review and consultation process," says Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe.

"This process began way back in 2008 and a number of farmers in the Katherine region are still flying under the flag of uncertainty regarding their future water allocations.

"This unacceptable three-year delay from a tardy and disinterested Minister is affecting the future aspirations of the agriculture sector from Katherine to the Daly.

"By way of example, the Peanut Company of Australia's Taylors Park property has been on the market for some time with potential purchasers waiting in the wings for a decision on the water allocations.

"Without certainty, no deal can be done and the potential of that farm cannot be realised.

"I understand that the Daly River Management Advisory Committee provided the Minister with the draft water management plan in April this year.

"Inexplicably, the Minister hasn't even taken the first step and signed off on the draft version, let alone the final document.

"After attending an information session yesterday, it is quite apparent that it will be the middle of next year at the earliest before the final plan is released.

"Of more concern is the ultra-conservative approach taken by this Labor Government.

"By the time existing licences are added to the Strategic Indigenous Reserve (SIR), the entire southern portion of the Ooloo aquifer will be over allocated, effectively ending further agricultural development in the region."

"Labor's 80% for environment – 20% for consumptive use ratios are based on a lack of data, which reflects Labor's lack of commitment to the agricultural sector in the last 10 years."

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430

## AUTHOR



[Willem Westra van Holthe MLA](#)

[Katherine](#)

