

Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security

# Territory Water Plan: Government Leadership on Water Efficiency

Ben Littlejohn



# Territory Water Plan

- *Aims to deliver water security for all Territorians, now and into the future.*
- Water security is having an acceptable quantity and quality of water for people, economic opportunities, cultural and environmental needs, now and into the future.
- Four priority areas that reflect the diverse values and uses of water in the Territory.

## 1 SAFETY

Provide safe and secure drinking water for Territorians

## 2 SUPPLY

Maximise economic opportunities and livelihoods through water management

## 3 SUSTAINABILITY

Use water sustainably to protect the Territory's environmental and cultural assets

## 4 TRUST and CONFIDENCE

Engage Territorians in water management and decisions to build confidence and foster a shared understanding

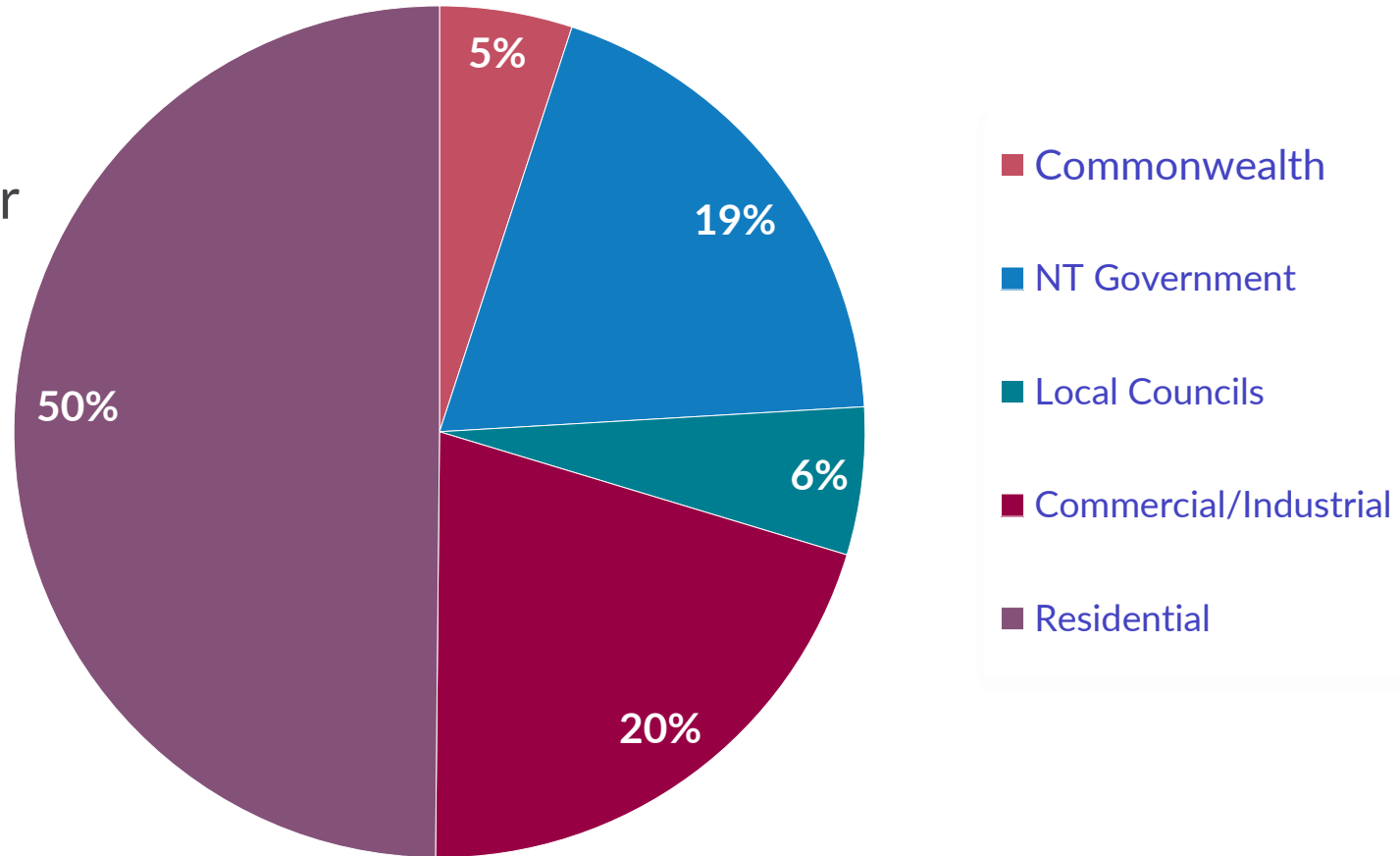
# Priority Actions



1. New safe drinking water legislation
2. Securing Darwin's future water supply
3. Improved water security for remote communities
4. Improved water outcomes for homelands
5. Government leadership on water efficiency
6. Placing a value on water
7. Territory voices in water security
8. Enhancing Aboriginal participation in water decisions
9. Understanding the Aboriginal cultural values of water
10. Improved water planning
11. Contemporary water resource management legislation
12. Climate resilience and adaptation for a water secure future
13. Accelerated water science program
14. Ensure water supply and sewerage services meet customer needs
15. Sustainable water supply for energy transition
16. The role of the Office of Water Security

# Why is government water efficiency important?

- Darwin's water use is ~37 GL/year, 30% of this is Government water use.
- Living Water Smart has achieved water savings in residential and business settings.
- Government needs to do its bit - it is the right thing to do.
- Important for
  - Future population growth and economic development.
  - Climate change resilience.



Source: Power and Water 2022

## TERRITORY WATER PLAN



A plan to deliver water security for all Territorians, now and into the future

5

### GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ON WATER EFFICIENCY



By 2024, the NT Government will deliver a water demand management strategy for the government sector in the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory has among the highest water usage rates in Australia, using more than double the national average on a per capita basis.

Power and Water Corporation's successful Living Water Smart program has been helping residents and businesses in the Darwin region reduce their water use and become more efficient for many years. Power and Water Corporation has also implemented an integrated water literacy, demand management and water efficiency program in Aboriginal communities, prioritised their focus on those communities most water stressed. On the other hand, government water usage in the Territory has been growing.

To support good water stewardship by all Territorians and increase the water security in into the future, the NT Government will also make change, aiming to lead by example in demand management and water efficiency.

The first stage of the strategy will focus on NT Government leading the way through mandated water efficiency targets for all NT Government agencies in the Greater Darwin region. These targets will be supported by agency-specific water efficiency plans, co-developed and tailored to each agency's business. Identified savings measures may include reduced water use, identifying and fixing leaks and building water efficiency into design, greenfield land development and procurement processes. NT Government agencies will be required to report annually on progress to drive continuous improvement in water efficiency.

The second stage would expand targets and agency-specific plans to other regions of the Territory and include agencies from other levels of government, including local governments and Territory-based commonwealth agencies. The NT Government will collaborate and share knowledge with these organisations to help improve their water efficiency. The NT Government would also support projects that integrate whole-of-water cycle water management in cities, towns and communities using water sensitive design, stormwater management, recycled water and groundwater replenishment.

# What's the plan?

- Water efficiency targets outlined in agency-specific water efficiency plans.
- Explore policy measures.
- Engage with other NT-based government agencies.
- Initial focus on Greater Darwin region.

# Early works

