

Estimates Committee 2011

Questions Taken On Notice

(14/06/2011 to 23/06/2011)

Date: 21/06/2011

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Water Ownership of Subdivided Waterbodies

From:Mr Gerry Wood to Mr Karl Hampton

Department of Natural Resources Environment the Arts and Sport

7-11

Question:

Minister, in the case of a water body that has been subdivided into a number of private blocks, your department has said the residents do not own that water. Who owns the water and who is required to get permission to pump that water?

Answer:

Answered On: 08/08/2011

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 21 June 2011 Output: Natural Resources
Sub Output: Water Resources

Subject: Water Ownership of Subdivided Water Bodies

From: Minister for Natural Resources, To: Member for Nelson
Environment & Heritage

Department: Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport

Number: 7.11

Question: **Minister, in the case of a water body that has been subdivided into a number of private blocks, your department has said that the residents do not own that water. Who owns the water and who is required to get permission to pump that water?**

Answer: Through section 9 of the *Water Act*, the property in all water flowing or contained in a waterway, and all groundwater, is vested in the Territory. This means that the Northern Territory Government owns the water flowing or contained in a water body that has been subdivided into a number of private blocks.

However, under the *Water Act* there are provisions for landholders to take water for domestic purposes, to water grazing stock on their block, and/or to irrigate a household garden (no larger than 0.5 hectares) on their block – subject to the proviso that this does not interrupt or interfere with the taking of water in pursuance of a licence otherwise granted under the Act

Apart from stock & domestic purposes covered under sections 10 and 11 of the *Water Act*, taking water for any other use from the water body affected by subdivision requires permission through a licence granted under section 45 of the Act.