



Petition

Registration No.	56
Title	Conserve Berry Springs Waterhole
Presented on	18 November 2015
Presented by	Hon Kezia Purick MLA
Referred to	Lands and Planning (Hon David Tollner MLA)
Date referred	18 November 2015
Response due	20 April 2015
Response received	19 April 2015
Response presented	20 April 2015

Petition

PETITION TO CONSERVE BERRY SPRINGS WATERHOLE

There is a 18 x 5 acre block subdivision being planned right next door to this beautiful, natural, World War II Heritage waterhole.

While progress is inevitable, we would like some constraints on this proposal put in place so the water quality is not further adversely effected.

1. A Buffer zone be put in place to slow contaminated water runoff
2. Larger block sizes to minimise sewerage contamination in the ground water& less drawing of water from the Berry Springs Aquifer.
3. More accurate and transparent investigations on the impact that further development will have on the water quality in the area - particularly to ensure the long term sustainability of Berry Springs Nature Park.

Please sign the petition to show your support, or sadly, Berry Springs may soon end up like Howard Springs Nature Park - NO MORE SWIMMING - EVER!!!

Response

In response, I note the sentiment of the petitions to preserve Berry Springs and the concerns about potential impacts of future development on the sustainability of water resources in the Berry Springs Aquifer. The petitions specifically requests constraints be placed on the proposed subdivision of Section 1809 Hundred of Ayers, to ensure it does not adversely affect the quality of the springs.

The NT Planning Commission is currently preparing a Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan, and I have requested that consideration be given to opportunities for the provision of reticulated services within the Berry Springs Rural Activity Centre, to assist in minimising the impacts of continued population growth on the aquifer.

Berry Springs Nature Park and the Territory Wildlife Park are significant public assets with high environmental, community, recreation and tourism value. The potential impacts of continued development in the locality on sustainability of the water resources that underpin these values is recognised, as are the potential impacts on established commercial horticulture and existing rural residents.

The proposed Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan and the Berry Springs Water Allocation Plan will be subject to community consultation. These processes will enhance community understanding of the issues around the sustainability of the water resources and provide the opportunity for informed comment.