



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
12th Assembly

Petition

Registration No.	64
Title	Reticulated water required for Darwin River, Southport and Berry Springs
Presented on	23 June 2016
Presented by	Mr Higgins (Member for Daly)
Referred to	Minister for Lands Resource Management
Date referred	Thursday 23 June 2016
Response due	16 November 2016
Response received	11 August 2016
	Response to be presented during the first sitting week of the 13 th Assembly

Petition

To The Honourable The Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, We the undersigned respectfully showeth that the Berry Springs aquifer is currently being used beyond its capacity and faces further threat from growing pressures of proposed development in the rural area, resulting in the need for a plan to ensure greater protection of the aquifer to enable continued use for both current and future purposes, as well as for the benefit of all Territorians who frequent the Berry Springs Nature reserve.

We petitioners therefore humbly pray

1 .that the Northern Territory Government develop a feasible strategy for “a more sustainable water supply to accommodate current residential, commercial enterprises and future development without placing added pressure on the Berry Springs aquifer that services the catchment area containing Darwin River, Southport and Berry Springs.”

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray

Petition: Reticulated water required for Darwin River, Southport and Berry Springs activity centre.

We the undersigned through our Local Member Mr Gary Higgins, petition the Northern Territory Government for a more sustainable reticulated water supply to accommodate current residential, commercial enterprises and future development without placing added pressure on the Berry Springs aquifer that services Darwin River, Southport and Berry Springs.

Response

I write in response to Petition No. 64 read in the Legislative Assembly on

Thursday 23 June 2016. The petition requests the Northern Territory Government to provide a reticulated water supply to Darwin River, Southport and Berry Springs. On 1 June 2016, I introduced Interim Development Control Order (IDCO) No. 22 to restrict new development that would use groundwater from the Berry Springs dolostone aquifer. This IDCO allows Government two years to establish a framework for the sustainable use of groundwater from the aquifer that will also protect viable flows to the environment.

While the new framework for sustainable groundwater usage may include the long term provision of reticulated water to the Berry Springs activity centre, I advise that the most cost effective way to deliver urban services to Berry Springs would be in association with the future development of urban and peri-urban areas south of the Elizabeth River identified in the Darwin Regional Land Use Plan 2015.

To provide, in isolation, the water pumping station, storage tank and water main along Cox Peninsula Road necessary to deliver town water to Berry Springs would be prohibitively expensive at this time.

I recommend that the matters raised in Petition No. 64 be reviewed once Government has adopted a framework for the sustainable use of the Berry Springs dolostone aquifer.