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Submission contents:

I have lived in Darwin River since 2001 and am the owner of a 40 acre bush block. I am very concerned that our government is willing to ensure that anyone will get as much water as they want. For Darwin residents and businesses there are sources of water in the rural Darwin region which could be utilized in a way that is both more productive and more sensitive to the needs of the natural environment, by monitoring and limiting the use of private bores in the Howard and Berry Springs areas. There also needs to be a way of limiting the water usage of Darwin residents. I don't think this is impossible, even though some will say 'It is my right to have as much water as i want' or 'I am the only one who knows how much water I need and water should be free'. If we plant natives in our garden then we won't need to water so much. Also if we need lawns certain grasses can survive the dry without as much water as others. We may need to reduce the point at which water use becomes expensive. Two more points. Water licenses could be given with much more care and be monitored. We have a yearly 8-month drought and this makes it imperative that restriction are either taken seriously by residents or are forced on us by government. Finally it seems to me that a dam the size of the AROWS one cannot possibly avoid doing extreme damage to the ecology around the dam itself and to the river ecologies all the way to the sea. It might bring extra birds but an ecology is more than birds. The Middle Arm Hub should not happen in the Top End. Our environment is too delicate and is now threatened with rising heat.

Liz Howells