

No more barra?



Klamath River salmon fish kill, 2002 – the worst fish kill in US history, caused by over-allocation of water to irrigation.
Photo courtesy of Northcoast Environmental Centre, California

Tell the Chief Minister you don't want the Daly to end up like this!

The Daly is Australia's best barramundi river, but the NT Government is under pressure to approve new large scale development in the Daly catchment. This would mean clearing thousands of hectares of native vegetation, and greatly increased water extraction and chemical use for irrigated agriculture and cattle production.

A 2003 report by the Supervising Scientist identified **major threats to the Daly** from agricultural development and land clearing including:

- **More soil erosion and sedimentation in the river**
- **Reduced river flows during the Dry season**
- **More fish kills**

An NT Government report in 2004 stated that if the Daly River stopped flowing during the Dry season there would be **'catastrophic consequences'** for fish and the threatened pig-nosed turtle.

Highly polluted mines also pose a risk to the Daly. Toxic outflow from the Mt Todd mine has already contributed to fish kills in the Edith River – a tributary of the Daly – and more mines are planned in the catchment, e.g. Maud Creek mine.

Rivers like the Daly that are free flowing, and still have relatively clean water with lots of native fish and turtles are increasingly rare in Australia. Such rivers are of immense value to the whole community, including Indigenous communities, tourism operators and recreational fishers.

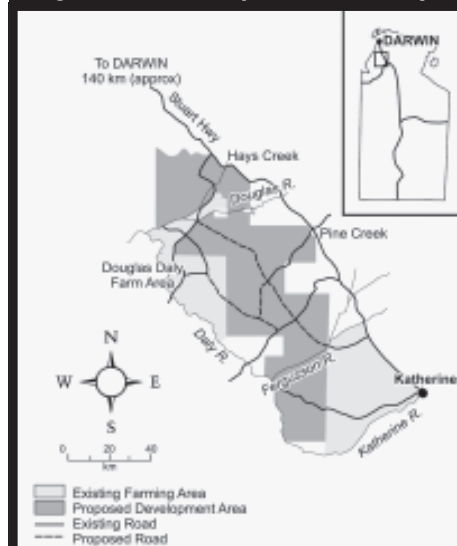
Before any more high-risk development occurs, we must ensure the long term health of the Daly River is secure.

Only development that can prove it will not harm the Daly River should be considered.

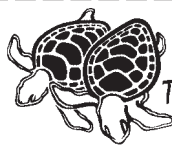
For more information on the development plans, see: www.notes.nt.gov.au/dbird/majorproj.nsf/projects and scroll down to "Katherine/Daly Basin"

For the full Supervising Scientist and NT Government reports, see: <http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo/dalyregion/reports/environmentalfloreports.html>

One proposal for large scale agricultural development in the Daly.



From the Australia Cotton CRC Northern Australia Scoping Study, 2001



The Environment Centre NT

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Dear Chief Minister I want you to keep the Daly a living river!

I strongly support a 3-5 year moratorium on large scale land clearing and water extraction in the Daly catchment. This will allow time for essential research and consultation on sustainable development options. Only development that can prove it will not harm the Daly should be considered.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Your message: _____

Signature: _____

Post to: Chief Minister, Hon. Clare Martin
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801