

KNOW YOUR WATER

What is water trade?

Water trading in the Northern Territory allows water licence holders to buy or sell some or all their water entitlement, subject to any additional rules in local water allocation plans. Trades are privately negotiated between licence holders and only take effect once approved by the Controller of Water Resources, with simple applications usually processed within two weeks.

What is a water trade?

Water trading is an exchange of a water entitlement between two water licence holders:

- A buyer (gets more water) and
- A seller (water entitlement is reduced)

How does water trading work?

In the NT:

- only water licence holders can buy or sell their water entitlement
- They can choose to trade some or all of it
- May include extra rules if located in a water allocation plan area



How to start a water trade?

1 Find someone to trade with



Using the **water licensing portal**, find licence holders to trade with

2 Negotiate the details

The buyer and seller must negotiate the details of trade:

- Amount of water
- Length of time the water will be traded
- Price for the water (if any)

3 Fill in the application

The buyer and seller must both complete and sign the application and review the included checklist.

4 Submit the application

Submit your application by:

- Emailing water.licensing@nt.gov.au, or
- In person to your local Water Resource Office



What is the processing time?

Trade applications aim to be finalised by the department within **2 weeks**, unless:

- Trades are for **more than 500ML**
- One or both licences contain **special conditions**
- Trades are in or affect a water allocation plan **protection area**



More information

To find out more, go to our [water trading](#) page.