

KNOW YOUR WATER

What is a water plan?

Water allocation plans in the Northern Territory are developed under the Water Act 1992 to manage groundwater and surface water within declared water control districts, balancing water use with environmental and cultural protection. Based on science and consultation, the plans establishes how much water can be taken by people, shares water between beneficial uses and sets rules for taking water.

What do water plans do?

Water plans set how much water:

- Can be taken from groundwater and surface water resources by people

Plans cover a specific area and water resource within a declared water control district.

How are water plans developed?

Water plans are developed:

- Where there are competing demands by people to take water
- Where there are significant ecological or social values

Plans are reviewed every 5 years.

What are water plans based on?

Water plans are based on:

- Water science and availability
- Consultation with the community
- Consultation with Aboriginal people
- Consultation with Industry and environmental organisations.



What does each plan include?

1 Background report

The background report explains about the area and the water resource:

- Facts
- Plan history and changes
- Climate, rainfall and scientific information
- Environmental and cultural values the water supports
- Water licensing information.

2 Water allocation plan

The plan sets out:

- the location and area of a plan
- purpose and objectives of sharing water
- estimated sustainable yield of each water resource
- allocation to beneficial uses within the estimated sustainable yield
- eligible land for Aboriginal water reserves
- limits to protect the environment
- water licence requirements
- review period
- maps of the district and plan area.

3 Implementation actions

Set out:

- Risk assessment
- Action for managing resources
- How progress will be reported
- Monitoring the resource
- Who is responsible for what
- Key performance indicators



More information

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

