

Territory Water Plan

Annual Progress Report 2026

Purpose

This is an annual report of the activities undertaken and achievements that support water security for Territorians.

Context

Water security for Territorians means having an acceptable quantity and quality of water for people, economic opportunities, cultural and environmental needs, now and into the future.

Our actions address Territorians diverse water needs:

1 SAFETY

All Territorians have safe drinking water.

2 SUPPLY

Essential infrastructure is prioritised to enable economic development and regional growth.

3 SUSTAINABILITY

Efficient water use maintains healthy ecosystems and supports the Territory lifestyle.

4 TRUST & CONFIDENCE

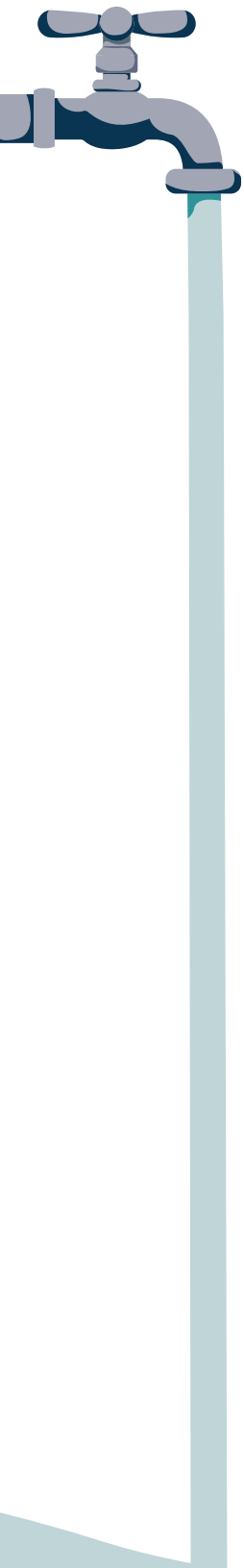
Territorians are informed and engaged in water management.



The activities and achievements are a collaboration between Government agencies and businesses:

- Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
- Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
- Department of Treasury and Finance
- Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
- Power and Water Corporation
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
- Department of Health
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Activities and achievements



Safety



All Territorians have safe drinking water.

- Secured a further \$23.6 million in National Water Grid funding for three new water safety projects in:
 - Galiwin'ku
 - Gove Peninsula – Gunyangara
 - Alice Springs
- Delivered Water for Homelands training for technical and operational staff on best-practice water management and how to use the Bore Risk Assessment Tool with sessions in Alice Springs, Darwin, Katherine and Nhulunbuy.
- Completed bore drilling in Gapuwiyak under the Better Bores for Communities program.

Supply



Essential infrastructure is prioritised to enable economic development and regional growth.

- Increased funding for water security projects in partnership with the National Water Grid to more than \$530 million.
- Completed inlet tower upgrades, a new pumping station and 22km of pipeline for the return to service of Manton Dam, with works on the Strauss Water Treatment Plant progressing as scheduled.
- Environmental studies are underway for the Adelaide River Offstream Water Storage facility including surveys for listed threatened flora and fauna, hydrological modelling of river flows, water quality and aquatic ecosystem investigations. Installed 17 groundwater monitoring bores.
- Amended the *Water Act 1992* to allow for water trading anywhere in the Northern Territory creating new avenues for investment and development.
- Continued to progress reforms to the *Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act 2000*, so it applies to all services providers in the NT including in regional and remote areas.

Sustainability



Efficient water use maintains healthy ecosystems and supports the Territory lifestyle.

- Completed \$4.59 million in science projects co-funded through National Water Grid including:
 - Collection of high resolution LiDAR survey data across the Daly, Roper and Adelaide River catchments and Western Davenport regions.
 - Recalibration of the integrated Daly Roper water resource model (DR2) and the Western Davenport model for improved water resource management.
 - Phase one investigations into managed aquifer recharge in the Upper King River region
 - Secured \$1.7 million for phase two of the Upper King managed Aquifer Recharge investigation.
- Released two new draft water allocation plans for public consultation: Katherine Water Allocation Plan 2026-2036 and Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan 2026-2036.
- Released Ultimate Irrigation User Guides for the Top End and Central Australia to support NT gardeners to be water wise.
- Delivered water efficiency training to 50 NT Government staff from across eight departments focussed on early leak detection and improved irrigation practices.
- Supported Power and Water to install more than 90 dataloggers in Adelaide River, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, enabling earlier leak detection, water savings and reduced costs.

Trust and Confidence



Territorians are informed and engaged in water management.

- Delivered remote water forums in Umbakumba, Wugulaar (Beswick), Barunga, Yeulamu, Laramba, Yuendumu, Galiwin'ku, Bulla, and Impanpa.
- Released drinking water information products for remote communities including an animated video on drinking water in the NT.
- Published the 'Know Your Water' series of easy to understand factsheets that provide information about water in the Territory.
- For the first time, delivered 'Status of the Water Resource' reports for every water allocation plan area across the Northern Territory.
- Received two industry recognition awards from the NT Australian Water Association including:
 - Infrastructure Project Innovation Award for the Remote Community Water Forums
 - Organisational Excellence Award for the NT Government Water Demand Strategy.

The Northern Territory Government respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Nations people of this country. We acknowledge the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities, and the evolving cultures of all our First Nations peoples.

