

2025-26 Announced allocation notice for the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer

Water extraction licences in the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer water allocation plan area are subject to announced allocation conditions. These conditions provide me, as the Controller of Water Resources, an option to temporarily reduce water licence entitlements, should it be required, to protect the environmental, cultural or social values associated with a water resource.

I have determined that the environmental, cultural and social values of the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer water allocation plan area will be maintained without any reduction in water entitlements for the 2025-26 water accounting year, commencing 1 May 2025.

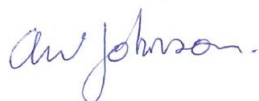
All licence holders within the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer water allocation plan area are permitted to extract up to 100% of their licensed entitlements for the 2025-26 water accounting year.

In determining not to reduce allocation entitlements, I considered the following matters:

- The Katherine region received below average rainfall during the 2024-2025 wet season.
- The Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer water allocation plan 2024-2026 identifies an allowable level of impact on the Katherine River flows. Katherine River flows during the dry season are predominantly driven by groundwater from the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer seeping into the river. The plan specifies environmental flow targets for 1 November, as this is typically the lowest flow period of the river.
- Water resource modelling by the department predicts the impact of water extraction on river flows for the plan area. Modelled predictions for the Katherine River, based on recent rainfall and water use records, and assuming zero rainfall for the remainder of 2025, indicate a flow rate at Wilden gauging station, on the Katherine River, of 2.6 m³/s on 1 November 2025.

The plan reports this as an 'average river flow scenario', requiring 70% of the river flow be reserved for environmental, cultural and social values, and providing up to 30% of river flow available for extraction.

Modelling of extractions, including for rural stock and domestic use and assuming existing licences take their total licensed volume, predicts a 19% reduction in flows at Wilden gauging station for the 2025-26 water accounting year, which meets the Plan criteria.



Andrew Johnson
Controller of Water Resources

17 April 2025