

# 2026-27 Announced allocation notice for the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer

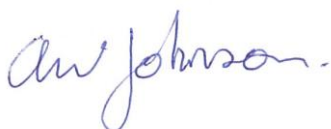
Water extraction licences in the Katherine Tindall water allocation plan area are subject to announced allocation conditions. These conditions provide me, as the Controller of Water Resources, an option to temporarily reduce water licence entitlements, should it be required, to protect the environmental, 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 2026-27 water accounting year, commencing 1 May 2026.

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 2026-27 water accounting year.

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

- The Katherine region has received above average rainfall during the 2025-2026 wet season.
- Katherine River flows during the dry season are predominantly driven by groundwater from the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer discharging to the river. As groundwater extraction can reduce river flows in the dry season, a decision about the annual allocation for water licences in the area, is based on ensuring that minimum natural flow rates are maintained in the river to protect the values associated with the resource.
- The draft Katherine water allocation plan provides that a flow rate of 1.8 m<sup>3</sup>/sec, or 155 ML per day should be maintained at the Wilden gauging station on 1 November, which is typically the driest period of the year, when river flows are lowest. If modelling predicts that flow rates may be lower than 1.8 m<sup>3</sup>/sec on 1 November, licence allocations may be reduced.
- Modelling of the Katherine River for 2026-27, predicts a flow rate at Wilden gauging station of 3.13 m<sup>3</sup>/s on 1 November 2026, to be reduced by up to 15% by water extraction, to 2.7 m<sup>3</sup>/s. This is considerably higher than the natural flow rate of 1.8 m<sup>3</sup>/sec.
- The modelling includes all licensed water extraction, assuming maximum usage, as well as estimates for rural stock and domestic use in the area.



Andrew Johnson  
Controller of Water Resources

16 April 2026