

# 2022 Announced Allocation for Katherine Tindall Decision

## Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District – Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2024

Water extraction licences in the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer in the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District are granted subject to annual announced allocation conditions. These conditions allow me, as the Controller of Water Resources, to reduce licensed water entitlements to protect the environmental, cultural and social values associated with water resources.

In determining whether to make an announced allocation resulting in a reduction of licensed water entitlements for the 2022-23 water accounting year, I have considered the following matters;

### 1. Climate information

The Katherine region has received average median rainfall in the 2021-2022 wet season which has resulted in similar recharge to the Katherine Tindall Limestone aquifer (KTLA) compared with the same period the previous year.

### 2. The Plan

The Katherine Tindall Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2024, recommends the allowable level of impact on the Katherine River flows. In accordance with the plan, this is derived from the modelled natural river flow at the Wilden gauging station at 1 November in any given year.

### 3. Modelling of 2022 dry season flows

Modelling of the KTLA was conducted using the Daly River catchment Integrated Hydrologic Model, which predicts the impact of water extraction on river flows across a number of water resources within the Katherine–Daly region.

Modelled predictions in the Katherine River indicate a natural flow rate at Wilden of 2.42 m<sup>3</sup>/s on 1 November 2022 (assuming zero rainfall for the remainder of 2022).

The plan reports this level of natural flow rate as an average river flow scenario providing 70 per cent of the annual groundwater discharge reserved for non-consumptive use and 30 per cent of groundwater discharges available for extraction.

Modelling of extractions including allocations for rural stock and domestic and licensed allocations predicts a 25 per cent reduction in flows at Wilden which meets the Katherine Plan criteria.

### 4. Water use information

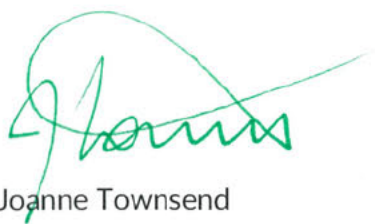
It is a condition of water extraction licences that water meter readings are provided at the end of each month. Reported extraction across all licences was approximately 30 per cent of the total volume of licensed entitlements within the KTLA in the 2021-22 water accounting year.

On the basis of reported water use, there is low likelihood the maximum extraction of licensed entitlements will occur in the 2022-23 water year due the limited nature of development and water extraction infrastructure to utilise full licensed entitlements.

### Conclusion

I have determined that no reduction of licensed entitlements within the KTLA plan area is necessary to maintain the environmental, cultural and social values of the water resource.

Therefore, all licence holders within the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer, in the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District are permitted to extract 100 per cent of their licensed entitlements for the 2022-23 water accounting year commencing 1 May 2022.



Joanne Townsend

Controller of Water Resources

7 April 2022