

2026-27 Announced allocation notice for the Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer

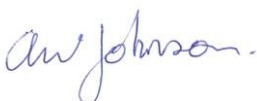
Water extraction licences in the Mataranka water allocation plan area (North and South Mataranka management zones) are subject to announced allocation conditions. These conditions provide me, as the Controller of Water Resources, an option to temporarily reduce water licence entitlements, should it be 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 Mataranka 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 Mataranka 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 Mataranka region received above average rainfall during the 2025-2026 wet season.
- The lower extent of the Roper River receives discharge from the Tindall Limestone Aquifer. 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 Mataranka water allocation plan 2024-2034 identifies an allowable level of impact from water extraction to the Roper River flows at the Elsey Homestead gauging station. The plan specifies minimum flow targets for wet, average and dry climatic conditions at Elsey Homestead at 1 November, as this is typically the driest period of the year when river flows are lowest.
- The plan provides that if water resource modelling predicts flows to reduce to a lower climatic condition category, or that water extraction will exceed 10% of flow at any time in a dry year, allocations may be reduced.
- Incorporating rainfall and evaporation data to 15 March and assuming zero rainfall for the remainder of 2026, modelling of the Roper River predicts a natural flow rate at 1 November 2026 of 4.3 m³/sec, or 373 ML per day, placing it in the wet climatic category, where a minimum flow of 275 ML per day must be maintained.
- Modelling for 2026-27, predicts a flow rate at Elsey Homestead gauging station of 4.0 m³/sec, or 346 ML per day, on 1 November 2026. The forecast flow rate remains considerably higher than the minimum threshold of 275 ML per day for a wet climatic year.
- Predicted flow reduction at the Elsey Homestead gauging station is 7.3%, which remains within the plan's threshold for maintaining natural flows.
- 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