

Alice Springs water allocation plan 2026-2036



Further information:

Please contact the Water Resources Division at:

Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Water Resources Division
PO Box 496
PALMERSTON NT 0830

Email: waterresources@nt.gov.au

Phone: 08 8999 4455

Web: www.nt.gov.au/environment/water

Report no: 17/2026

ISBN: 978-1-74350-529-8

Citation: Northern Territory Government (2026). *Alice Springs water allocation plan 2026-2036*.
Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, Northern Territory, Australia

Front page photo: Rocky Gap, taken by Max Rittner

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Lands, Planning and Environment respectfully acknowledges the Northern Territory's Aboriginal people and their rich culture and pays respect to the Elders past and present.

We acknowledge the Arrernte people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters of the Alice Springs water control district.

We recognise the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to Country and value their ongoing contribution to managing the lands and waters. We support the need for genuine and lasting partnerships with Traditional Owners to better understand cultural connections, and we will work to establish lasting partnerships to manage water together, now and into the future.



You are licensed to use this publication on the terms and conditions set out in:
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License (CC BY 4.0) at:
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>

If you do not agree to the terms and conditions, you must not use this publication.

You are free to copy, communicate and adapt the licensed material, provided that you abide by the licence terms (including Attribution) and attribute the licensed material using the statement:

Supplied by the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment. © Northern Territory Government.

Contents

1. Overview	4
2. Preliminary	5
2.1 Title.....	5
2.2 Purpose.....	5
2.3 Definitions.....	5
2.4 Water control district and plan area.....	6
2.5 Water subject to the plan	6
2.6 Water management zones.....	6
2.7 Term of the plan	6
3. How water is shared	7
3.1 Key definitions	7
3.2 Objectives for water sharing.....	8
3.3 Groundwater estimated sustainable yield	9
3.4 Groundwater allocations to beneficial uses.....	10
3.5 Aboriginal water reserve.....	11
4. Water management	12
4.1 Application of this section	12
4.2 Licensed take must not exceed allocated amount.....	12
4.3 Licensed take must not exceed limits of acceptable change.....	12
4.4 Licensed take from the Mereenie Aquifer System	12
4.5 Water trading	12
5. Review.....	13
5.1 Review	13
5.2 Water advisory committee	13
Schedule A. Dictionary	14
Schedule B. Abbreviations and acronyms.....	15
Schedule C. Alice Springs water control district and Alice Springs plan area.....	16
Schedule D. Alice Springs plan area and management zones.....	17
Schedule E. Government Gazette, declaration of water control district and beneficial uses	18
Schedule F. Alice Springs designated land eligible for the Aboriginal water reserve	21
Schedule G. Alice Springs designated land to which the Aboriginal water reserve applies	22
Schedule H. Todd River corridor.....	23

1. Overview

About the water allocation process

Water allocation is the process of determining how much water must stay in the environment to protect ecological functions and meet environmental requirements, and how much is available for drinking and regional economic priorities. Water allocation in the Northern Territory is undertaken at a regional level within defined areas known as water control districts, which are declared by the Minister for Water Resources (Minister) by *Gazette* notice.

About the Alice Springs plan area

Alice Springs lies in the heart of Central Australia. The hot arid climate is characterised by low average annual rainfall, very high evapotranspiration and pronounced inter-annual variability. Without permanent surface water, groundwater provides the only reliable source of water for the township of Alice Springs. The district's dramatic landforms reflect the ancient and complex geological history and reliance on groundwater in the arid centre of Australia.

The Alice Springs plan area is within the Alice Springs water control district (the district), an area of 10,040 km² ([Schedule C](#)). The plan applies to an area of approximately 4,528 km² (plan area). The plan area includes the township of Alice Springs and the Amoonguna community. Pastoral leases cover about 71% of the plan area. Aboriginal land holdings account for 19% of the plan area, and 6.8% of land parcels are eligible for the Aboriginal water reserve. The plan manages the primary groundwater resources, which are: the Mereenie Aquifer System, which provides the town's water supply; and the Town Basin, Inner Farm Basin, Outer Farm Basin and Wanngardji Basin aquifers, which provide for small scale irrigation, stock and domestic use. Licensed water entitlements in the plan area have remained consistent over the last 10 years, with public water supply the largest user.

The Mereenie Aquifer System is ancient water within the Amadeus Basin that receives very little modern recharge and is moderately to highly productive. The Town Basin, Inner Farm Basin, Outer Farm Basin and Wanngardji Basin aquifers lie within shallow alluvial (river/stream-deposited) sediments with episodic recharge.

About this document

This document is one of three core documents prepared as part of the water allocation process for the Alice Springs plan area. This document references other documents and guidelines that may relate to the plan area, but which do not form part of the core documents. The three core documents are:

Alice Springs water allocation plan 2026–2036 (this document, the plan). The plan is declared by the Minister under section 22B(1) of the *Water Act 1992* (Act). The plan describes the estimated sustainable yield for priority groundwater resources within the plan area ([Schedule D](#)). The estimated sustainable yield is the volume of water that can be taken from the water resources to which this plan applies. The plan allocates water amongst declared beneficial uses and takes effect from the date it is published in the *Gazette* by the Minister and will remain in force for a period of 10 years.

Alice Springs background report 2026–2036 (the background report) provides details on the information and processes that informed the plan, including available data and research on the surface water and groundwater resources of the plan area. It also describes the key environmental values of the plan area and their dependency on water resources, and the social and economic context of the region, including existing water use and projections of future water demand. The report collates the information and knowledge regarding the plan area at the time of its preparation.

Alice Springs implementation actions 2026–2036 (the implementation actions) details how the requirements in section 34 of the Act, with respect to the water resources of the plan area, are proposed to be fulfilled. It sets out a continuous program for the ongoing assessment and monitoring of water resources in the plan area, including the investigation, collection and analysis of data concerning the occurrence, volume, flow, characteristics, quality and use of water resources. That program is described as a series of implementation actions which includes research, monitoring and analytical work.

The Controller of Water Resources must consider any water allocation plan applying to the area in question when making a decision referred to in section 90(1AA) of the Act. The Alice Springs 2026-2036 background report, implementation actions and other factors may be taken into account where relevant to the decision.

2. Preliminary

Overview

Under section 22B of the Act, the Minister may declare one or more water allocation plans in respect of a water control district, or part of a district, for a period of up to 10 years. The Act requires that a review of a water allocation plan is conducted at intervals of no longer than 5 years.

This is the third water allocation plan to be declared for the Alice Springs plan area and replaces the previous water allocation plan that expired in February 2026. The first plan in the area was declared in 2007.

The Alice Springs plan provides for the protection, allocation, management and use of the key groundwater resources within the plan area. The plan manages the most significant groundwater resources within the plan area - the Mereenie Aquifer System that provides the town's water supply within the Amadeus Basin, and the Town Basin, Inner Farm Basin, Outer Farm Basin and Wanngardji Basin that are within shallow alluvial basins for small scale irrigation, stock and domestic use.

The plan sets out the volume of water that can be sustainably extracted, such as for drinking water supply or to support regional economic opportunities, with consideration of the ecological constraints of the water resource and the water required to support the health of aquatic ecosystems. In Alice Springs, whilst the total resource volume under management is vast, it is located in the arid zone with little modern recharge. The plan authorises a proportionately small and slow groundwater drawdown to occur over centuries through extraction to meet the town's water supply needs due to necessity, where no other cost-effective supply exists.

Although the plan contains summaries of the effect of certain provisions of the Act, those summaries are provided for information only.

2.1 Title

This plan may be cited as the Alice Springs water allocation plan 2026–2036 (the plan).

2.2 Purpose

The plan establishes a framework to share and manage water resources in the Alice Springs plan area. The plan:

- a) establishes the estimated sustainable yield of water resources in that part of the district to which the plan applies, in accordance with section 22B(5) of the Act
- b) allocates water within the estimated sustainable yield to beneficial uses, including an allocation to the environment and an Aboriginal water reserve
- c) designates eligible land as land in respect of which an Aboriginal water reserve applies
- d) ensures that the total water use for all beneficial uses is less than the sum of allocations to each beneficial use.

2.3 Definitions

The dictionary in [Schedule A](#) defines particular words used in the plan. Abbreviations and acronyms used in this plan are set out in [Schedule B](#).

Unless otherwise stated, terms defined in the Act have the same meaning when used in the plan.

2.4 Water control district and plan area

The plan applies to the Alice Springs plan area shown in [Schedule C](#), within the Alice Springs water control district (the district).

2.5 Water subject to the plan

The plan applies to the Town Basin, Inner Farm Basin, Outer Farm Basin, Wanngardí Basin and the Mereenie Aquifer System within the plan area.

2.6 Water management zones

The zones shown in [Schedule D](#) are water management zones for this plan. The zones are:

- a) Town
- b) Inner Farm
- c) Outer Farm
- d) Wanngardí
- e) Mereenie.

2.7 Term of the plan

The plan will remain in force for a period of 10 years, commencing from the date of the *Gazette* notice.

3. How water is shared

Overview

This section of the plan sets out how water is shared to maximise the economic and social benefits to the community created by the sustainable use of a water resource.

As the Territory's second largest town, and located in the arid centre of Australia, Alice Springs depends on groundwater to support liveability, community wellbeing, and recreation. The primary water use is for the township, and region's economy is service based with tourism, pastoral, government, defence and Aboriginal services being the backbone of the town, which also plays a key role as a service hub in the desert.

The objectives of water sharing and associated outcomes have been developed through the previous iterations of the plan to provide high level strategic direction to the management of the priority groundwater resources in the plan area.

Each management zone managed by the plan has an established estimated sustainable yield (ESY) which is not transferrable across management zones. The total volume of water available in the plan area is 23,540 ML per year for the aquifers managed by the plan.

Aboriginal economic development in the plan area is supported with 1,170 ML per year allocated from the estimated sustainable yield (ESY) to the Aboriginal water reserve. Eligible people with access to the reserve are identified based on land tenure.

3.1 Key definitions

The ESY is the volume of water that can be allocated from the water resource to beneficial uses, within ecological restraints. Under the Territory's water management framework, the majority of the resource is retained in the environment, and the ESY identifies a smaller proportion for use for social and economic benefits.

In determining the ESY the following matters are considered:

- available data concerning aquifer inflows, recharge, outflows, evapotranspiration and existing storage, in order to reasonably estimate the water balance of the resource
- furthering the purposes of the Act stated in the Long Title¹, relevantly the 'allocation, use, control, protection, management and administration of water resources' by sustaining long-term development of water resources and ensuring environmental integrity
- the objective of the statutory scheme to protect environmental water quality
- the Territory's commitment to the Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Water Initiative 2014, which defines 'environmentally sustainable level of extraction' as 'the level of water extraction from a particular system which, if exceeded would compromise key environmental assets, or ecosystem functions, and the productive base of the resource'
- the requirement to allocate water to the 'environment', as a beneficial use of water in the Act, to provide water to maintain the health of aquatic ecosystems.

Beneficial uses of the water in the district are:

- pursuant to section 22A(2) of the Act: the environment and Aboriginal economic development
- pursuant to the notice in the *Gazette* published on 4 July 2007 declaring the water control district and *Gazette* published on 23 July 2026 declaring beneficial uses of water ([Schedule E](#)).

¹ The Long Title of the *Water Act 1992* is: An Act to provide for the investigation, allocation, use, control, protection, management and administration of water resources, and for related purposes.

3.2 Objectives for water sharing

The overarching goal of water sharing is to maximise the economic and social benefits to the community that are created by the sustainable use of a water resource, while taking into account climate variability.

Water sharing objectives are intended to set the high-level strategic direction for water decisions and management of a water resource.

Each objective is underpinned by associated outcomes.

Section 3 of the Alice Springs implementation actions 2026-2036 details actions that will be undertaken in the term of the plan to contribute to achieving each of the objectives.

Objective 1: Balancing the retention and preservation of key environmental values dependent on water with the overall benefits provided by the water resources

The associated outcomes are:

- a) There is an improved understanding of the groundwater and surface water resource characteristics and environmental values.
- b) The condition of groundwater dependent ecosystems is known and monitored as far as practicable and accounted for in water management.
- c) Key environmental values are appropriately accounted for in water management.

Objective 2: Ensure water licence decisions account for Aboriginal and other cultural values dependent on water

The associated outcomes are:

- a) There is an improved understanding of Aboriginal cultural values and other cultural values associated with the water resource.
- b) Key Aboriginal cultural sites that rely on water are identified, documented, monitored and can be considered in water management.
- c) Other cultural values that rely on water are identified and monitored and can be considered in water management.

Objective 3: Predict and protect water for rural stock and domestic purposes

The associated outcomes are:

- a) The amount of water needed to support stock and domestic use is met.
- b) The quality of water sourced for stock and domestic purposes is maintained.
- c) Community members and relevant stakeholders understand water management.

Objective 4: Provide long-term security of a sufficient quantity and quality of water for public water supplies

The associated outcomes are:

- a) The amount of water needed to support public water supply is met.
- b) The quality of water sourced for public water supplies is maintained.
- c) Community members and relevant stakeholders understand water management.

Objective 5: Set aside water to support local Aboriginal economic development

The associated outcomes are:

- Local Aboriginal people have access to water through the Aboriginal water reserve to support economic development.
- Arrangements to access the Aboriginal water reserve are documented and communicated.
- Aboriginal people are receiving benefits from the Aboriginal water reserve.

Objective 6: Provide access to water to support sustainable development for the benefit of the region

The associated outcomes are:

- Water is available to support economic development in the region.
- Industry is confident to invest in the region.
- Water is used for productive purposes and in a water-efficient manner.

3.3 Groundwater estimated sustainable yield

The estimated sustainable yield is informed by an understanding of the inflows and outflows of the water resource, including the volume of water in storage, combined with the inputs (recharge, inflow) and outputs (discharge, outflow and evapotranspiration) and throughflow. These components vary in space and time and are calculated using models, as well as observation and measured data. For reporting purposes, the components are averaged from daily values to long-term averages, which means the inflows will not always equal the outflows plus the change in storage.

The inflows, outflows and storage volumes of the water resource and estimated sustainable yield for each water management zone are set out in Table 1.

Table 1. Key features of the natural water balance for the Alice Springs water resources

Groundwater	Mereenie	Outer Farm	Town	Inner Farm	Wanngardi
Aquifer	Mereenie Aquifer System	Outer Farm Basin Aquifer	Town Basin Aquifer	Inner Farm Basin Aquifer	Wanngardi Basin Aquifer
Annual inflows (ML per year)					
recharge	2,000	501	932	425	249
throughflow in	465	495	30	100	0
Annual outflows (ML per year)					
discharge	0	0	0	0	0
throughflow out	2,000	610	100	495	465
evapotranspiration	0	270	200	50	14
Storage (ML)	>100,000,000	132,000	6,020	3,630	15,800

In addition to the matters outlined at section 3.1, specific features of the groundwater resources that informed the estimated sustainable yield include:

- data within the Mereenie Aquifer System and Outer Farm Basin that improve understanding of the structure, storage, and hydraulic properties of the Amadeus Basin aquifers

- data of the Town Basin aquifer that shows modern recharge and to maintain optimum groundwater levels beneath Alice Springs
- consistent with the National Water Agreement, groundwater storage drawdown is acceptable where it is unavoidable to meet urban water supply needs in the arid zone where no other cost-effective supply exists.

Further information is detailed throughout the Alice Springs background report 2026-2036.

3.4 Groundwater allocations to beneficial uses

The water allocated to beneficial uses² must be within the estimated sustainable yield. The allocations under this plan are set out in Table 2.

Allocations recognise the need to enable adequate water supply for the social, cultural and economic needs of the Territory's second largest town.

Table 2. Allocation of estimated sustainable yield to beneficial uses in management zones (ML per year)

Groundwater	Mereenie	Outer Farm	Inner Farm	Town	Wanngardi
Beneficial uses:					
rural stock and domestic	120	810	200	530	180
public water supply	13,000	0	0	0	0
environment ³	70	200	50	200	100
Water for economic development:					
Aboriginal economic development through the Aboriginal water reserve ⁴	1,020	10	10	130	0
Other uses: agriculture, aquaculture, cultural, industry, mining activities and petroleum activities	5,550	100	60	1,140	60
Estimated sustainable yield (ML per year)	19,760	1,120	320	2,000	340
Water available for economic development (at time of declaration)⁵					
Aboriginal water reserve	1,020	0	10	8	0
Other uses: agriculture, aquaculture, cultural, industry, mining activities and petroleum activities	5,550	110	60	1,262	60

Further information is detailed in section 6.2 of the Alice Springs background report 2026-2036.

² The various beneficial uses of water are listed under section 4(3) of the *Water Act 1992*

³ This amount is allocated to the environment to meet the requirement in section 22B(6) of the Act. This water is not extracted and is retained in the environment to maintain ecological functions and environmental values in the region. This volume is additional to the volume of water that remains in the water resource and cannot be taken.

⁴ The maximum volume of water allocated to the Aboriginal water reserve subject to existing licensed entitlements being recovered or surrendered. Actual volume available in the AWR at time of declaration is displayed in the lower half of the table under "Water available for economic development (at time of declaration)"

⁵ Water available for economic development at the time of water plan declaration. Water recovered or surrendered may be added to the AWR up to the maximum volume stipulated in the upper section of Table 2.

3.5 Aboriginal water reserve

People may apply to access the Aboriginal water reserve consistent with the provision of the Act.

The land parcels in the Alice Springs plan area with access to the Aboriginal water reserve are shown in [Schedule F](#).

The eligible Aboriginal people⁶ associated with each land parcel and volume of water from the Aboriginal water reserve are shown in [Schedule G](#).

Licensed entitlements in the Town and Outer Farm management zones were granted prior to the commencement of an Aboriginal water reserve. Due to these pre-existing licences, the volume of water available through the Aboriginal water reserve at the time of plan declaration is less than the maximum volume allocated (see Table 2).

Licensed water which is recovered or surrendered in the Town and Outer Farm management zones may be allocated to the Aboriginal water reserve in the respective zone, up to the maximum volume allocated in Table 2. This arrangement must first recognise that the water requirements for other beneficial uses, including the environment, are satisfied.

At the time of declaration, the maximum amount of water is available for Aboriginal economic development in the Mereenie and Inner Farm management zones.

The Wanggardi management zone does not have an allocation for Aboriginal economic development due to no eligible land being identified within this management zone.

⁶ Refer to section 71BA of the *Water Act 1992*

4. Water management

Overview

This section of the plan sets out how water is managed through water extraction licences taking water from the identified groundwater resources: the Mereenie Aquifer System, which provides the town's water supply, and the Town Basin, Inner Farm, Outer Farm and Wannardi Basin aquifers, which provide for small scale irrigation, stock and domestic use. These management arrangements are in addition to other requirements under the Act, other laws of the Territory and policies established by the Northern Territory Government.

The shallow alluvial aquifers sustain tree species along the riverbanks and channels, including river red gums, many of which are sacred to Arrernte people and form part of the town's amenity. The alluvial aquifers within the Town Basin and Outer Farm Basin provide irrigation water that offsets demand for public drinking water supplies and provides for unlicensed stock and domestic use. Extensive work has been undertaken over recent years to map the extent of groundwater dependent ecosystems across the plan area to inform water management. The river red gums are protected through the plan by limiting extraction through a licence when the groundwater level exceeds eight metres below ground level in the Todd River corridor.

4.1 Application of this section

This section applies to water extraction licences granted with respect to the water subject to this plan.

4.2 Licensed take must not exceed allocated amount

The Controller of Water Resources should not grant or amend a water extraction licence if the granting or amendment of the licence would result in the total volume of water that may be taken from the water resource exceeding the volume allocated to corresponding beneficial uses, as set out in section 3.4 of this document.

4.3 Licensed take must not exceed limits of acceptable change

The area of the Todd River corridor within the Town management zone is shown in [Schedule H](#). Water taken or proposed to be taken under a groundwater extraction licence should:

- not result in groundwater levels declining to more than eight metres below ground level in the Todd River corridor, as measured at monitoring bores RN014871, RN013920, and RN011819 or any NT Government monitoring bore that replaces these bores within the Todd River corridor.
- consider any guidelines published by the department from time to time related to limits of acceptable change.

Groundwater extraction licences may be granted or amended with conditions relative to the limits of acceptable change.

4.4 Licensed take from the Mereenie Aquifer System

In the Mereenie Aquifer System, for applications relating to the take of water, consideration should be given to the impact or potential impact on water availability and water quality at the Roe Creek borefield (NT Por 6332) and proposed Rocky Hill borefield (NT Por 4704) which provide current and future source water for public water supply.

4.5 Water trading

Licence holders may apply to trade water, consistent with the Government's policy on trading licensed water entitlements⁷.

⁷ <https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/management-security/water-policies-and-guidelines>

5. Review

Overview

Section 22B(3) of the Act provides that the Minister must ensure a review of a water allocation plan is conducted at intervals not longer than five years.

Section 23(1A) of the Act enables the Minister to establish a water advisory committee for a water allocation plan.

5.1 Review

In accordance with section 22B(3) of the Act, the Minister will ensure that a review of this plan is conducted at intervals of no longer than five years. The Minister has discretion to initiate a review of this plan at intervals of less than five years.

The review may be informed by the outcomes of the implementation actions, new data and research findings, and community consultation. The plan may be modified to reflect improved knowledge identified by the review.

The review will include assessing whether the water resource is responding as predicted in the modelling undertaken at the commencement of the plan, and in any subsequent modelling undertaken during plan implementation.

5.2 Water advisory committee

Where the Minister considers it appropriate, a water advisory committee for the plan may be established to advise on the effectiveness of the plan in maximising economic and social benefits within ecological restraints. Appropriate considerations should be given to water resource management, including the actual volume of water taken under licences and any associated risks to the water resource.

Schedule A. Dictionary

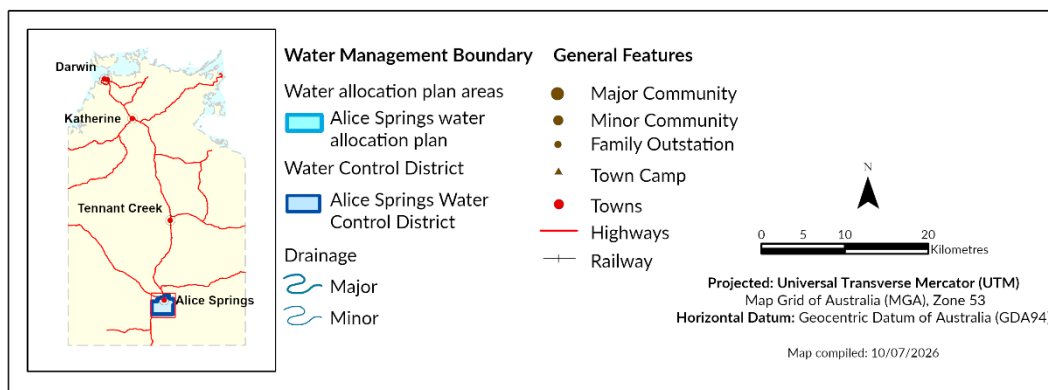
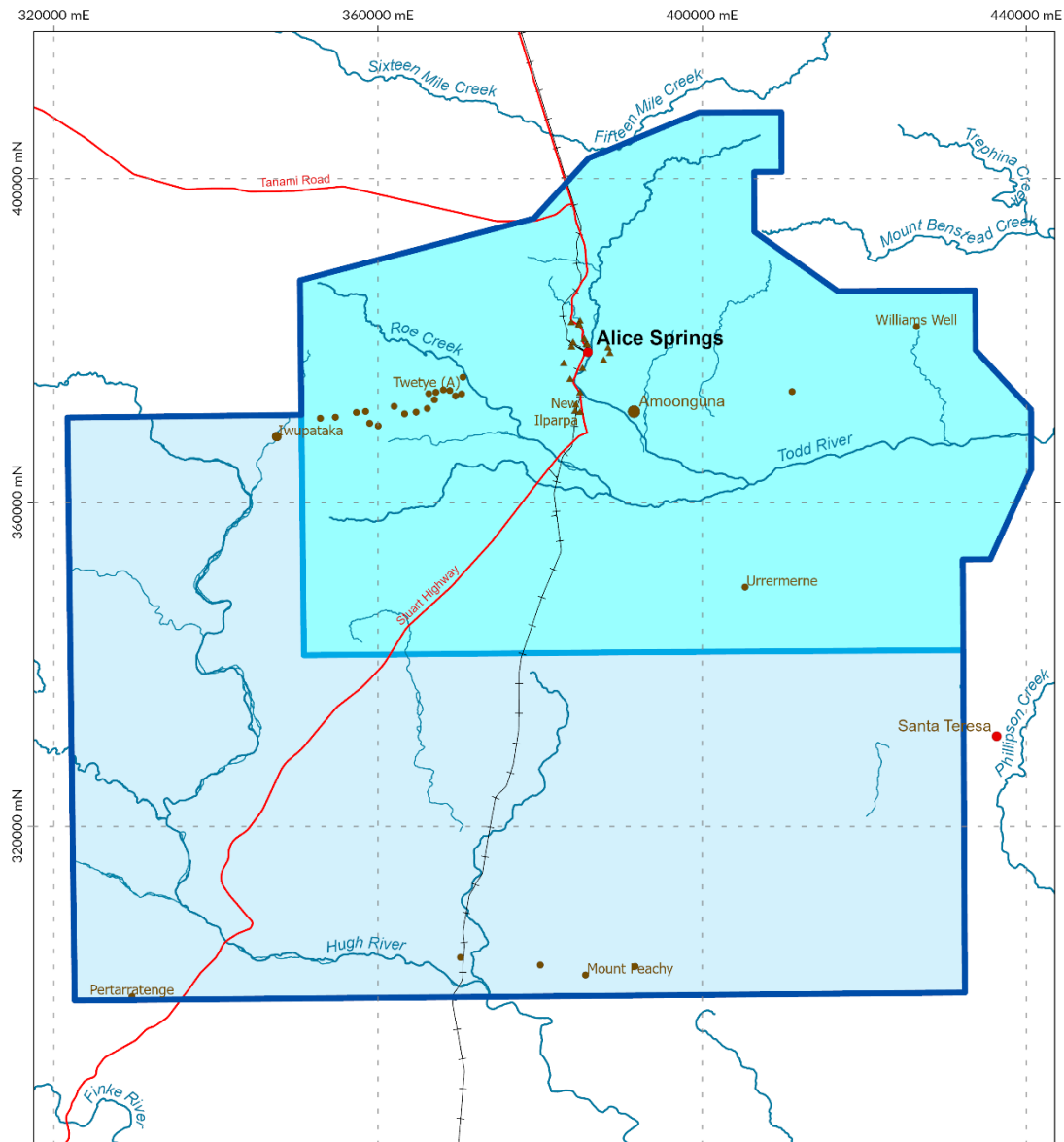
Term	Definition or reference
Aboriginal water reserve	Aboriginal water reserve is a portion of water set aside in a water plan for the economic benefit of eligible Aboriginal people (refer <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1))
Act	the <i>Water Act 1992</i>
beneficial uses	the beneficial uses for the Alice Springs water control district declared by <i>Gazette</i> no. S63, 23 July 2026. A copy of the declaration is included in Schedule E of this plan
Mereenie Aquifer System	collective term for the Mereenie Sandstone, Pacoota Sandstone, Goyder Formation and Shannon Formation, an extensive groundwater system within the Amadeus Basin
Controller	the Controller of Water Resources appointed under the <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 18
department	the department with the responsibility for administering the <i>Water Act 1992</i> , according to the Northern Territory of Australia Administrative Arrangements Order
eligible Aboriginal people	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1)
eligible land	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4B
groundwater	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1)
licence holder	the person granted a licence to take water under section 45 or section 60 of the <i>Water Act 1992</i>
Minister	the Minister ⁸ responsible for the <i>Water Act</i> under the Administrative Arrangements Order
plan area	the area to which this water allocation plan applies as shown in Schedule C
water control district	the Alice Springs water control district, declared by <i>Gazette</i> no. G27, 4 July 2007 under section 22 of the <i>Water Act 1992</i> . A copy of the declaration is included in Schedule E of this plan
water licence/water extraction licence	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1)

⁸ Currently the Minister for Water Resources

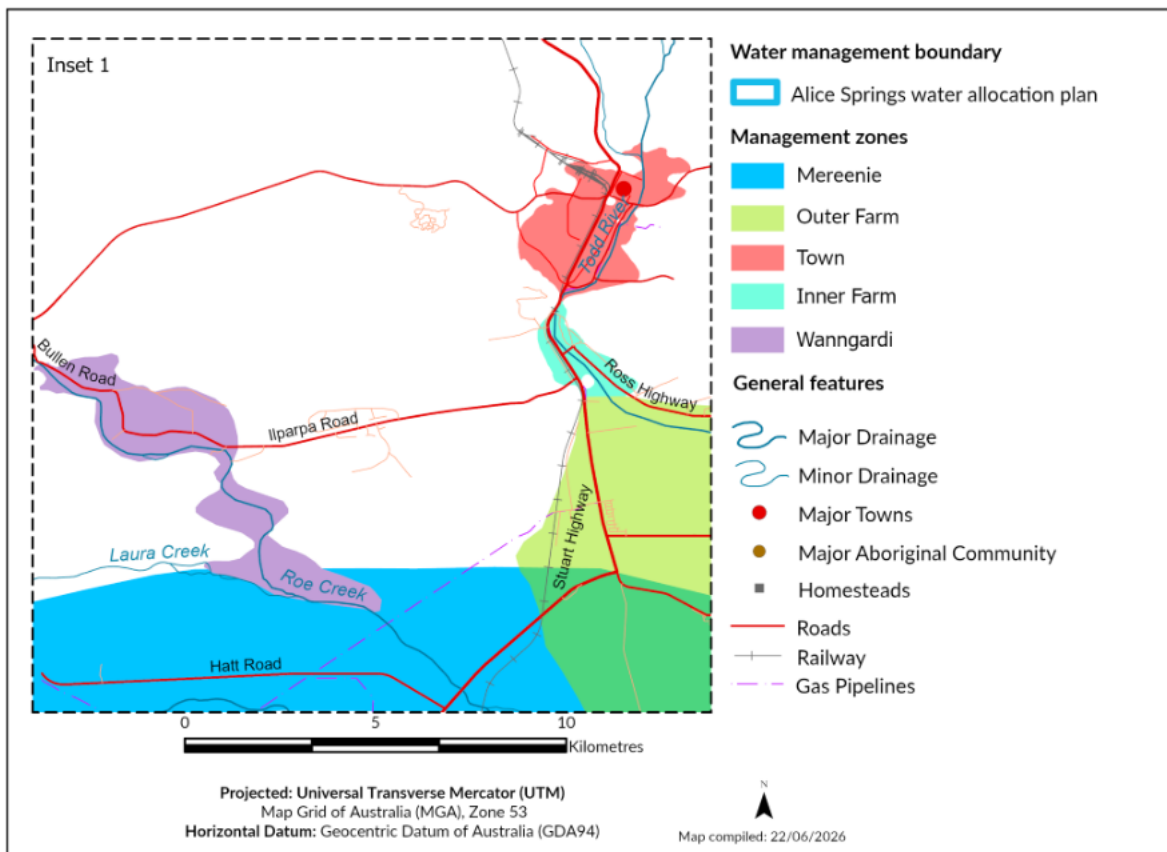
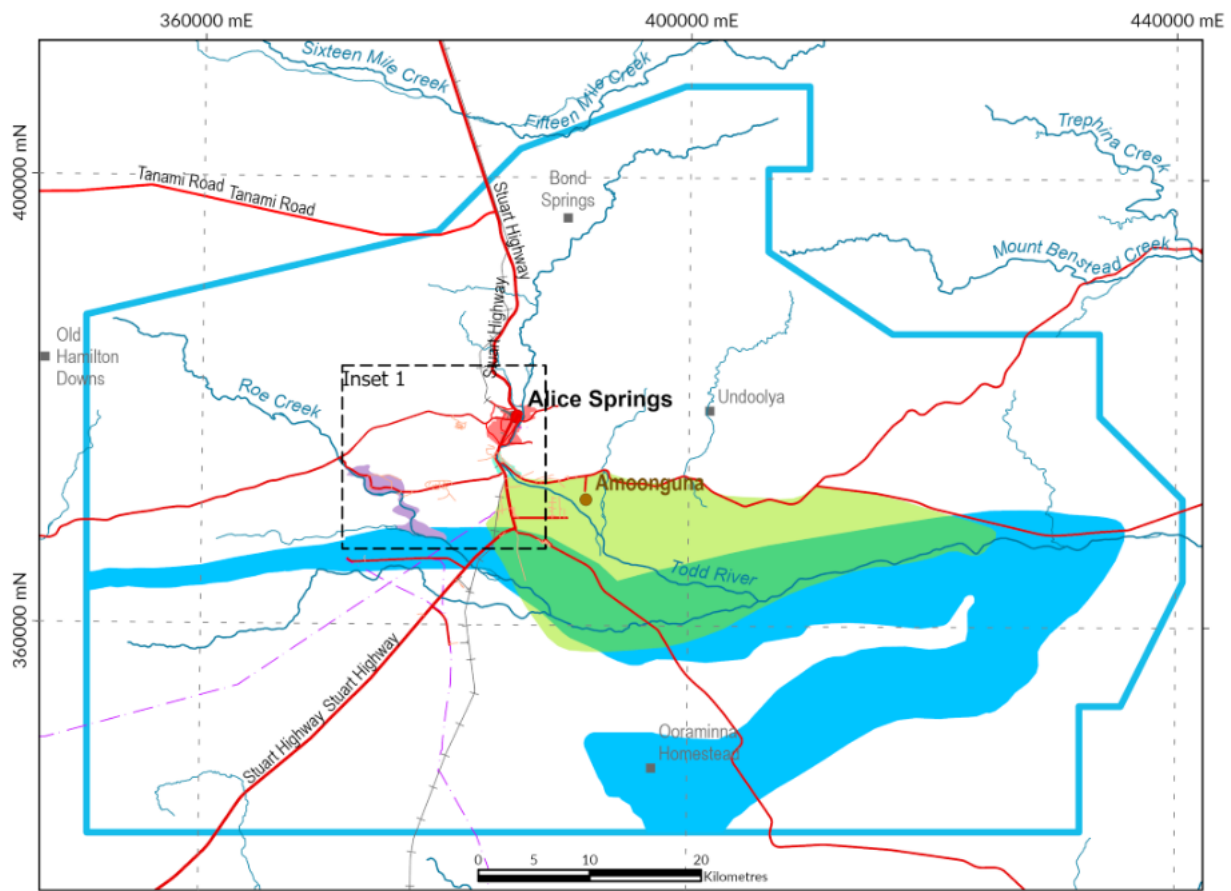
Schedule B. Abbreviations and acronyms

Term	Full form
ESY	estimated sustainable yield
ha	hectare
km ²	square kilometre
m	metre
ML	megalitre

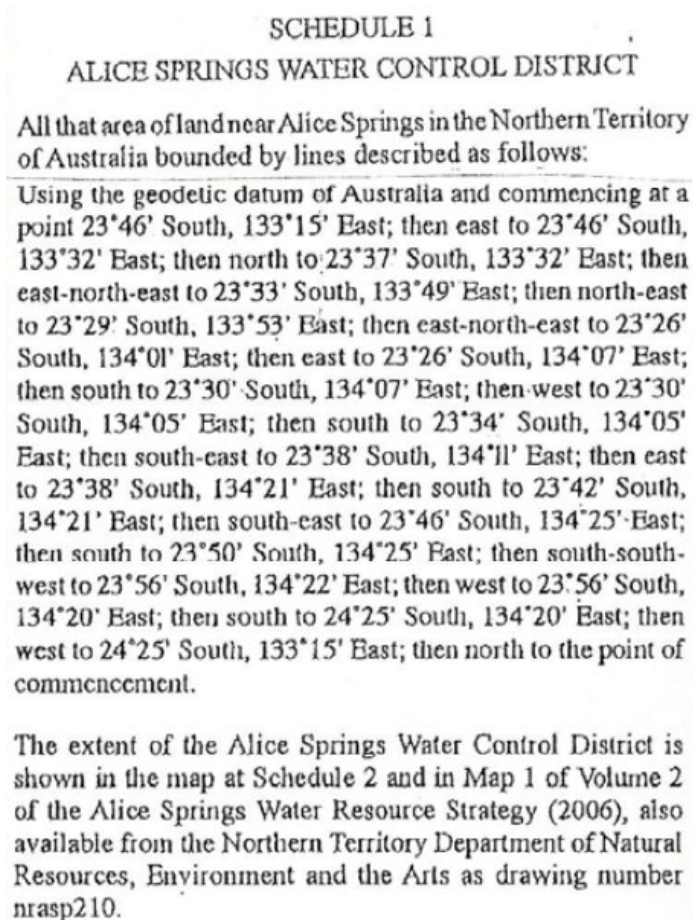
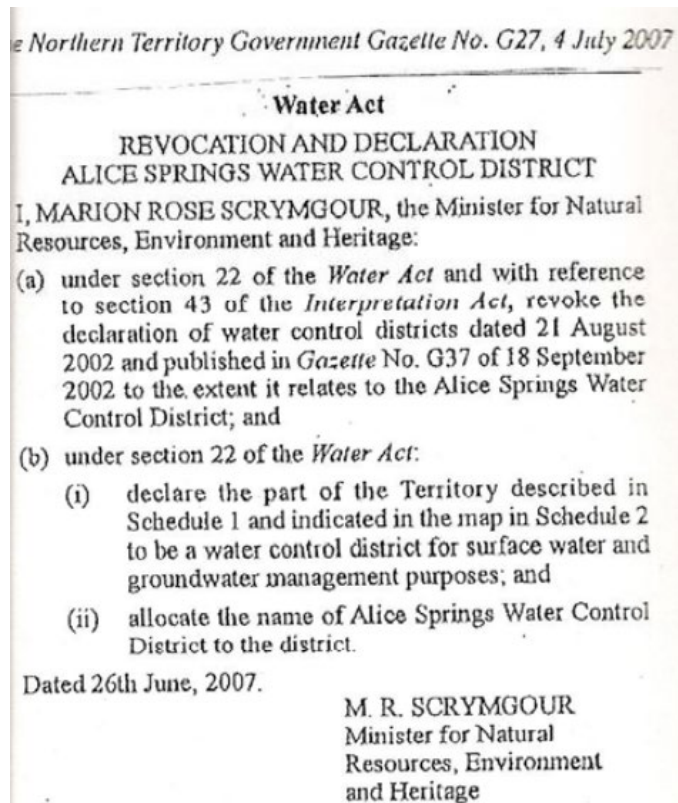
Schedule C. Alice Springs water control district and Alice Springs plan area



Schedule D. Alice Springs plan area and management zones



Schedule E. Government Gazette, declaration of water control district and beneficial uses





Northern Territory of Australia

Government Gazette

ISSN-0157-833X

No. S63

23 July 2026



Northern Territory of Australia

Water Act 1992

Revocation of Declaration and Declaration of Beneficial Uses, Quality Standards, Criteria and Objectives in Alice Springs Water Control District

I, David Robert Connolly, Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council:

- (a) under section 22A(1) and section 73(1) of the *Water Act 1992* (the *Act*) and with reference to section 43 of the *Interpretation Act 1978*, revoke the instrument entitled 'Revocation and Declaration of Beneficial Uses and Objectives – Alice Springs Water Control District' dated 17 October 2014 and published in *Gazette* No. G43 of 29 October 2014; and
- (b) under section 22A(1) of the *Act*, declare the beneficial uses of all surface water and groundwater located in the Alice Springs Water Control District (the *District*) to be the following:
 - (i) agriculture;
 - (ii) aquaculture;
 - (iii) public water supply;
 - (iv) cultural;

Northern Territory Government Gazette No. S63, 23 July 2026

- (v) industry;
 - (vi) rural stock and domestic;
 - (vii) mining activity;
 - (viii) petroleum activity; and
- (c) under section 73(1) of the Act, declare the quality standards, criteria and objectives described in the guidelines specified in the Schedule to be the quality standards, criteria and objectives that apply in relation to the water in the District, according to the beneficial use of the water.

Responsible Minister:

J. R. BURGOYNE
Minister for Water Resources

D. R. CONNOLLY
Administrator

Dated 23 July 2026

Note for paragraph (b)

Section 22A(2) of the Act provides that each of the following is a beneficial use of water in a water control district:

- (a) *environment;*
- (b) *Aboriginal economic development.*

Schedule

'Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality', published by the Australian and New Zealand Government and Australian state and territory governments, Canberra, ACT, Australia dated 2018 and available at www.waterquality.gov.au/guidelines/anz-fresh-marine

Schedule G. Alice Springs designated land to which the Aboriginal water reserve applies

Eligible Aboriginal people/land description	Land parcel	Designated eligible land area (ha) with direct access to water resources	Percent of AWR	AWR allocation (ML/year)
Town				
Alkeperre-Atwarte Ayeye-Arenye Arleye Aboriginal Land Trust	Lot 9519	1.359	46.88%	60.944
Mpwetyerre Aboriginal Corporation	Lot 2664	1.54	53.11%	69.043
Inner Farm				
Alkeperre-Atwarte Ayeye-Arenye Arleye Aboriginal Land Trust	Lot 9519	0.031*	0.19%	0.019
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7923	Lot 1020	0.330*	2.01%	0.201
Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programmes Unit Aboriginal Corporation	Lot 290	3.9314	23.91%	2.391
Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation ICN 414	Lot 341	4.0549	24.66%	2.466
	Lot 291	4.0441	24.59%	2.459
	Lot 292	4.0501	24.63%	2.463
Outer Farm				
Ilparpa Aboriginal Corporation	Lot 5713	3.57	0.35%	0.035
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7923	Lot 7895	2.017	0.2%	0.02
Amoonguna Aboriginal Land Trust	Lot 1	2.70	0.26%	0.026
	NT Por 568	123.09	12.22%	1.222
	NT Por 461	363.96	36.15%	3.615
Melkngge Aboriginal Land Trust	NT Por 3821	466.5	46.33%	4.633
Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation	Lot 9256	2.01	0.2%	0.02
Alkeperre-Atwarte Ayeye-Arenye Arleye Aboriginal Land Trust	NT Por 6624	42.89	4.26%	0.426
Mereenie				
Urremerne Aboriginal Corporation	NT Por 6921	1,310.32	13.47%	137.394
Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust	NT Por 317	8,413.17	86.53%	882.606

*Eligibility has been determined based on the total size of the land parcel within the plan area, all parcels met statutory requirement of 1 ha. The area with direct water access is then used to calculate AWR proportions.

Note: eligible Aboriginal people and land have been identified based on a systematic review of the Northern Territory Governments land database, and the National Native title register. Some parcels may have been inadvertently missed due to the complexity of land records. If you think you may be eligible, contact Water Resources Division at water.resources@nt.gov.au

Schedule H. Todd River corridor

