

# 2022 Announced Allocation Decision

## Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District – Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer

Water extraction licences within the Mataranka 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 annually, 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. Modelling of 2022 dry season flows

The Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer discharges into the Roper River. Therefore, it is reasonable to use river flows when determining the amount of water available for licensed extraction in the 2022-23 water accounting year.

There is no declared water allocation plan for the resource. The contingent allocation rules for Top End Rivers in the NT Water Allocation Planning Framework (the Framework) stipulates that in the absence of directly related research, at least 80 per cent of flow at any time in any part of the river is allocated as water for environmental and other public benefit water provision, and extraction for consumptive purposes will not exceed a 20 per cent threshold level of flow at any time in any part of the river.

The Roper Model predicts river flows at five gauging stations: Mataranka Homestead (downstream), Elsey Station, Moroak, Judy Crossing and Red Rock. Of these, Mataranka Homestead provides the most reliable indication of the river flows due to hydrological constraints at the other gauging sites.

Modelling of maximum licensed extraction showed that daily flows at Mataranka Homestead would be reduced by 6 per cent. This is within the 20 per cent change to natural flow allowed under the Framework.

### 2. Water use information

In the 2021 water accounting year, licensed extraction was less than 30 per cent of the total licensed entitlements. It is unlikely that licensed extraction in the 2022-23 water accounting year will be significantly higher than previous levels due to limited development and technical capacity to extract maximum licensed entitlements. 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 nature of development and water extraction infrastructure to utilise full licensed entitlements.

### Conclusion

Accordingly, I have determined not to reduce licensed water entitlements through the annual announced allocation condition. Therefore, all water extraction licence holders for the Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer in the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District are permitted to extract 100 per cent of their maximum licensed entitlement for the 2022-23 water accounting year, which commences on 1 May 2022.



Joanne Townsend  
Controller of Water Resources

7 April 2022