

2025-26 Announced allocation notice for the Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer

Water extraction licences in the Mataranka water allocation plan area (North and South Mataranka) 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 2025-26 water accounting year, commencing 1 May 2025.

All licence holders within the Mataranka water allocation plan area are permitted to extract up to 100% of their licensed entitlements for the 2025-26 water accounting year.

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

- The Mataranka region received below average rainfall during the 2024-2025 wet season.
- Reported water use for all licences in the Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer was approximately 40% as of March 2025.
- The Mataranka water allocation plan 2024-2034 identifies an allowable level of impact to the Roper River flows at Elsey Homestead gauging station. The lower extent of the Roper River receives discharge from the Tindall Limestone Aquifer. The plan specifies the environmental flow targets for 1 November, as this is typically the lowest flow period in the river.
- Modelling by the department predicts the impact of water extraction on river flows for the plan area. Modelled predications for the Roper River, based on recent rainfall and water use records, and assuming zero rainfall for the remainder of 2025 indicate a natural flow rate at Elsey Homestead gauging station of 4.32 m³/s on 1 November 2025.

Modelling of extractions, including for rural stock and domestic use and assuming existing licences take their total licensed volume, predicts a 7% reduction in flows at the Elsey Homestead gauging station for the 2025-26 water accounting year, which meets the plan criteria.



Andrew Johnson
Controller of Water Resources

17 April 2025