

2026-27 Announced allocation notice for the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer

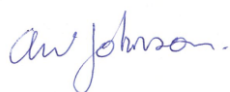
Water extraction licences in the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer water allocation plan area are subject to announced allocation conditions. These conditions provide me, as the Controller of Water Resources, an option to temporarily reduce water licence entitlements, should it be required, to protect the environmental, cultural or social values associated with a water resource.

I have determined that the environmental, cultural and social values of the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer 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 Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer 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 Daly region received above average rainfall during the 2025-2026 wet season.
- Daly River flows during the dry season are predominantly driven by groundwater from the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer discharging to the river. 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 Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer water allocation plan 2019-2029 identifies an allowable level of impact from water extraction to Daly River flows at three key monitoring sites. The plan specifies environmental flow targets for 1 November, as this is typically the driest period of the year when river flows are lowest.
- The plan provides that water extraction should not reduce natural flows in the Daly River at 1 November:
 - at Dorisvale Crossing, by more than 8% whenever natural flow is ≤ 6.2 m³/sec or more than 20% whenever natural flow is >6.2 m³/sec
 - at Ooloo Crossing, by more than 8% whenever natural flow is ≤ 12 m³/sec, or more than 20% whenever natural flow is >12 m³/sec
 - at Mount Nancar, by more than 8% whenever natural flow is ≤ 12 m³/sec, or more than 20% whenever natural flow is >12 m³/sec
- If water resource modelling predicts reductions to the natural flow rate greater than what the plan provides, allocations may be reduced.
- Modelling of the Daly River predicts a flow rate at Dorisvale of 9.5 m³/sec, Ooloo Crossing of 14.6 m³/sec and Mount Nancar of 23 m³/sec, on 1 November 2026.
- Predicted flow reductions at these locations are 4.7%, 3.1% and 0.3% respectively, all of which are 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