

## 2018-19 Announced Allocations Report

### Water Allocation for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine

#### Announcement

In accordance with clause 32 Announced Allocations of the Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine 2016-19, I, Joanne Townsend, the Controller of Water Resources, announce that allocations for the 2018-19 water accounting year are **100%** in all security levels.

Licence Security	2018-19 Allocation
Total	100%
High	100%
Medium	100%
Low – Public Water Supply	100%
Low - Other	100%

#### Background

The Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine is recharged by water that seeps down into the aquifer through the soil profile and directly through sinkholes. Water also enters the aquifer from the sandstone plateau east of Katherine. Groundwater exits the aquifer through springs and seeps along the Katherine River, maintaining the flow of the river through the dry season.

The amount of groundwater that flows into the Katherine River is determined by the balance between seasonal recharge and the water extracted from bores for consumptive beneficial uses. The Department uses an integrated groundwater and surface water model of the Katherine - Daly River Region to predict the late dry season flow each year, based on the amount of rainfall received over the previous wet season.

The Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine sets out the volume of water that can be extracted by licences over the coming water accounting year, according to the late dry season natural flows predicted for the Katherine River. The volume of water that can be taken is announced each year by 1 May.

#### 2018-19 Reasons for Decision

Modelling for the 2018-19 water accounting year predicts that the natural flow in the Katherine River on 1 November 2018 will be 2.28 cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s). Under the Plan, for this predicted flow, the extraction limit for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine, is 38,391 ML/year. As this extraction limit includes 1300 ML for unlicensed stock and domestic use, the available extraction for all licensed use is 37,091 ML. The sum of all 2018-19 licenced entitlements is 35,285ML. Therefore, there is no requirement to reduce allocations for the 2018-19 water accounting year and all licence holders will receive a an 100% announced allocation of 100%.

The predicted flows for the 2018-19 water accounting year is similar to previous years, giving confidence that modelling can be used to predict late dry season flows and inform the decision about the maximum extraction volumes for the coming water accounting year through the application of clause 32 of the Water Allocation Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JOANNE TOWNSEND  
Controller of Water Resources

30/4 /2018