

2022 Announced Allocation Decision

Darwin Rural Water Control District – Annual Announced Allocation Decision

Groundwater extraction licences in the Darwin Rural Water Control District (DRWCD) 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 considered the following matters:

- The Department's monitoring bores in the DRWCD indicate that groundwater levels are approximately the same or higher than levels recorded at this time last year.
- Commercial water users are continuing to be transitioned into the licensing framework.
- A large portion of authorised allocations are attributable to rural stock and domestic purposes as permitted under sections 10 and 14 of the Act and are not subject to licensing or announced allocation processes.
- An inequitable burden to reduce overall consumption would be placed on a limited number of licensed water users.
- Approximately 20 per cent of licensed groundwater entitlements is for the beneficial use of public water supply, which is not subject to annual announced allocations.

For these reasons, I have formed the opinion that making an annual announced allocation for the 2022-23 water accounting year is neither necessary to protect the environmental, cultural or social values of water, nor likely to reduce overall groundwater extraction in the DRWCD.

Accordingly, I have determined not to reduce licensed groundwater entitlements through the annual announced allocation condition. Therefore, all groundwater extraction licence holders in the DRWCD 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