

# Publishing notices under the Water Act 1992

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## 1 Introduction

Section 71B of the Water Act 1992 (Act) requires the Controller of Water Resources to publish notices of intention water extraction licence applications in a **newspaper circulating in the general locality to which the application relates**. Section 71D requires notices of decision regarding water extraction licence applications to be published in the **same newspaper/s in which the notice of the relevant application was given**. Section 71E requires notice of review decisions to be published in the **same newspaper/s in which the notice of the original decision was published**.

## 2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to increase consistency and transparency surrounding government decision making, and to provide guidance to water licensing officers. This policy is intended to clearly delineate which newspaper a water licence notices will be published in, based on the purpose, significance of the proposal and the location of the resource to which the application relates.

## 3 Scope

This policy applies to notices published by the Controller of Water Resources or delegate under sections 71B(2), 71D(1)(b) and 71E(2) of the Water Act 1992.

## 4 Background

Prior to 2020 there were several weekly local newspapers that serviced regional townships. These newspapers were actively used by the Water Resources Division for the publication of water licence decisions and applications associated with that region, as required by the Act. In April 2020 the majority of local newspapers moved to either an online format or ceased publication all together. As a result there are now only two newspapers that meet the requirements of the Act: The NT News, a daily newspaper readily available across the Territory; and the Katherine Times, a weekly newspaper that serves Katherine, Pine Creek, Tennant Creek, Daly Waters, and some other smaller local townships and cattle stations.

The NT News is more widely available; however, it is also more expensive, which is a consideration of the Division as a licence applicant is responsible for paying for the cost of publishing a notice. This policy outlines under what circumstances advertisements may be published in the Katherine Times and when a notice must be placed in The NT News.

## 5 Notices of intention

### 5.1 Mining and petroleum activity

All notices associated with the beneficial use category of mining activity and/or petroleum activity will be published in the NT News.

## 5.2 Significant applications

All notices for significant applications, as defined by the [Processing Water Extraction Licence Applications Policy](#), will be published in the NT News.

## 5.3 Location

Notices for applications that are not significant, not associated with a mining activity and/or petroleum activity and are located in the Local Government Areas of Katherine Municipality; Victoria Daly Region; and Roper Gulf Region, will be published in the Katherine Times.

All other notices will be published in the NT News.

## 6 Notices of water extraction licence decision

Notices of decision regarding water extraction licence applications will be published in the same newspaper/s in which the notice of the relevant application was given, as required under s71D.

## 7 Notices of substituted or varied water extraction licence decision

Notice of review decisions will be published in the same newspaper/s in which the notice of the original decision was published, as required under s71E.

## 8 Contact us

For further information please contact Water Resources Division at: [water.licensing@nt.gov.au](mailto:water.licensing@nt.gov.au)

## 9 Document Control

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### 9.1 Document change history

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