

# Summary of changes between the Western Davenport Water Allocation Plans: 2024-2027 and 2024-2034

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## 1. Introduction

The Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan 2024-2034 (the 10 year plan) will replace the Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan 2024-2027 (the 3 year plan).

This summary report has been prepared to facilitate transparency and understanding of the changes made between the Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan 2024-2027 and the Davenport Water Allocation Plan 2024-2034.

## 2. Criteria for changes to the water allocation plan

Water allocation plans are declared under section 22B(1) of the *Water Act 1992* (Act) by the Minister and remain in force for up to 10 years.

- The previous Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security declared a three year plan with an estimated sustainable yield has increased from 67,700 megalitres.
- The current Minister has reviewed the science and the views of the community and determined to redeclare the plan with a ten year term, and an estimated sustainable yield of 87,700 ML per year.
- The department's modelling results indicate there is no significant difference between the extraction of 67,700 ML or 87,700 ML, yet it more than doubles the volume of water available to support Aboriginal economic development in the region, with 25,677 ML per year now available in the Aboriginal water reserve.
- The Minister determined that the ten year plan for Western Davenport provides certainty for the region, as well as enabling sufficient time for further science and community engagement to be undertaken, before the development of the next plan.
- Under the Act a plan must be reviewed within five years. This plan includes additional triggers for review as water extraction approaches 70 per cent of the estimated sustainable yield.

Copies of the two water allocation plans can be found on the department's website:

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/management-security/water-control-districts/western-davenport/western-davenport-water-allocation-plan>

### 3. Summary of changes by section of the water allocation plan

Changes made in the 2024-2034 plan	Reason for change
Entire plan – department name	
The Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security is changed to Department of Lands, Planning and Environment	Change of department name in 2024.
Entire plan – minister portfolio change	
The Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security has changed to the Minister for Water Resources	Change of machinery of Government in 2024.
Entire plan – plan period	
Where relevant, the title Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan 2024-2027 has been changed to Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan Water Allocation Plan 2024-2034	The Minister will revoke the three year plan and declare the ten year plan expiring in 2034.
Section 2.8 Life of the plan	
Changes from a period of three years to a period of ten years	To the reflect the ten year period of the plan.
Section 3 How is the water shared	
<p>The estimated sustainable yield (ESY) for the plan has increased from 67,700 ML per year to a maximum of 87,700 ML per year.</p> <p>There are changes in the ESY for each water management zone as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davenport Range has increased from 3,397 ML per year to 4,400 ML per year</li> <li>• Central Plains has increased from 62,914 ML per year to 81,500 ML per year</li> <li>• Southern Ranges has increased from 1,390 ML per year to 1,800 ML per year</li> </ul> <p>The amount of water available for Aboriginal economic development increases form 19,666 ML per year to 25,677 ML per year from within the ESY.</p>	<p>Scientific studies found that there was no significant difference between taking 67,700 ML per year of the previous plan, and the current 87,700 ML per year estimated sustainable yield.</p> <p>Provides certainty in the region and promotes economic development.</p>

Changes made in the 2024-2034 plan	Reason for change
Section 3.2.2	
The wording of the water sharing objective 3.2.2 has changed the word 'protect' to 'account'	Statutory decision makers are not able to protect values through decision making, rather they account for values in their decision making logic.
3.3. Recognition of cultural values	
Wording changed to remove reference to establishing a water advisory committee	The department will work in partnership with local Aboriginal people for an appropriate mechanism of engagement.
Section 3.4 Table 1. Estimated sustainable yield – groundwater (ML per year)	
<p>The total 'estimated sustainable yield ML per year' and 'estimated sustainable yield ML per year for each water management zone' changes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davenport Range has increased from 3,397 ML per year to 4,400 ML per year</li> <li>• Central Plains has increased from 62,914 ML per year to 81,500 ML per year</li> <li>• Southern Ranges has increased from 1,390 ML per year to 1,800 ML per year</li> <li>• Total has increased from 67,700 ML per year to 87,700 ML per year</li> </ul>	To reflect the change of the ESY increasing from 67,700 ML per year from the previous plan to the current plan of 87,700 ML per year.
Section 3.5 Table 2. Allocation to beneficial uses – groundwater (ML per year)	
<p>1. The total 'Aboriginal water reserve for Aboriginal economic development ML per year' and 'Aboriginal water reserve for Aboriginal economic development ML per year for each water management zone' changes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davenport Range has increased from 935 ML per year to 1,293 ML per year</li> <li>• Central Plains has increased from 10,656-18,641 ML per year to 24,225 ML per year</li> <li>• Southern Ranges has increased from 90 ML per year to 159 ML per year</li> <li>• Total has increased from 19,666 ML per year to 25,677 ML per year</li> <li>• Removed footnote 2</li> </ul>	To reflect the change that Aboriginal water reserve for Aboriginal economic development has increased from 19,666 ML per year from the previous plan to the current plan of 25,677 ML per year. Footnote 2 is no longer relevant as the volume allocated to the Aboriginal water reserve is in accordance with the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve Policy Framework.

Changes made in the 2024-2034 plan	Reason for change
<p>2. The total 'other consumptive uses ML per year' and 'other consumptive uses ML per year for each water management zone' changes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davenport Range has increased from 3,397 ML per year to 4,400 ML per year</li> <li>• Central Plains has increased from 62,914 ML per year to 81,500 ML per year</li> <li>• Southern Ranges has increased from 1,390 ML per year to 1,800 ML per year</li> <li>• Total has increased from 67,700 ML per year to 87,700 ML per year</li> </ul>	<p>To reflect the change that other consumptive uses ML per year has increased from 46,456 ML per year from the previous plan to the current plan of 60,445 ML per year.</p>
<p>3. The total 'groundwater allocations ML per year' and 'total groundwater allocations ML per year for each water management zone' changes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davenport Range has increased from 3,397 ML per year to 4,400 ML per year</li> <li>• Central Plains has increased from 62,914 ML per year to 81,500 ML per year</li> <li>• Southern Ranges has increased from 1,390 ML per year to 1,800 ML per year</li> <li>• Total has increased from 67,700 ML per year to 87,700 ML per year</li> </ul>	<p>To reflect the change that groundwater allocations ML per year has increased from 67,700 ML per year from the previous plan to the current plan of 87,700 ML per year.</p>
<p>Inside cover</p>	
<p>Report No, ISBN, Citation</p>	<p>NTG record management protocols</p>