

Engaging Territorians

Water is managed by the Northern Territory Government for the benefit of all Territorians. Water resource management focuses on balancing the productive use of water with long-term viability of the resources and the ecosystems that depend on it. It is underpinned by water science, monitoring and assessment.

Water resource management affects our community, so engaging with Territorians about management decisions is important. This statement clarifies how Territorians are engaged in water resource management.

Water engagement in the Territory

Effective engagement plays a role in successful management of the Territory's water resources. We engage with Territorians on a range of activities, including the development of water legislation and policy, licensing and permit decisions, and water planning.

How we engage

There are three primary mechanisms for public participation in water management:

- **water advisory committees:** are established by the Minister of Water Resources to represent local and diverse interests in water. Committees are usually established to support water planning. Water advisory committees provide advice to the Minister on topics set by the Minister in the committee's terms of reference.
- **peak bodies and interest groups:** can include water users, industry, local government, groups or organisations representing Aboriginal interests, environmental groups and recreational groups. Peak bodies and interest groups are supplied information as a priority to distribute to their membership and networks. Conversations with Water Resources are organised on a regular or as required basis, with feedback collected via specific engagement activities.
- **public comment:** is part of the water policy and water planning process. Members of the public can comment on water policy or water plans via the [Have your Say](#) online platform. Public forums and local community events are also used to target specific community groups or engage on relevant water management topics. This feedback is consolidated into a consultation summary (see below).

Five levels of public participation

The Northern Territory Government adopts the International Association for Public Participation model (IAP2 Spectrum), which identifies five levels of public participation. This provides Water Resources and stakeholders a clear reference to guide them through their involvement and influence on water decisions.

IAP2	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Goal of engagement*	Community members are well informed	Community members are well informed and give feedback that government considers	Community members are well informed and actively contribute to government decisions		
			some say	high level or equal say	total say

*[Remote engagement and coordination strategy](#)

Find out more

Where possible Water Resources communicates the outcomes of engagement, including what was heard from the community. You can find this information through a range of sources:

- On the Water Resources webpage under the [relevant water plan](#), you can find information from:
 - water advisory committee: committee membership; meeting summaries and the committees' advice to the Minister
 - consultation summary: containing feedback received during the planning process from the water advisory committee along with [Have your Say](#) survey and submissions, stakeholder engagement and public forums.
- On the [Have your Say](#) online platform webpage under water management (public submissions are available unless the application has requested confidentiality).
- [Finding the balance \(CEO newsletter\)](#): water management updates; upcoming public events and committee meeting notices. News updates for the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment can be found [here](#).
- [DLPE Facebook](#) posts: water management updates; upcoming public events and committee meeting notices.
- Local newspapers: water resource management updates; license notice of intention applications and notice of decision outcomes.