

Setting management boundaries

Water is managed by the Northern Territory Government for the benefit of all Territorians. Water resource management focuses on balancing 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 is often tailored for an area or resource. This statement provides clarity about how water resource management boundaries are set in the NT.

Types of water resource management boundaries

Resource management boundaries are used to define:

1. **Water control districts:** these are declared where there is a need for closer management of water resources. Outside of water control districts some controls are relaxed, for example bore work permit requirements.
2. **Water allocation plan areas** are areas where a water allocation plan is in place to manage water resources. In these areas water allocation plans guide licence and permit decisions, monitoring, and other implementation actions.
3. **Water management zones:** these can be used within a plan area tailor a water allocation plan's management measures to the characteristics and values of the resource in that zone. In the past we sometimes referred to zones as protection areas.

How we set boundaries

Boundaries take into account the characteristics of water resources being managed. That can include catchment or aquifer boundaries, water flow patterns, and connections between water systems.

We take into account administrative boundaries to make our boundaries easy to understand, including roads, property boundaries, localities and local government areas.

Finding out more

You can find the boundaries that apply to you by selecting the water management layer in NR Maps: <https://nrmaps.nt.gov.au/nrmaps.html>

You can find out more about water resource management in the NT online here: <https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/management-security/water-policies-and-guidelines>