

Overview of Mataranka water allocation plan area

Timeline	Science	Licensing and regulation	Consultation
2000	Water Resources Development Map Commentary Notes – Elsey Station and Wubalawun Aboriginal Land Trust (Yin Foo), designed as a guide in determining the most appropriate type of water supply for an area.	Northern Territory Water Allocation Planning Framework	
2004	Daly Roper (DR) Model development commenced as a regional 2-dimensional groundwater model of the CLA Water availability in the aquifer in the Tindall Limestone South of Roper River (Jolly and Knapton)		
2007			Public meeting held in Mataranka (26 April 2007) to discuss community expectations for regional water planning and identify appropriate membership of a water advisory committee.
2008	DR model extended to include the Ooloo Dolostone and coupled to a surface water model for the Daly River basin		Mataranka Water Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment & Heritage, Leonard Kiely on 26 June 2008. Membership included an Independent Chair plus 7 members representing local govt., national parks, pastoral, conservation, Indigenous, horticulture/agriculture and mining/industry sectors

<p>2009</p>	<p>Investigations into hydrology, hydrogeology and the social, cultural and economic values of water in the Roper River catchment in progress 2009-2012.</p> <p>DR model coupled with a surface water model of the Roper River</p> <p>Second groundwater model developed for the Dook Creek Formation, a dolostone aquifer in Arnhem Land, which provides baseflow into tributaries of the Roper River downstream of the CLA</p> <p>Gulf Water Study - Water Resources of the Roper River Region (Zaar)</p> <p>Diffuse groundwater recharge modelling across northern Australia (CSIRO)</p>	<p>Preparation of first draft Mataranka water allocation plan 2009 - 2012.</p>	
<p>2011</p>			<p>Draft Mataranka Water Allocation Plan released for public comment. Community meetings held and public submissions received.</p>
<p>2012</p>	<p>The DR groundwater model along the Katherine River reach recalibrated to represent the distribution of spring discharge along the river from the upstream boundary of the CLA to the downstream boundary of the Tindall Limestone with the Jinduckin Formation</p>		<p>Planning process stalled amid public criticism of the granting of significant water licences to landowners near Mataranka (Stylo). The draft plan was never declared.</p>

<p>2015</p>	<p>Larrimah Land and Water Suitability Assessment Project – as a result of groundwater assessments and the identification of land suitable for agriculture in the Larrimah region, the plan area was extended south to Daly Waters to incorporate the entirety of the Tindall aquifer within the Roper River catchment. The area was renamed the Tindall Mataranka-Daly Waters plan area.</p> <p>DR Model independent peer-review undertaken</p> <p>Daly Basin Groundwater Resources Assessment – North Mataranka to Daly Waters, Bruwer and Tickell</p> <p>Daly Basin Groundwater Assessment – North Mataranka to Daly Waters</p>		
<p>2016</p>		<p>Planning process recommences</p>	

<p>2017</p>	<p>Water Quality of the Roper River 2012-2016 (Schult and Novak)</p>	<p>Independent review of water extraction licences granted since 2012 assesses the appropriateness of decision-making processes. Pertinent to the Mataranka region where there was significant public concern about the granting of large licences in the absence of a declared water allocation plan.</p>	<p>Tindall Mataranka-Daly Waters Water Advisory Committee appointed by Minister in 2017. An independent chair was appointed plus 12 members representing all beneficial use interests. Including three Mangarrayi Traditional owners, Ms Helena Lardy, Mr Kerry Roberts and Ms Jocelyn James to represent Aboriginal water interests. Member's role was to provide advice on the development of a new plan incorporating the larger boundary.</p> <p>Committee Meeting 1: July 2017</p> <p>Committee Meeting 2: Sept 2017</p>
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			<p>Background Brief – Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Mataranka-Daly Waters, June 2017. Describes the water planning process, history of water planning for this aquifer, current allocations and use, water issues to be considered in plan development, community consultation approach and a proposed timetable for plan completion</p> <p>Dry season water quality at Elsey Station conducted with Mangarrayi rangers to Assess temporal changes in water quality at Elsey Station over one dry season; test the reliability of automatic turbidity and EC loggers deployed over the dry season; and assess whether water sample and field data collection by a local ranger group is a viable alternative to data collection by WRD staff.</p>
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<p>2018</p>	<p>Soil and Land Suitability Assessment for Irrigated Agriculture on NT Portion 4478 and 4633 in the Larrimah Township area, Sturt Plateau – investigations conclude there is significant potential for irrigated agricultural development on these land parcels.</p> <p>Dry season water quality at Elsey Station in the Upper Reaches of the Roper River (Schult)</p> <p>Significant recalibration and refinement of the groundwater component of the model (renamed DR2) including addition of a recharge component to predict distributed recharge throughout the CLA</p> <p>Water Resources Modelling of the Mataranka-Daly Water Region – Recharge over Vernelha Station (Yin Foo and Dilshad)</p>		<p>Mataranka Tindall Water Advisory Committee</p> <p>Committee Meeting 3: March 2018</p> <p>Committee Meeting 4: May 2018</p> <p>Committee Meeting 5: June 2018</p> <p>Committee Meeting 6: Aug 2018</p> <p>Committee Meeting 7: Oct 2018</p> <p>Committee Meeting 7b: Dec 2018</p>
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<p>2019</p>	<p>Daly and Roper River Dry Season Catchment monitoring report</p>	<p>Vermelha groundwater licence application granted (TLAM29 - 956ML/year)</p> <p>Larrimah Agricultural Precinct earmarked for development und the NT Government's Mapping the Future Program</p>	<p>Mataranka Tindall Water Advisory Committee</p> <p>Committee Meeting 8: March 2019</p> <p>Committee Meeting 9: May 2019</p> <p>Committee Meeting 10: October 2019</p> <p>Field inspections and water quality monitoring with Mangarrayi Rangers and Jilkminggan community members to various culturally significant sites in the Elsey and Roper area in May.</p> <p>Water Resources hosted a water allocation planning pop up booth at the Ngukurr festival in June.</p>
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<p>2020</p>	<p>Upgrade of the Coupled Model of the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer and Roper River Systems</p> <p>DR2 Model independent peer-review undertaken, assessed as Class 2-3 based on Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines and described as “leading example of best practice”</p> <p>The Tindall Limestone Aquifer (Mataranka - South): Maryfield Station technical report undertaken to assess TLAM10001 licence application</p>	<p>Maryfield groundwater licence application granted (TLAM10001 - 3,392 ML/year)</p> <p>NT Land Corporation applied for 12,500 ML/year NT Land Corporation groundwater licence application granted (TLAM10002 - 10,000 ML/year)</p> <p>ECNT and NLC on behalf of Wubulan ALT and Mangarrayi ALT sought review of decision TLAM10002</p>	<p>Disruptions to engagement activities and committee meetings as a result of the covid pandemic.</p> <p>Cultural values mapping and spring monitoring field work with Mangarrayi Indigenous Rangers, presentation and discussion at Northern Land Council meeting of Traditional Owners for Mangarrayi Aboriginal Land Trust and National Water Week groundwater awareness activity at Jilkminggan School in October.</p> <p>Aboriginal engagement consultations at Mataranka, Jilkminggan and Ngukurr held to actively involve local communities in the development of the plan, facilitated by the Northern Land Council in October.</p>
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<p>2021</p>	<p>Water Resources Modelling of the Mataranka -Daly Waters Region: Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan Area Natural Groundwater Balance (Yin Foo and Dilshad)</p>	<p>Review panel recommended that Controller's decision (TLAM10002) be set aside.</p> <p>Controller made new decision not to grant TLAM10002</p> <p>Classification of Top End and Arid Zone for Northern Territory Water Resources</p>	<p>Committee and membership refreshed to address revisions to the plan boundary (Daly Waters region to become part of Beetaloo plan area), compliance with admin and governance requirements for NTG Boards and Committees and fill several vacancies.</p> <p>Mataranka Tindall Water Advisory Committee appointed by Minister for Environment, Eva Lawler, on 22 Feb 2021. Appointments included a mix of existing and new members</p> <p>All previous membership was revoked, by instrument.</p> <p>Mataranka Tindall Water Advisory Committee</p> <p>Committee Meeting 11: August 2021</p> <p>Committee Meeting 12: October 2021</p>
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<p>2022</p>	<p>Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment for the Beetaloo Sub-basin: Water Quality and Quantity Baseline Summary Report.</p> <p>Beetaloo Sub-basin SREBA Water Studies: Aquifer mapping and summary report (Tickell)</p> <p>Terrestrial Ecosystems Baseline Report: Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment for the Beetaloo Sub-basin</p>		<p>Mataranka Tindall Water Advisory Committee</p> <p>Committee Meeting 13: February 2022</p> <p>Committee Meeting 14: July 2022</p> <p>Three days on country consultations were held with Mangarrayi traditional owners and the Northern Land Council in May 2022 to inform development of the plan.</p> <p>Meeting and information session held at Jilkminngan with Traditional Owners and the Northern Land Council to discuss the scenario modelling outputs in July.</p>
<p>2023</p>			<p>Mataranka Tindall Water Advisory Committee</p> <p>Committee Meeting 15: Sept 2023</p> <p>Committee Meeting 16: October 2023</p>

			<p>Ms Helena Lardy, Mr Kerry Roberts and Ms Jocelyn James resigned from the Mataranka Tindall Water Advisory Committee (Committee) in September 2023, on the eve of the draft plan being presented to the Committee. Reasons for their resignation included concerns that their views were not being heard, environmental and cultural values would not be protected by the plan and that the plan would not provide for an Aboriginal water reserve.</p> <p>On 5 October the department wrote to the resigned members seeking further talks to understand concerns about the draft plan and also to understand how the department might improve its engagement practices and advisory committee processes to avoid a recurrence of this situation in the future.</p> <p>Further representations through the NLC resulted in the NLC providing feedback on how advisory committee processes could be improved in the future.</p>
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<p>2024</p>	<p>Consultation Report: Land to be designated eligible land for the Aboriginal Water Reserve in the Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan Area</p> <p>Recalibration of DR2, to be renamed DR3</p> <p>Synthesis of existing information on the surface water resources of the Roper River Catchment</p> <p>Roper River Water Resource Assessment (RoWRA) by CSIRO released</p>		<p>Draft plan presented to a range of stakeholders in Jan/Feb 2024 in preparation for release of the draft including community meetings (facilitated by NLC) at Katherine, Barunga and Mataranka. See consultation plan and summary of issues raised</p> <p>04/03/2024 EDWR & CEO presented draft plan to EDO & ECNT</p> <p>10/04/2024 Met with ECNT to address questions raised from EDWR presentation to ECNT/EDO</p> <p>27/05/2024 WR staff met with David Caravello, CEO AFANT to discuss Currell and Jackson submission</p> <p>3/6/2024 Dot points provided to Min Uibo re ECNT content on Facebook and website and Currell and Jackson submission</p> <p>12/06/2024 Forage to Farming Forum. Information hub for stakeholders and growers. Mataranka key messages and plan on a page.</p>
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