

Draft Mataranka Water Allocation Plan 2024–2034

For public consultation



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security respectfully and proudly acknowledges the Northern Territory's Aboriginal people and their rich culture, and pays respect to the Elders past and present.

We acknowledge Wubalawun, Yangman, Mangarrayi and Jawoyn peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters of the Mataranka water allocation plan area, and Aboriginal peoples connected to the waterways of the lower Roper River.

We recognise the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to Country and value their ongoing contribution to managing the lands and waters. We support the need for genuine and lasting partnerships with Traditional Owners to better understand cultural connections, and we will work to establish lasting partnerships to manage water together, now and into the future.



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1. Overview

About the water allocation process

Water allocation is the process of determining how much water must stay in the environment to protect ecological functions and environmental requirements and how much is available for drinking and regional economic priorities. Water allocation in the Northern Territory is undertaken at a regional level within defined areas known as water control districts, which are declared by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security (Minister) by Gazette notice.

About the Mataranka plan area

The Mataranka plan is within the Daly Roper Beetaloo water control district (the district), an area of 330,000 km² (Schedule C). The district includes a number of basins and aquifers. Separate water allocation plans have been declared or are in development for different parts of the district.

The Mataranka plan applies to an area of approximately 9,282 km² extending about 190 km from north to south, and up to 70 km east to west shown in Schedule C (the plan area). The plan area includes the towns of Mataranka and Larrimah and the community of Jilkminggan. Pastoral leases cover about 40 per cent of the plan area, with approximately 36 per cent of the plan area recognised as Aboriginal land.

About this document

This document is one of three core documents prepared as part of the water allocation process for the plan area. This document references other documents and guidelines that may relate to the plan area, but which do not form part of the core documents. The three core documents are:

Mataranka Water Allocation Plan 2024-2034 (this document, the plan). The plan is declared by the Minister under section 22B(1) of the *Water Act 1992* (Act)¹. The plan describes the estimated sustainable yield for the water resources of the plan area in three water management zones, (Schedule D). The estimated sustainable yield is the volume of water that can be taken sustainably from the water resources to which this plan applies. The plan allocates that water amongst declared beneficial uses and provides for trading of water. The plan takes effect from the date in the Gazette by the Minister and will remain in force for a period of ten years.

Mataranka Background Report 2024-2034 (the report) provides details on the information and processes that informed the plan, including available data and research on the surface water and groundwater resources of the plan area. It also describes the key environmental values of the plan area and their dependency on water resources, and the social and developmental context of the region, including existing water use and projections of future water demand. The report collates the information and knowledge regarding the plan area at the time of its preparation.

Mataranka Implementation Actions 2024-2034 (the implementation actions) details how the requirements in section 34 of the Act with respect to the water resources of the plan area are fulfilled. It defines a continuous program for the assessment of water resources in the plan area, including the investigation, collection and analysis of data concerning the occurrence, volume, flow, characteristics, quality and use of water resources. That program is described within the document as a series of implementation actions which includes a body of research, monitoring and analytical work.

The Controller of Water Resources must take into account any water allocation plan applying to the area in question when making a decision referred to in section 90(1) of the Act. The Mataranka 2024-2034 Background Report, Implementation Actions and other factors may be taken into account, where relevant to the decision.

¹ <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/WATER-ACT-1992>

2. Preliminary

Overview

This is the first water allocation plan to be declared in the plan area.

Under section 22B of the Act, the Minister may declare one or more water allocation plans in respect of a water control district, or part of a district, for a period of up to 10 years. The Act requires that a review of a water allocation plan is conducted at intervals of not longer than 5 years.

The Mataranka water allocation plan provides for the protection, allocation and management of the groundwater resources within the plan area. The groundwater resource managed through the plan is the regionally extensive and multilayered Tindall Limestone formation and overlying Cretaceous sediments which are collectively known as the Tindall Limestone Aquifer (TLA). The TLA is a significant water resource that supports the baseflows of the Roper River and its system of springs and creeks.

The Plan area contains extensive groundwater dependant ecosystems (GDEs) and features of significant ecological significance; the Roper Discharge Zone, being recommended by the Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) as an area of outstanding environmental value.

The plan sets out the water that must be protected to ensure the ecological functions and environmental requirements in the Plan area, and the water that can be sustainably allocated for drinking water and for regional economic opportunities. This is known as the Estimated Sustainable Yield (or ESY).

Although the plan contains summaries of the effect of certain provisions of the Act, those summaries are provided for information only.

2.1 Title

This plan may be cited as the Mataranka Water Allocation Plan 2024–2034 (the plan).

2.2 Purpose

This plan establishes a framework to share and manage water resources in the plan area. The plan:

- a) establishes the estimated sustainable yield of water resources in that part of the district to which the plan applies, in accordance with section 22B(5) of the Act
- b) allocates water within the estimated sustainable yield to beneficial uses, including an allocation to the environment and an Aboriginal water reserve (AWR)
- c) designates eligible land as land in respect of which an AWR applies
- d) ensures that the total water use for all beneficial uses is less than the sum of allocations to each beneficial use
- e) ensures that the right to take water under a licence granted under section 60 of the Act is able to be traded.

2.3 Definitions

The dictionary in Schedule A defines particular words used in this document.

Abbreviations used in this plan are set out in Schedule B.

Unless otherwise stated, terms defined in the Act have the same meaning when used in this document.

2.4 Water control district and plan area

This plan applies to the Mataranka plan area shown in Schedule C within the Daly Roper Beetaloo water control district (the district).

2.5 Water subject to the plan

The plan applies to the Tindall Limestone Aquifer within the plan area.

2.6 Water management zones

The zones shown in Schedule D are water management zones for this plan. The zones are:

- a) North Mataranka
- b) South Mataranka
- c) Larrimah.

2.7 Water accounting period

The water accounting period for the district is the period of 12 months beginning on 1 July and concluding on 30 June the following year.

2.8 Life of the plan

The plan will remain in force for a period of ten years commencing on the date in the *Gazette* notice.

3. How water is shared

Overview

This section of the plan sets out how water in the plan area is protected for ecological and environmental functions and requirements and what is available for allocation to different beneficial uses in a way that is sustainable. This is known as the estimated sustainable yield (ESY).

The plan area is comprised of three water management zones: North Mataranka, South Mataranka and Larrimah. These zones are aligned to different hydrogeological characteristics of the aquifer, climatic conditions and the contribution or relationship between the water resource and environmental and ecological values in the management zone. Each has its own established ESY and different rules apply in different management zones in recognition of these differences.

The ESY for the plan overall has been established as a maximum of 62,429 ML per year. By water management zone this is defined as:

- North Mataranka is 2,769 ML per year
- South Mataranka is 24,447 ML per year
- Larrimah is 35,212 ML per year

The ESY operates in conjunction with additional specific rules applied through conditions to water extraction licence holders in the North Mataranka and South Mataranka Management Zones to vary entitlements annually as needed to maintain identified minimum flow thresholds within the Roper River and to recommend limitations on the grant of licences from the Roper Discharge Zone. Changes to licence entitlements are aligned to climate variability and its effect on the water resource and mirror natural flow conditions and groundwater levels.

The plan also recommends restrictions on new extraction entitlements and prevents trading in an area close to the Roper River defined as the Roper Discharge Zone, in recognition that the groundwater resource and environmental and ecological functions that rely on groundwater are more sensitive to the effect of extraction in this area.

Aboriginal economic development in the plan area is supported with 4,574 ML per year allocated to the Aboriginal Water Reserve from within the ESY. This volume may increase to 11,171ML per year in the event of water being recovered and returned to the ESY from unused water entitlements.

3.1 Key definitions

The ESY means the amount of water that can be allocated from the water resource to support declared beneficial uses in a manner that is sustainable.

In determining the ESY, the following matters have been considered:

- available data concerning aquifer inflows, recharge, outflows, evapotranspiration and existing storage, in order to reasonably estimate the water available for consumptive use
- furthering the purposes of the Act stated in the Long Title², relevantly the ‘allocation, use, control, protection, management and administration of water resources’ by sustaining long-term development of water resources and ensuring environmental integrity
- the objective of the statutory scheme to protect environmental water quality
- the Territory’s commitment to the Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Water Initiative 2014, which defines ‘environmentally sustainable level of extraction’ to mean ‘the level of

² The Long Title of the Water Act 1992 is: An Act to provide for the investigation, allocation, use, control, protection, management and administration of water resources, and for related purposes.

water extraction from a particular system which, if exceeded would compromise key environmental assets, or ecosystem functions and the productive base of the resource’

- the ‘environment’ which, as defined in the Act, includes the physical, biological, economic, cultural and social aspects of humans.

Beneficial uses of the water in the district are:

- pursuant to section 22A(2) of the Act: the environment and Aboriginal economic development and
- pursuant to the notice in the Gazette published on 19 October 2022 (Schedule E).

3.2 Objectives for water sharing

The overarching goal of water sharing is to optimise the benefits to the community created by the sustainable use of a water resource, within climate variability.

Water sharing objectives set the high level strategic direction for water decisions and management of a water resource.

Supporting each objective are a number of outcomes, which the Mataranka 2024-2034 Implementation Actions will contribute to achieving.

3.2.1 Balancing the retention and preservation of key environmental values dependent on water with the overall benefits provided by the water resources

The associated outcomes are:

- a) there is an improved understanding of the characteristics and environmental values of the groundwater and surface water resources
- b) the condition of groundwater dependent ecosystems is known and monitored as far as practicable, and accounted for in water planning and licensing
- c) key environmental values are appropriately accounted for in water planning and licensing.

3.2.2 Ensure water licence decisions account for Aboriginal and other cultural values dependent on water

The associated outcomes are:

- a) there is an improved understanding of Aboriginal cultural values and other cultural values associated with the water resource
- b) key Aboriginal cultural sites that rely on water are monitored and potential impacts on such sites are appropriately accounted for in water planning and licensing
- c) other cultural values that rely on water are monitored and potential impacts on such values are appropriately accounted for in water planning and licensing.

3.2.3 Secure water for rural stock and domestic purposes

The associated outcomes are:

- a) the amount of water needed to support stock and domestic use is met
- b) the quality of water sourced for stock and domestic purposes is maintained
- c) community members and relevant stakeholders understand water management.

3.2.4 Provide long term security of a sufficient quantity and quality of water for public water supplies

The associated outcomes are:

- a) the amount of water needed to support public water supply is met
- b) the quality of water sourced for public water supplies is maintained
- c) community members and relevant stakeholders understand water planning and licensing.

3.2.5 Set aside water to support local Aboriginal economic development

The associated outcomes are:

- a) local Aboriginal people have access to water through the Aboriginal water reserve to support economic development
- b) arrangements to access the Aboriginal water reserve are documented and communicated
- c) Aboriginal people are receiving benefits from the Aboriginal water reserve.

3.2.6 Provide access to water to support sustainable development for the benefit of the district

The associated outcomes are:

- a) water is available to support sustainable economic development in the district
- b) industry is confident to invest in the district
- c) water is used for productive purposes and in a water-efficient manner.

3.3 Recognition of cultural values

The ongoing involvement of Aboriginal people in the plan area is important as they hold immense knowledge of the cultural values of the region and are custodians for places that rely on water.

To promote the ongoing involvement of Aboriginal people in the plan area, an Aboriginal reference group or appropriate mechanism is to be established for the region. This will provide the opportunity for the department to work in partnership with local Aboriginal representatives to document cultural water values and to balance the protection of key cultural assets associated with water with the overall benefits provided by the water resources.

3.4 Groundwater estimated sustainable yield

The estimated sustainable yield is informed by an understanding of the inflows and outflows of the water resource, including the volume of water in storage, combined with the inputs (recharge, inflow) and outputs (discharge, outflow and evapotranspiration) and throughflow. These components vary in space and time and are calculated using models. For reporting purposes, the components are averaged from daily values to long-term averages, which means the inflows will not always equal the outflows plus the change in storage.

The inflows, outflows and storage volumes of the water resource and estimated sustainable yield for each water management zone, is set out in Table 1.

Table 1 Estimated sustainable yield – groundwater (ML/year)

Groundwater ML	North Mataranka	South Mataranka	Larrimah	Total
Tindall Limestone Aquifer ¹				
Annual inflows:				
Recharge	97,000	194,000	17,000	308,000
Throughflow in	3,210	1,120	3,530	7,860
Annual outflows:				
Discharge	61,000	114,000	0	175,000
Throughflow out	0	0	1,120	1,120
Evapotranspiration	41,000	58,000	0	99,000
Storage	10,200,000	10,900,000	11,600,000	32,700,000
Storage increase/year	21,000		17,000	38,000
Estimated sustainable yield ML/year²	2,744	24,447	35,238	62,429

¹ Figure 19 Mataranka Background Report 2024-2034, storage GL/year

² Table 8 Mataranka Background Report 2024-2034, SC4, surface water entitlements downstream of plan area shared across North Mataranka (%) and South Mataranka (%).

3.5 Groundwater beneficial uses

The water available for consumptive use within the estimated sustainable yield for groundwater, for each water management zone, and its allocation to beneficial uses, is set out in Table 2.

Table 2 Allocation to beneficial uses – groundwater (ML/year)

Groundwater ML/year	North Mataranka	South Mataranka	Larrimah	Total
Beneficial uses:				
Rural stock and domestic ¹	221	311	200	732
Public water supply ²	103	390	20	513
Aboriginal water reserve for Aboriginal economic development ³	47	935	3,592	4,574
Other consumptive uses⁴:				
Agriculture, aquaculture, cultural, industry, mining and petroleum activities	2,363	22,801	31,416	56,580
Environment ⁵	10	10	10	30
Total allocations ML/year	2,744	24,447	35,238	62,429

¹ Includes an allocation to support rural stock and domestic use from the Roper River downstream of the plan area shared across North (%) and South Mataranka (%)

² Is the existing licence entitlement or forecast 30 year bulk, whichever is the greatest and includes public water supply licence volumes from the Roper River at Ngukurr shared across North (%) and South Mataranka (%)

³ See 3.6 below

⁴ This equals existing licence entitlements and entitlements from the Roper River downstream of the plan area shared across North Mataranka (%) and South Mataranka (%)

⁵ Nominal allocation within the estimated sustainable yield requirement of section 22A(2) of the Act, the majority of water is already retained in the environment to maintain important ecological functions and for cultural purposes and values of water in the region.

3.6 Aboriginal water reserve

The eligible land to which the Aboriginal water reserve applies has been identified subject to consultation with, and verification from, the Northern Land Council³ and is designated in Schedules F and G.

Entitlements under licences in the North Mataranka and South Mataranka water management zones, which were granted prior to the commencement of the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve Policy Framework (Framework), means the volume of water allocated to the reserve in this plan is less than the volume that would otherwise be allocated in accordance with the Framework.

To address this, the implementation actions provide for the recovery of water to which an entitlement has been granted under a water licence, and which is unused⁴. Where the Controller of Water Resources amends a licence to reduce the maximum annual entitlement specified by the licence⁵, the volume allocated to that consumptive use will be reduced to no lower than the minimum volume shown in Table 3. Water which is recovered in this way in the North Mataranka or South Mataranka water management zones will be allocated to the reserve in that zone up to the maximum volume shown in Table 3. This arrangement recognises the water requirements for other beneficial uses, including the environment, are already being satisfied.

Table 3 Potential impact of recovery of water on consumptive uses (ML/year)

Groundwater ML/year	North Mataranka	South Mataranka	Larrimah	Total
Maximum - Aboriginal water reserve for Aboriginal economic development	458	7,121	3,592	11,171
Other consumptive uses ⁴				
Minimum - agriculture, aquaculture, cultural, industry, mining and petroleum activities	1,952	16,615	31,416	49,983

³ Land to be designated eligible land for the Aboriginal water reserve in the Mataranka Water Allocation Plan 2024–2034 Consultation report: [date]. Department of Environment Parks and Water Security.

⁴ See, for example, cl 4.6.3 of the Mataranka Implementation Actions 2024–2034, and Recovery of Unused Licensed Water Entitlements Policy.

⁵ Such as in accordance with the Recovery of unused licensed water entitlements policy.

4. Water Management

Overview

This section of the plan sets out the management requirements related to water extraction licences for taking water subject to the plan. These requirements are in addition to other requirements under the Act or other laws of the Territory or policies established by the Northern Territory Government.

Within the plan area, the volume of water licenced will not exceed allocations within the ESY.

Licensed entitlements within the North Mataranka and South Mataranka Management Zones will be reduced to mirror the climatic conditions and to meet minimum flow thresholds for each category of climate condition.

In practical terms, this means entitlements will be reduced using licence conditions in years where modelling predicts extraction could reduce flows in the Roper River beyond those minimum specified thresholds.

This approach will maintain groundwater levels and river flows as close to natural conditions as possible and to maintain environmental, cultural and social requirements.

The Roper Discharge Zone is an identified area within the North Mataranka and South Mataranka Management Zones where depth to groundwater is shallow, supporting vegetation and surface water features of outstanding ecological and cultural significance. Groundwater levels within the discharge zone are maintained through localised recharge and are influenced by extraction and water use in this area.

Management requirements of the plan further prevent an increase in water licence extraction entitlements within Roper Discharge Zone.

4.1 Application of this section

This section applies to water extraction licences granted with respect to the water subject to this plan.

4.2 Licensed take must not exceed allocated amount

The Controller of Water Resources (the Controller) must not grant or amend a water extraction licence if the granting or amendment would result in the total volume of water that may be taken from a water management zone exceeding the volume allocated to the water management zone and the beneficial use under section 3.5 of this document.

4.3 Announced allocations

The North and South Mataranka water management zones are classified as Top End systems and water extraction licences in these zones are subject to announced allocations⁶. Announced allocations seek to manage extraction levels to avoid:

- a) wet climatic condition flows becoming average climatic condition flows
- b) average climatic condition flows becoming dry climatic condition flows and
- c) increasing the intensity of dry climatic condition flows.

In the North Mataranka and South Mataranka water management zones, licence holders will be notified of the announced allocation prior to 1 May each year based on set minimum flow requirements in the Roper

⁶ At the time this plan was made the information was available at:

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/management-security/water-allocation/announced-water-allocations#:~:text=Every%20year%20on%20May%201,annual%20announced%20allocations%20or%20AAAs>

River at Elsey Homestead (G9030013) relative to the climatic conditions based on modelled natural flows at 1 November each year.

Where the total of licensed entitlements results in predicted modelled flows less than the minimum flow threshold for a climate condition category defined in Table 4, announced allocations will be applied.

Table 4 Minimum flow thresholds for the Roper River at Elsey Homestead

Climatic conditions	Roper River minimum flow thresholds (G9030013)	
	ML/day	
Wet	>275	
Average	180 - 275	
Dry	<180	<181 Total licensed entitlements will not exceed 10% of flow at any time

4.4 Water trading

The holder of a water extraction licence may apply for an amendment of the licence to give effect to an agreement to trade an entitlement to take water, provided:

- the terms of the agreement are consistent with the department's policy on trading licensed water entitlements⁷
- the trade is within the same water management zone
- water licensed for public water supply is not traded to another beneficial use except on a temporary basis.

4.5 Licensed take from the Roper Discharge Zone

The Roper Discharge Zone is within the Mataranka North and Mataranka South water management zones, as shown in Schedule H. Properties partially within the Roper Discharge Zone are taken to be within the Roper Discharge Zone.

Within the Roper Discharge Zone, it is recommended that:

- new water extraction licences which would result in a combined increase in the Total Maximum Water Entitlement Volume that may be taken from within the Roper Discharge Zone, other than for the beneficial use of public water supply are not granted;
- the trading of water that results in a combined increase in the Total Maximum Water Entitlement Volume that may be taken in the Roper Discharge Zone is not undertaken, other than for the beneficial use of public water supply; and
- the trading of water entitlements from outside the discharge zone into the discharge zone is not approved.

For clarity:

- trading water entitlements between existing license holders within the discharge zone is permitted; and
- trading water entitlements from an existing license holder within the discharge zone to a new licence applicant within the discharge zone is permitted.

⁷ At the time this plan was made the Trading licensed water entitlements policy was in force:
<https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/management-security/water-policies-and-guidelines>

5. Review

Overview

Section 22B(3) of the Act provides that the Minister must ensure a review of a water allocation plan is conducted at intervals not longer than five years.

Section 23(1A) of the Act enables the Minister to establish a water advisory committee for a water allocation plan.

5.1 Review

In accordance with section 22B(3) of the Act, the Minister must ensure that a review of this plan is conducted at intervals of no longer than five years. The review may be informed by the outcomes of the implementation actions, research findings and community consultation. The plan may be modified to reflect improved knowledge identified by the review. The Minister has discretion to initiate a review of this plan at intervals of less than five years. Without limiting that discretion, a review of this plan may occur in the following, non-exhaustive, circumstances:

- if the Minister considers it appropriate, including because the Act has been amended
- where the actual volume of water taken under water licences within the water accounting period in the Larrimah water management zone:
 - a) exceeds 70% of the estimated sustainable yield
 - b) exceeds 70% of the volume allocated to the beneficial use category as per Table 3, excluding use for public water supply.

The review will include assessing whether the water resource is responding as predicted in the modelling undertaken at the commencement of the plan, and in any subsequent modelling undertaken during plan implementation, if applicable.

5.2 Water advisory committee

Where the Minister considers it appropriate, a water advisory committee for the plan will be established to advise on the effectiveness of the plan in maximising economic and social benefits within ecological restraints. Appropriate considerations should be given to water resource management, including the actual volume of water taken under licences and any associated risks to the water resource.

Schedule A. Dictionary

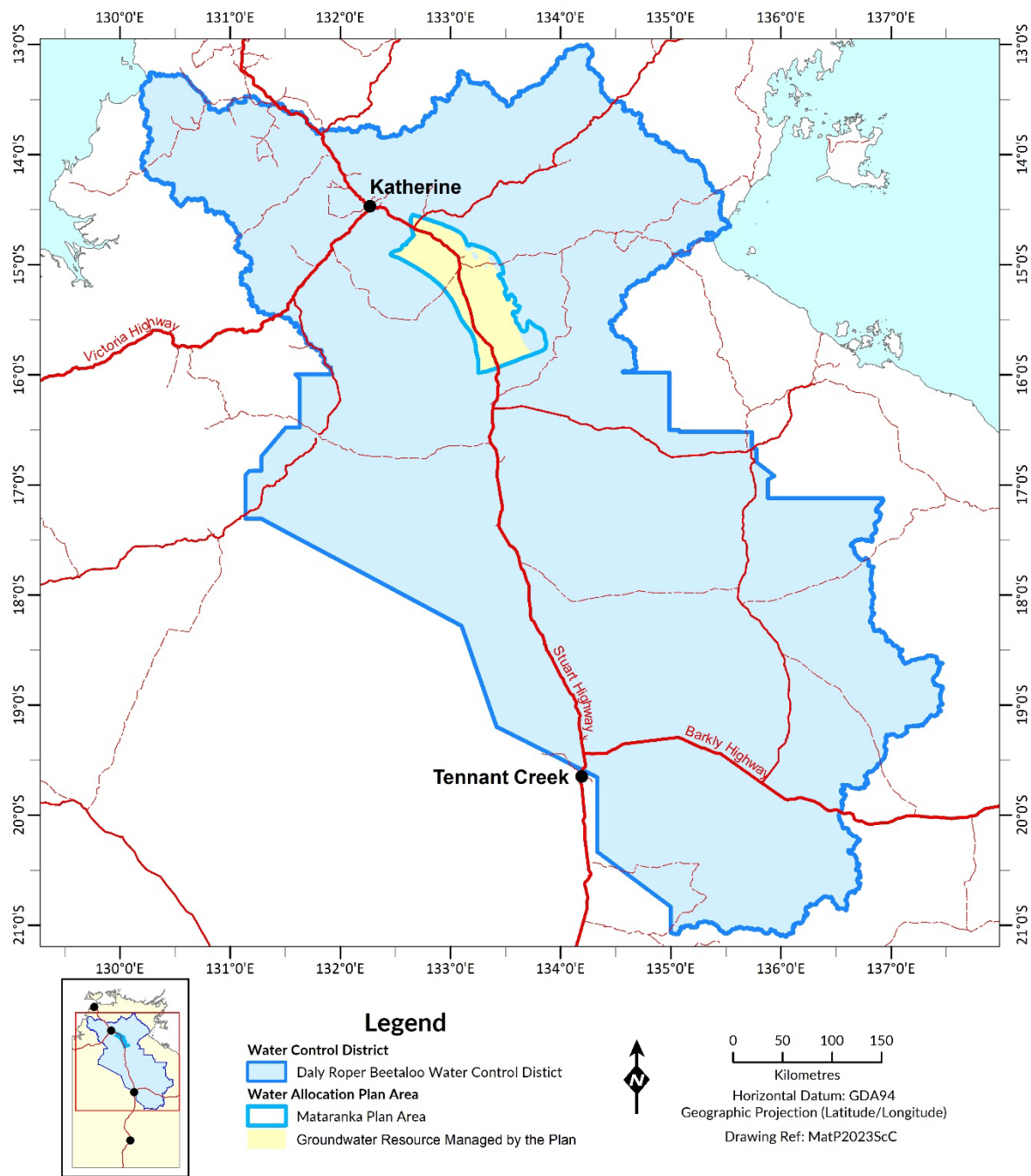
Term	Definition or reference
Aboriginal water reserve	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1)
Act	the <i>Water Act 1992</i> (NT)
available consumptive pool	the volume in the consumptive pool after subtracting allocations to the environment under section 22B(6) and the beneficial uses of rural stock and domestic and public water supply
beneficial uses	the beneficial uses for the Daly Roper Beetaloo water control district declared by Gazette no. G41, 19 October 2022. A copy of the declaration is included in Schedule E of this plan
Cambrian Limestone Aquifer	collective term for an extensive groundwater system covering 570,000 km ² straddling the NT and QLD border. The CLA comprises the geological basins of the Daly, Georgina and Wiso. The aquifer consists primarily of limestone
Controller	the Controller of Water Resources appointed under the <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 18
department	the department with the responsibility for administering the <i>Water Act 1992</i> , according to the Northern Territory of Australia Administrative Arrangements Order
discharge zone	Roper Discharge Zone as depicted at Schedule H
eligible Aboriginal people	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1)
eligible land	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4B
estimated sustainable yield	the amount of water that can be allocated from the water resource to support declared beneficial uses that is sustainable, section 3.1 and 3.4 of this document refers
groundwater	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1)
groundwater dependent ecosystem	an ecosystem that requires access to groundwater to meet all or some of their water requirements
licence holder	the person granted a licence to take water under section 45 or section 60 of the <i>Water Act 1992</i>
plan area	the area to which this water allocation plan applies as shown in Schedule C
Tindall Limestone Aquifer	a regional limestone aquifer that extends from north of Katherine to south east of Tennant Creek. Locally referred to as the Katherine and Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifers in the Daly Basin, Gum Ridge formation in the Georgina Basin and Montjinni limestone in the Wiso Basin
Total Maximum Water Entitlement Volume	Combined total volume of the maximum water entitlement of the water extraction licences in the discharge zone at the time the plan is declared
water accounting period	the period of 12 months beginning on 1 July and concluding on 30 June the following year
water control district	the Daly Roper Beetaloo water control district, declared by Gazette no. G41, 19 October 2022 under section 22 of the <i>Water Act 1992</i> A copy of the declaration is included in Schedule E of this document
water licence / water extraction licence	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1)

water management zone	those areas of land within the plan area separated for management purposes as depicted in Schedule D of this document
waterway	see <i>Water Act 1992</i> , section 4(1)

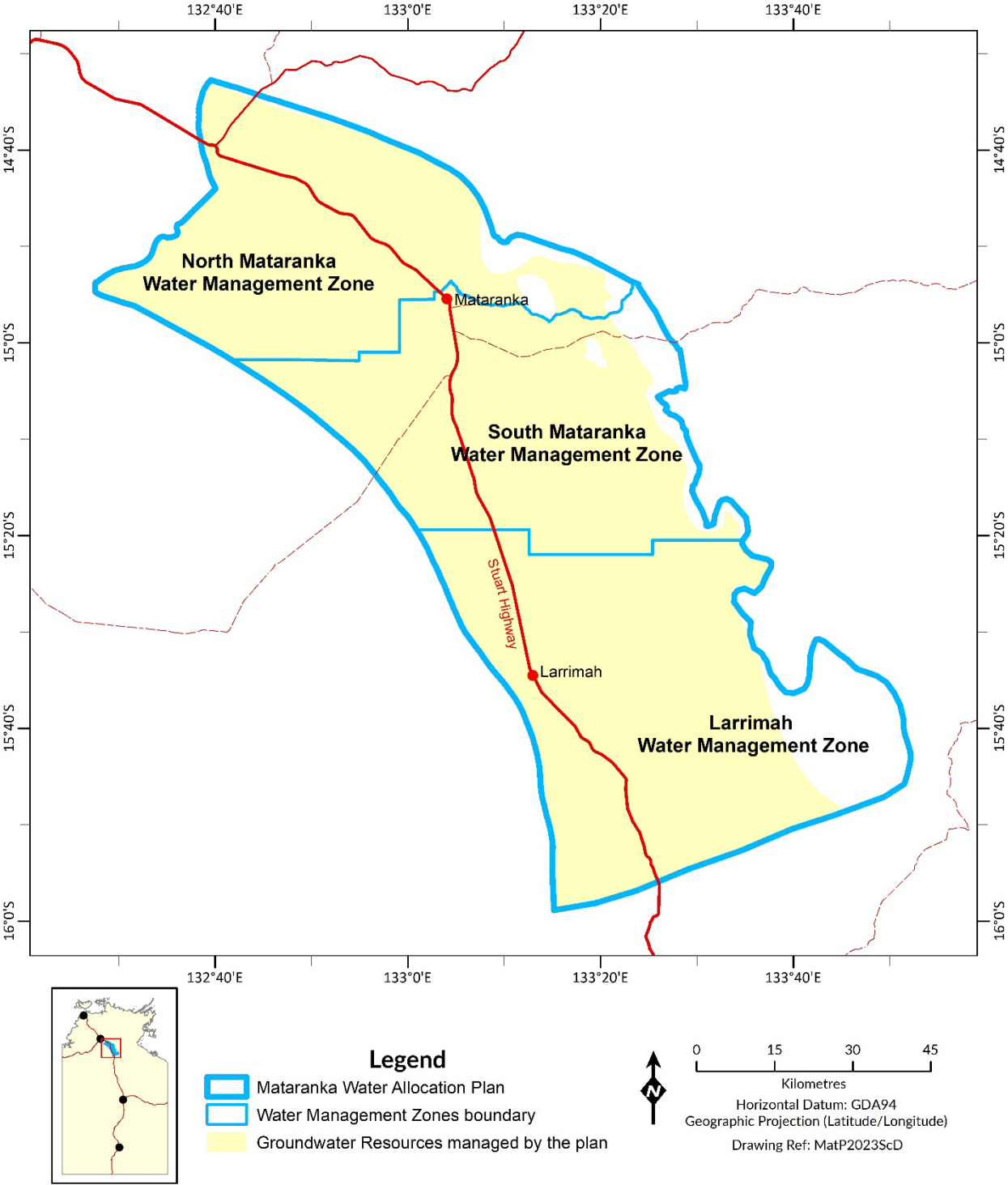
Schedule B. Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviations	Full form
Act	Water Act 1992
AWR	Aboriginal water reserve
CLA	Cambrian limestone aquifer
Controller	Controller of Water Resources
district	Daly Roper Beetaloo water control district
ESY	estimated sustainable yield
km	kilometre
Minister	Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security
ML	megalitre
plan	Mataranka Water Allocation Plan 2024–2034
TLA	Tindall Limestone Aquifer

Schedule C. Daly Roper Beetaloo water control district and Mataranka plan area



Schedule D. Mataranka water management zones



Schedule E. Government Gazette - declaration of water control district and beneficial uses

Northern Territory Government Gazette No. G41, 19 October 2022



Northern Territory of Australia

Water Act 1992

Revocation of Declaration and Declaration of Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District

I, Lauren Jane Moss, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security:

- (a) under section 22 of the *Water Act 1992* and with reference to section 43 of the *Interpretation Act 1978*, revoke the declaration made by notice entitled "Revocation of Declaration and Declaration of Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District" dated 22 June 2018 and published in *Gazette* No. S58 of 20 July 2018; and
- (b) under section 22 of the *Water Act 1992*:
 - (i) declare the part of the Territory specified in the Schedule to be a water control district for surface water and groundwater management; and
 - (ii) allocate the name "Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District" to the water control district.

L. J. Moss
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security
Dated 30 September 2022

Schedule**Part 1 Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District**

- 1 The Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District is the part of the Territory bounded by:
- (a) straight lines connecting, in succession, the coordinates for points 1 to 15 specified in the Table; and
 - (b) the portion of the eastern boundary of the Robinson River Catchment between the coordinates for points 15 and 16 specified in the Table; and
 - (c) the portion of the south eastern boundary of the Victoria River-Wiso Catchment between the coordinates for points 16 and 17 specified in the Table; and
 - (d) straight lines connecting, in succession, the coordinates for points 17 to 33 specified in the Table; and
 - (e) the portion of the north western boundary of the Daly River Catchment between the coordinates for points 33 and 34 specified in the Table; and
 - (f) the portion of the north eastern boundary of the Roper River Catchment between the coordinates for points 34 and 1 specified in the Table.

Notes for clause 1

- 1 *The boundary of the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District is shown on the map in Part 3 of this Schedule.*
- 2 *The points referred to in subclause 1(a) to (f) are shown on the map in Part 3 of this Schedule.*

- 2 In this Schedule:

Daly River Catchment means the area of land in the Territory that is delimited by the series of coordinates for the NCB Level 2 feature known as "Daly River".

Geofabric GIS means the Geographic Information System known as the "Australian Hydrological Geospatial Fabric (AHGF) (Geofabric) Web Data Services", version 3.2, the custodian and owner of which is the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

Note for definition Geofabric GIS

The Geofabric GIS is a digital database that is collated, managed and published by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology as part of the Bureau's functions in relation to water information under Part 7 of the Water Act 2007 (Cth). The Geofabric GIS is based on a set of input data products, which it builds on to produce an integrated set of 5 output data products, including the product "Geofabric Surface Catchments (SH_Catchments)". Access to the Geofabric GIS data, and further information regarding the digital database, is publicly available through the website of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology: bom.gov.au/water/geofabric/index.shtml

NCB Level 2 feature means the data feature class within the Geofabric GIS that:

- (a) represents the geographic surface boundaries for catchment areas throughout Australia that are classified as Level 2 (Aggregated River Basin Groups) in accordance with the hierarchy of catchments under the National Catchment Boundaries; and
- (b) is a feature of the Geofabric GIS output data product known as "Geofabric Surface Catchments (SH_Catchments)".

Robinson River Catchment means the area of land in the Territory that is delimited by the series of coordinates for the NCB Level 2 feature known as "Robinson River".

Roper River Catchment means the area of land in the Territory that is delimited by the series of coordinates for the NCB Level 2 feature known as "Roper River".

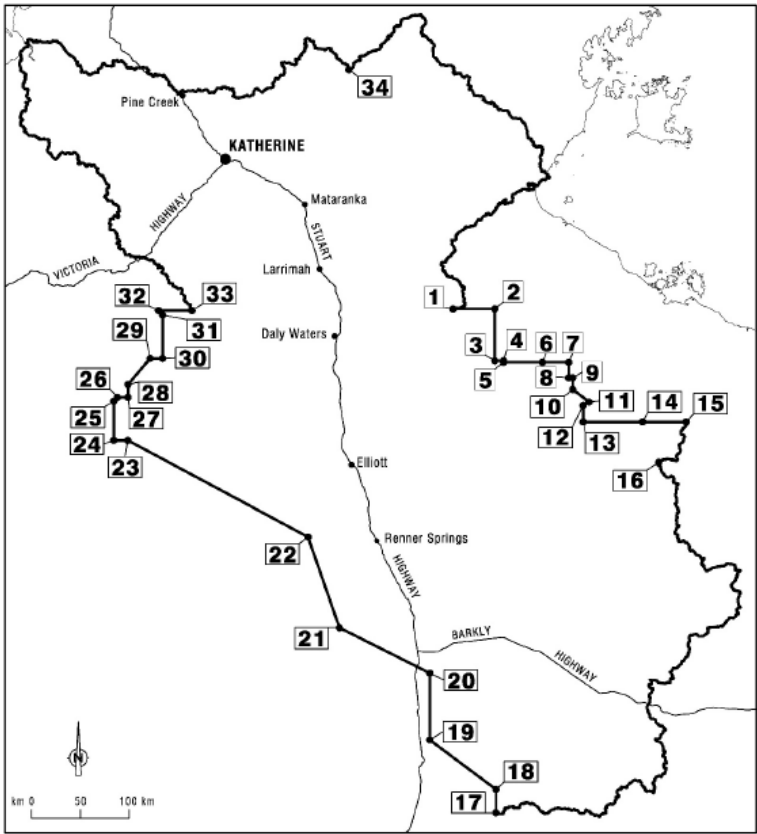
Table means the table in Part 2 of this Schedule.

Victoria River-Wiso Catchment means the area of land in the Territory that is delimited by the series of coordinates for the NCB Level 2 feature known as "Victoria River-Wiso".

Part 2 Coordinates

Point	Decimal Degrees Latitude	Decimal Degrees Longitude
1	-15.978680	134.566250
2	-15.978510	134.988070
3	-16.502220	134.988010
4	-16.502220	135.075530
5	-16.517210	135.075540
6	-16.516810	135.469580
7	-16.517600	135.735700
8	-16.673800	135.735790
9	-16.673780	135.776390
10	-16.793040	135.776390
11	-16.918990	135.940220
12	-16.953700	135.880970
13	-17.120260	135.880960
14	-17.119860	136.480420
15	-17.120210	136.919860
16	-17.528190	136.643750
17	-21.069040	135.000000
18	-20.833340	135.000000
19	-20.331890	134.331220
20	-19.657460	134.331220
21	-19.198040	133.417870
22	-18.281280	133.101550
23	-17.306050	131.280720
24	-17.305720	131.139690
25	-16.910950	131.139680
26	-16.871910	131.172780
27	-16.871190	131.282220
28	-16.742550	131.282210
29	-16.478170	131.505190
30	-16.478250	131.631990
31	-16.039970	131.631980
32	-15.994980	131.591470
33	-15.994610	131.927460
34	-13.560970	133.512360

Part 3 Map of the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District





Northern Territory of Australia

Water Act 1992

**Revocation and Declaration of Beneficial Uses and Objectives in
Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District**

I, Vicki Susan O'Halloran, Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia,
acting with the advice of the Executive Council:

- (a) under sections 22A(1) and 73(1) of the *Water Act 1992* and with reference to section 43 of the *Interpretation Act 1978*, revoke the declarations made by instrument entitled "Revocation of Declaration and Declaration of Beneficial Uses and Objectives Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District" dated 2 April 2019 and published in *Gazette No. G15* of 10 April 2019; and
- (b) under section 22A(1) of the *Water Act 1992*, declare the beneficial uses of all surface water and groundwater located in the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District (the **District**) to be the following:
 - (i) agriculture;
 - (ii) aquaculture;
 - (iii) public water supply;
 - (iv) cultural;
 - (v) industry;
 - (vi) rural stock and domestic;
 - (vii) mining activity;
 - (viii) petroleum activity; and

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- (c) under section 73(1) of the *Water Act 1992*, declare that the objectives that apply to:
- (i) water from all waterways located in the District are as described in Volume 1, Chapters 3, 4 and 5 of the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) (the **Guidelines**), published by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and Agricultural and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand; and
 - (ii) all groundwater located in the District are as described in Volume 1, Chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Guidelines.

Note for paragraph (b)

Section 22A(2) of the Act provides that each of the following is a beneficial use of water in a water control district:

- (a) *environment;*
- (b) *Aboriginal economic development.*

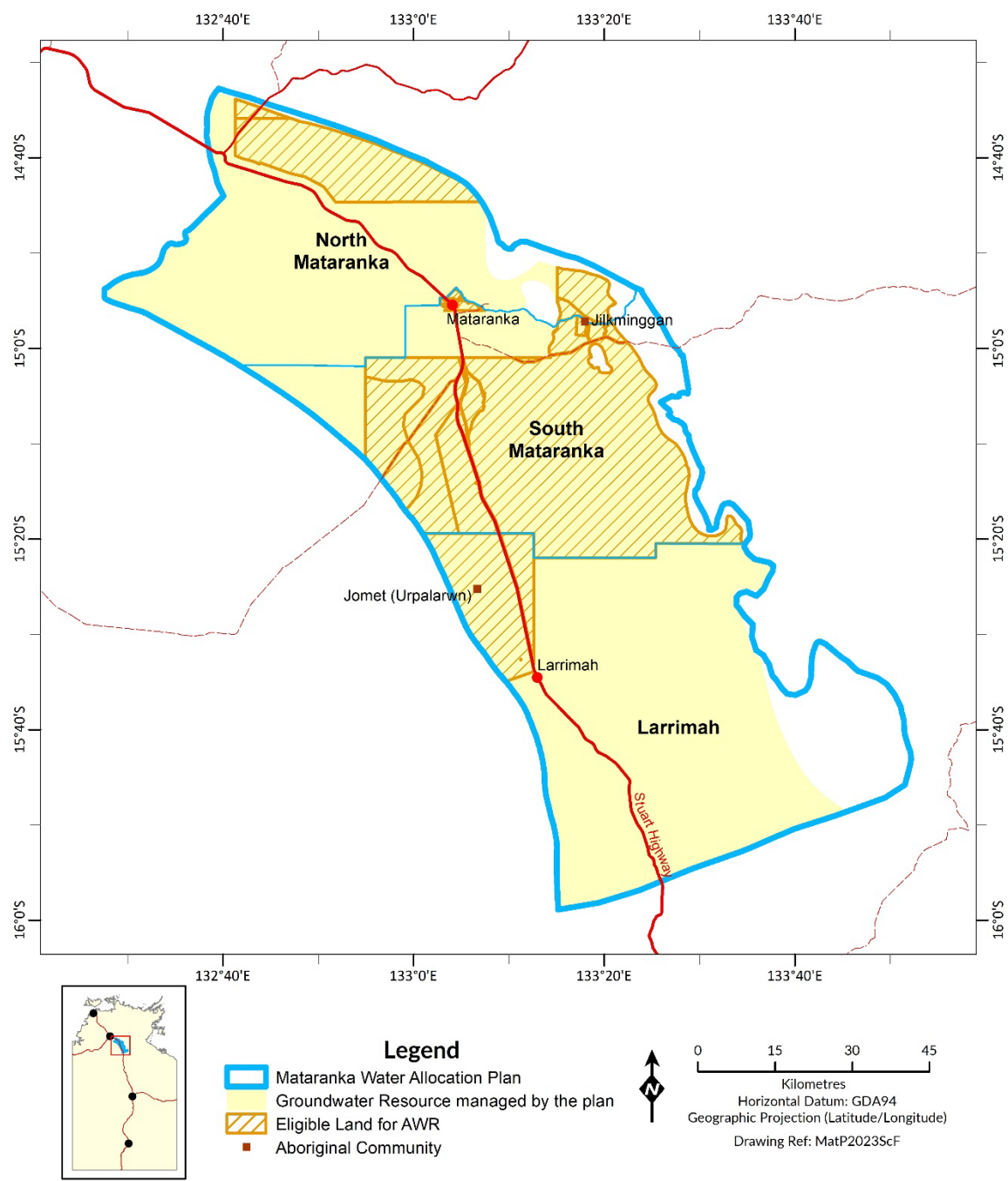
Responsible Minister:

L. J. Moss
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security

V. S. O'Halloran
Administrator

Dated 13 October 2022

Schedule F. Mataranka designated eligible land for the Aboriginal water reserve



Schedule G. Mataranka designated eligible land to which the Aboriginal water reserve applies

Eligible land owners by water management zone and land description	Area of eligible land (ha)	Per cent of eligible land area
Larrimah	38,679.76	100.00%
Wubalawun Aboriginal Land Trust	38,679.76	100.00%
NT Por 2016	38,679.76	
North Mataranka	52,493.93	100.00%
Beswick Aboriginal Land Trust	41,512.14	79.08%
NT Por 1636	41,512.14	
Jawoyn Aboriginal Land Trust	1,953.02	3.72%
NT Por 3629	1,953.02	
Mangarrayi Aboriginal Land Trust	9,028.77	17.20%
NT Por 5417	9,028.77	
South Mataranka	209,246.19	100.00%
CROWN Native Title Exclusive possession to the Najig group and the Guyanggan Nganawirdbird group	272.76	0.13%
LOT 51 Town of Mataranka	0.11	
LOT 52 Town of Mataranka	0.11	
LOT 53 Town of Mataranka	0.11	
LOT 54 Town of Mataranka	0.11	
LOT 55 Town of Mataranka	0.11	
LOT 56 Town of Mataranka	0.11	
LOT 57 Town of Mataranka	0.10	
LOT 58 Town of Mataranka	0.10	
LOT 59 Town of Mataranka	0.10	
LOT 60 Town of Mataranka	0.10	
LOT 61 Town of Mataranka	0.10	
LOT 62 Town of Mataranka	0.10	
LOT 63 Town of Mataranka	0.10	
LOT 64 Town of Mataranka	0.10	
LOT 70 Town of Mataranka	1.09	
LOT 95 Town of Mataranka	0.50	
LOT 116 Town of Mataranka	0.22	
LOT 123 Town of Mataranka	1.40	
LOT 124 Town of Mataranka	37.59	
LOT 125 Town of Mataranka	111.45	

Eligible land owners by water management zone and land description	Area of eligible land (ha)	Per cent of eligible land area
LOT 126 Town of Mataranka	31.89	
LOT 127 Town of Mataranka	25.28	
LOT 128 Town of Mataranka	13.89	
LOT 129 Town of Mataranka	28.16	
LOT 130 Town of Mataranka	11.65	
LOT 132 Town of Mataranka	2.75	
LOT 133 Town of Mataranka	2.58	
LOT 134 Town of Mataranka	2.61	
LOT 141 Town of Mataranka	0.23	
Guyanggan Aboriginal Corporation	2.50	0.00%
LOT 88 Town of Mataranka	2.50	
Jilkminggan Community Aboriginal Corporation ICN 2762	610.17	0.29%
NT Por 7360	610.17	
Mangarrayi Aboriginal Land Trust	207,292.83	99.07%
NT Por 5417	207,287.40	
NT Por 5604	5.43	
Mataranka Aboriginal Land Trust	2.03	0.00%
NT Por 3858	0.67	
NT Por 3859	1.36	
Mataranka Aboriginal Land Trust and the Najig group and the Guyanggan Nganawirdbird group	1,065.90	0.51%
NT Por 3858	357.75	
NT Por 3859	708.15	

Schedule H. Roper Discharge Zone

