# Northern Territory’s water allocation plan documents

Revisiting the statutory requirements for water allocation plans, the department has refined the approach to water allocation plans that comprise three core documents: a background report, water allocation plan and implementation actions. The result is a streamlined water allocation plan that meets the legislative requirements that is easy to read.

The high level structure of each document is outlined below:

The three core documents that are publicly available are:

## Background report

### The background report provides details on the information and processes that informed the plan, including available data and research on the surface and groundwater water resources of the District. It also describes the key environmental values of the district and their dependency on water resources, and the social and developmental context of the region, including current water use and projections of future water demand. The report collates the information and knowledge regarding the district at the time of its preparation.

## Water allocation plan

The plan is declared by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security under section 22 of the *Water Act 1992*. The plan describes the estimated sustainable yield for the water resources of the water control district. The estimated sustainable yield is the volume of water that can be taken sustainably from the water resources to which the plan applies. The plan allocates that water amongst declared beneficial uses and provides for trading of water. The plan takes effect from the date of its declaration by the Minister, and will remain in force for a period of up to 10 years.

## Implementation actions

The implementation actions details how section 34 of the Act with respect to the water resources of the district is discharged. It defines a continuous program for the assessment of water resources in the Territory, including the investigation, collection and analysis of data concerning the occurrence, volume, flow, characteristics, quality and use of water resources. That program describes risk management, adaptive management and monitoring program to inform a series of implementation actions which includes a body of research, monitoring and analytical work.