

**Media Release:**

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## **Draft Water Allocation Plan Revised - Public Comment Sought**

A revised draft Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer in Katherine will be released for a second round of public comment today, Thursday 18 December 2008.

The plan, drafted by the Katherine Water Advisory Committee (KWAC) and the Northern Territory Government provides a blueprint for future water sustainability and establishes a framework to share water between human and environmental needs.

KWAC Chairperson Anne Shepherd said the revised draft may appear different to the first but the content and intent remains the same.

“During the first round of public comment from 26 June to 16 July 2008 we received 11 submissions from individuals and both local and national interest groups,” Ms Shepherd said.

“From this feedback the readability of the document has been improved, including the addition of ‘notes’ to provide explanations to technical sections and assumptions made in the plan.

“Information presentation and layout has also been slightly altered to provide a more logical flow to the document.

The Tindall Limestone Aquifer is an extremely important system with water from it used for:

- Public Water Supply – Katherine town drinking water
- Environment – limestone cave system and river ecology
- Cultural – Indigenous living, camping and fishing
- Agricultural – irrigation of crops
- Rural - stock and domestic
- Industry – irrigation of lawns in schools and gardens
- Aquaculture – commercial production of red-claw and other aquatic species.

“The draft Water Allocation Plan has been developed through technical and scientific assessment and extensive community consultation, through KWAC, to determine the right balance between the competing requirements for water,” Ms Shepherd said.

“Once again stakeholder and community participation is vital to the planning process and we strongly encourage feedback from anyone with an interest in Katherine and planning for future water sustainability.

“The second round of public comment will provide those who contributed feedback on the first draft a chance to see where suggestions have been incorporated and where concerns have been addressed.”

The draft Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer will be released for a second round of public comment over the next six weeks, from Thursday 18 December 2008 to Friday 30 January 2009.

Copies of the revised draft plan are available at [www.nt.gov.au/kwac](http://www.nt.gov.au/kwac) or by contacting the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport Water Management Branch on 8973 8114.

**Media Note – for more information contact Anne Shepherd on 0438 886 693**

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