

Water Trading in Katherine

Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine

This fact sheet contains information on buying or selling water from the Tindall Limestone Aquifer within the Katherine Water Allocation Plan Area.

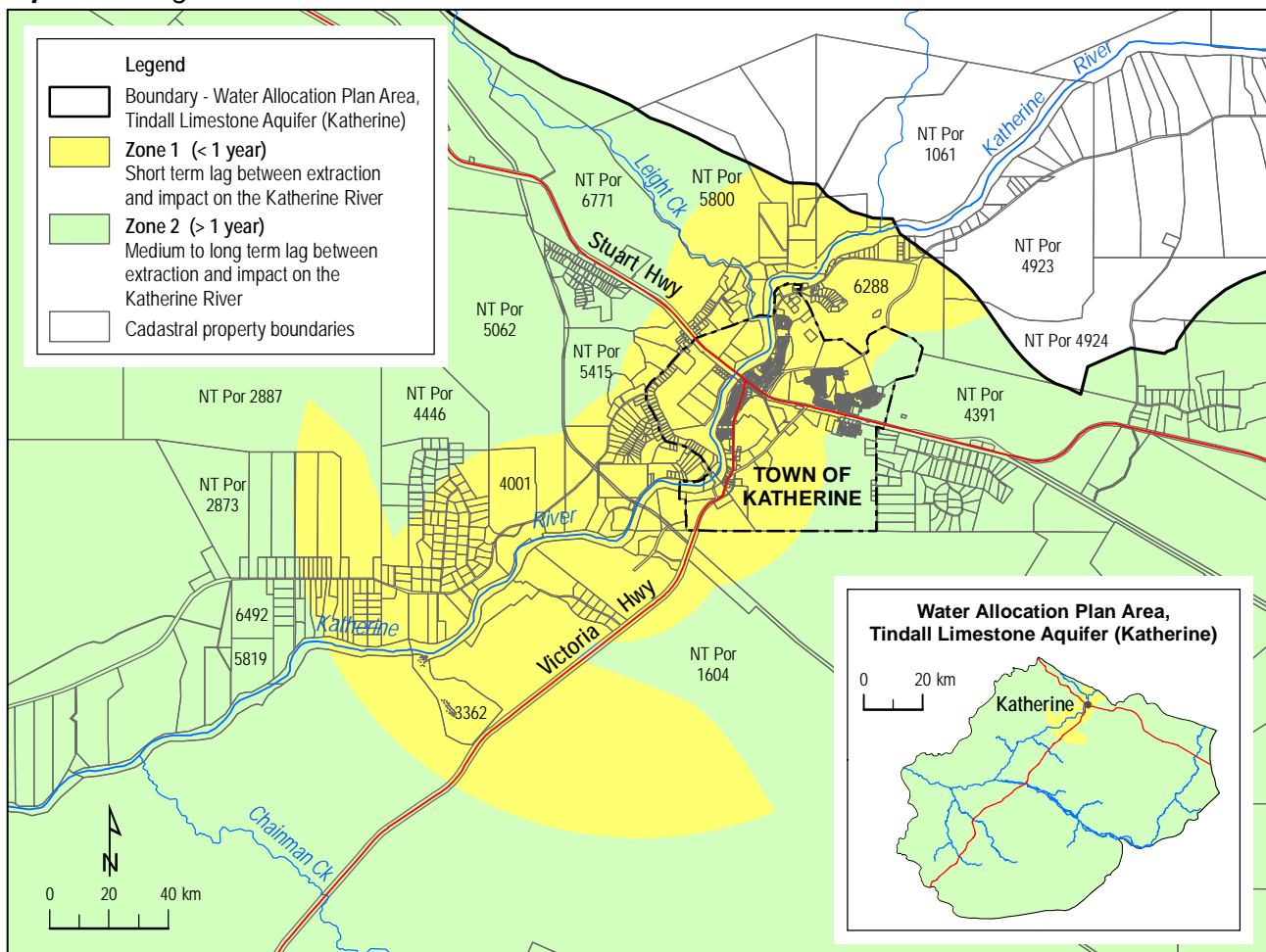
About Water Trading

Water trading is a method to exchange water between users, within a defined management area, without changing the total volume of water taken from the system. Trading is a mechanism for users who may or may not hold a current licence to obtain water. All water trading in the Northern Territory is coordinated by the Northern Territory Government, Water Resources Branch, and all trades must be approved by the Controller of Water Resources. Water trading can only occur within declared Water Allocation Plan (WAP) areas.

Trading Zones

Two management zones, for trading purposes, have been established within the Plan area based on the time between extraction and impact. Extraction and impact refers to lag times of water moving through the aquifer and the rates at which extraction from bores affect discharge into the Katherine River.

Map 1: Trading Zones within the WAP area



As previously mentioned, trading zones manage the impacts of extraction on the Katherine River, to achieve this, caps have been placed on the amount of water that can be extracted close to the river. Whilst Trading can occur freely within Zone 2, the annual limit for extraction from Zone 1 must not exceed 15% of the extraction limit for the aquifer as described in Part 7 of the Plan.

Temporary Trades

Temporary trades refer to the transfer of announced allocations on an annual basis from one licence to a new licence which expires at the end of the water accounting year (1 May).

The volume of water available to be traded for the duration of the relevant water accounting year must not exceed the volume of water required by the seller's current level development, based on crop water use requirements specified in the Plan, for that particular water accounting year. Therefore, the volume of water that may be temporarily transferred will be in accordance with demonstrated improvements in efficiency and must be ratified by the Controller.

Temporarily transfer of water allocated for proposed development which has not eventuated is not permitted.

Permanent Trades

Permanent trades can only be made once full property development, as proposed by the licensee, has been achieved and must be proven to the satisfaction of the Controller of Water Resources. Whilst water has been issued to provide for the full development, if water efficiency gains have been made, excess water can be traded permanently.

The volume of water traded is limited to the annual and/or monthly limits of the licence (and subject to Announced allocations as described in Part 7 of the Plan)

Approval of Trades

All trades require the approval of the Controller, and applications must be lodged on the approved form. Following the approval of a trade, notification of the change in allocation will be served on the person trading water and a new licence will be issued to the purchaser of the water.

Surface Water Trading

Currently there is no trading mechanism for surface water from the Katherine River and tributaries within the WAP area.

Marketing Water for Trading

All water licences and extraction volumes will be contained on a register and displayed on the Department's website, in accordance with section 95 of the *Water Act*. Anyone interested in trading water within the Plan area can write to current licence holders, as displayed per the website, or place a public tender and enquire about purchasing water. Water trading application forms are issued with the original licence, additional copies of this form can be requested from the Water Resources Branch (see below for contact details)

More information about water trading is included in the Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine, and Background document which can be viewed online.

For further assistance, contact the Water Resources Branch by:

Email: water.nretas@nt.gov.au
Internet site: www.nt.gov.au/nreta/water
In person: 32 Giles St, Katherine, NT, 0850
Phone: (08) 89 738840
Post: PMB 123, Katherine, NT, 0852