Ecosystem services in Australian statutory water planning

Water allocation plan for part of the Tindall limestone aquifer near Katherine, NT





Map 1: Tindall Limestone aquifer with respect to the Daly and Roper River catchments







LEGEND

Boundary - Water Allocation Plan Area, Tindall Limestone Aquifer (Katherine)

1km buffer from Tindall aquifer

Tindall Limestone - Unconfined

Tindall Limestone - Confined







Benefits and beneficia icares...

Committee Member	Representing	Organisation	
Ms Anne Shepherd	Chairperson	Katherine Town Council	
Ms Jodie Locke	Local Government	Alderman, Katherine Town Council	
Mr Rohan Sullivan	Pastoral	Chairman, NTCA	
Mr John Etty	Conservation	Organic horticultural producer in the Katherine Region	
Mr Preston Lee	Indigenous - Jawoyn	Trainee manager, Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation	
Mr Bill Harney	Indigenous - Wardaman	Traditional Owner, Katherine Region	
Mr Gary Want	Department of Defence	Manager Base services, Tindal	
Mr Warren De With	Recreation	President, Amateur Fisherman's Association NT	
Mr David Higgins	Horticulture / Agriculture	Horticulturalist, Katherine Region	
Mr David George	Power and Water Corporation	Natural Systems Engineer, PWC	
Mr Mick Peirce	Community	Irrigator, Katherine	
Mr Mick Jerram	Tourism	Owner, Gecko Tours, Katherine	
Mr Peter Sinnott	Industry / Commerce	Farm Manager, Manbulloo Mangoes, Katherine	

Result - regulations

- Extraction limit of 34,500 ML/yr
- No more than 15% of licensed extraction within zone 1



Annual allocations based on protecting flows spring flows into river

If the extraction limit -
exceeds the sum of all annual licence volumes and total security demand
the announced allocation will be 100% for all licences

If the evetre ation limit

is less than the sum of all annual licence volumes and total security demand

the announced allocation to licences will be reduced with low security licences reduced first, then medium, then high. Predict late dry season flow in the Katherine River using:

1) Recorded wet seasor rainfall

2) Modelled recharge to Tindall Aquifer and discharge to Katherine River

Calculate extraction limit based on preserving adequate flows for the environment.

Determine announced allocation for each security category based on the extraction limit If predicted late dry season flow in the Katherine River is -

Less than 0.6 cumecs:

87% of Tindall Aquifer discharge allocated to the environment

Between 0.6 and 1.0 cumecs:

80% of Tindall Aquifer discharge allocated to the environment

More than 1.0 cumecs

70% of Tindall Aquifer discharge is allocated to the environment

Figure 6: Process for determining annual announced allocations to licences.



Australian Government

Recognising the broader benefits of aquatic systems in water planning: an ecosystem services approach

Roel Plant, Clare Taylor, Mark Hamstead and Tim Prior

Waterlines Report Series No 87, August 2012





A SERIES OF WORKS COMMISSIONED BY THE NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION ON KEY WATER ISSUES • To systematically and transparently identify, describe and communicate the benefits and beneficiaries of aquatic systems, the services and ecosystem processes that underpin these and, importantly, the links between them

Beneficiaries Benefits Services Processes Water regime

essentially generates a program map...

Basis for

- consultation and analysis
- Outcomes and strategies
- Measuring performance

Beneficiaries	Benefits	Services	Processes		
			water regime	other processes, functions or conditions	
identify beneficiaries, benefits, services & processes (starting either end)					
show how changes in water regimes etc affect benefits					
 For example: all residents of planning area subset of residents of planning area Indigenous communities Australian community irrigators commercial fishers tourism/recreation workers walkers 4WDers recreational fishers sporting clubs 	For example: • clean water • attractive areas to live/work near • income provided by use of aquatic system • protection from water related hazards • water for industry • attractive areas for recreation • sense of home, well- being, joy etc	For example: • water purification services • water supply system & drainage • healthy floodplain & riverside plants • regulation of bank & channel erosion • mitigation of algal blooms & pollution • mitigation of water temperature & local climate • flood mitigation • frog calls, sun sparkling on water, bird song etc	Water regime characteristics that support listed services as defined by scientific studies eg: • low flows • in-channel freshes • floodplain inundation	Other processes that support the listed services as determined by scientific studies eg: carbon cycling nutrient cycling sediment capture and release food webs catchment sediment retentionetc	

Increasing amount of scientific input