



## What is the Water Act?

The primary tool for managing and protecting the Territory's water resources is the Water Act 1992.

The Act provides for the investigation, allocation, use, control, protection, management and administration of water resources in the Northern Territory.

This includes the regulatory functions such as the issuing of permits and licences and the development and implementation of water allocation plans. Subject to the Act, the property in and the rights to the use, flow and control of all water in the Territory is vested in the Territory and those rights are exercisable by the Minister in the name of and on behalf of the Territory.

A current map of declared water control districts can be found at [www.nt.gov.au/water/watercontroldistricts](http://www.nt.gov.au/water/watercontroldistricts)

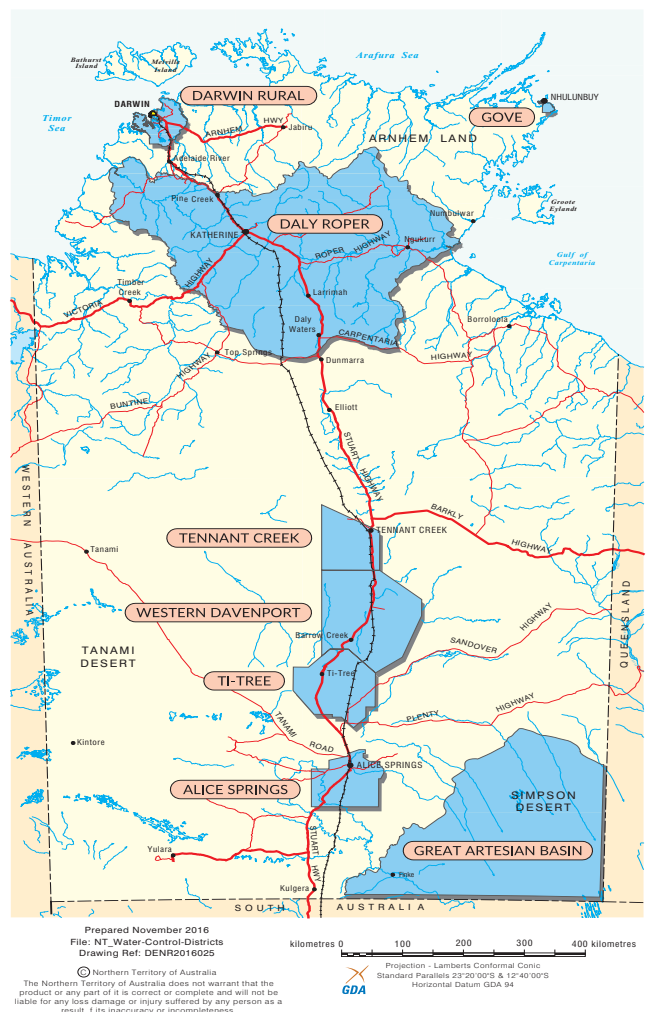
### Mining and petroleum industry

Water use by mining and petroleum activities is now controlled under the Act. Transition provisions apply where there are existing authorisations under relevant mining and petroleum legislation managed by the Department of Primary Industry and Resources [www.dpir.nt.gov.au](http://www.dpir.nt.gov.au)

### Water Control Districts

The Act provides for the declaration of Water Control Districts. Water Control Districts are declared in areas where there is a need for enhanced management for the sustainability of the groundwater reserves, river flows or wetlands.

Water control districts have been declared for the Alice Springs, Daly Roper Beetaloo, Darwin Rural, Gove, Great Artesian Basin, Tennant Creek, Ti Tree and Western Davenport regions.





## Water allocation plans

Water allocation plans can be declared within water control districts. These plans aim to allocate/share water resources amongst water users, the environment and include strategies to ensure water is used in a sustainable way.

Information about declared water allocation plans can be found at [www.denr.nt.gov.au/water](http://www.denr.nt.gov.au/water)

## Water Extraction Licences

A water extraction licence is required when taking:

- surface water or groundwater in a water control district
- surface water outside of a water control district
- groundwater at a rate more than 15L/sec outside of a water control district

## Stock and domestic water use

Landholders have the right, without need of a licence to take groundwater and surface water on their land for domestic use, stock watering and irrigating a garden no larger than 0.5 hectares.

## Public health management

The Act does not deal with public health controls in relation to water supplies or recreational use – these matters are dealt with through the Department of Health.

[www.health.nt.gov.au/professionals/environmental-health](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/professionals/environmental-health)

## Bore work

A bore work permit is required by a land owner to construct or alter any bore in a water control district. A bore work permit application can be obtained from [www.nt.gov.au/bwps](http://www.nt.gov.au/bwps)

Construction or altering of a bore must be undertaken by an NT licensed driller. A licensed driller must undertake work in accordance with the current Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia.

## Interference with a waterway

Under the Act, any interference with a waterway requires a permit. This includes the damming of creeks.

Roadwork activities are exempt.

## Waste management

Unless authorised via a waste discharge licence under the Act, discharging waste into waterways and groundwater is prohibited.

Waste discharge licences are issued by Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority. [www.ntepa.nt.gov.au](http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au)

A copy of the Water Act 1992 and Water Regulations are available at [www.legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/Water-Act-1992](http://www.legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/Water-Act-1992)