

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION 397

Date: 22 February 2016
Subject: Northern Territory Aquifers and Water Extraction Licences
From: Hon. Gerry McCarthy MLA
To: Hon. Gary Higgins MLA
Agency: Department of Land Resource Management

Number: 397

Question: Would you please provide an update of the data provided in your response to estimates question number 4.11 under output 5.3 Water Resources.

Answer: Updated data for sustainable yield, total volume of water extraction licences issued and number of pending applications including volume applied for is provided for each aquifer system.

Sustainable yield refers to the level of water which can be extracted whilst still preserving key environmental assets or ecosystems.

The sustainable yield for some aquifers is identified as 'to be confirmed' where detailed analysis of previous calculations of aquifer storage, recharge and river baseflows are required and will be undertaken when licences are renewed or when new licence applications are received.

Where there are systems where the approved allocations exceed the sustainable yield, reliability levels and annual announced allocations apply to ensure environmental assets and ecosystems are preserved. Full entitlements are only available in years where the preceding rainfall levels provide for that level of extraction. In other years, allocations are reduced to protect environmental flows.

REGION/ LOCALITY	AQUIFER	SUSTAINABLE YIELD ML/year	Total volume approved extraction ML/year	Number of licence applications pending processing	Total volume sought in licence applications ML/year
Great Artesian Basin Water Control District	DeSouza Sandstone	11,900	96	Nil	Nil
Yulara	Dune Plains Basin	To be confirmed	1,600	Nil	Nil
Alice Springs Water Control District Outside Water Allocation Plan Area	Amadeus Basin	To be confirmed	1205	Nil	Nil
	Mereenie Sandstone	To be confirmed	210	Nil	Nil
Alice Springs Water Control District Inside Water Allocation Plan Area	Roe Creek Area Mereenie aquifer	11,067	8,250	Nil	Nil
	Roe Creek Area Pacoota aquifer	4,000	4,000	Nil	Nil
	Roe Creek Area Shannon/ Goyder aquifer	1,000	1,000	Nil	Nil
	Rocky Hill Area Mereenie/ Ooraminna aquifer	3,625	3,230	Nil	Nil
	Town Basin	1,262	1,262	Nil	Nil
	Wanngardi Basin	50	50	Nil	Nil
	Inner Farm Basin	70	60	Nil	Nil
	Outer Farm Basin	710	69	1	600

REGION/ LOCALITY	AQUIFER	SUSTAINABLE YIELD ML/year	Total volume approved extraction ML/year	Number of licence applications pending processing	Total volume sought in licence applications ML/year
Ti Tree Water Control District	Ti Tree Basin (Northern Zone)	50	40	Nil	Nil
	Ti Tree Basin (Central Zone)	7,120	3,072	4	5,929
	Ti Tree Basin (Eastern Zone)	3,200	2,100	Nil	Nil
	Ti Tree Basin (Western Zone)	3,280	2,068	2	0 (renewals only)
Western Davenport Water Control District	Local Scale Aquifers (Southern Ranges)	6,800	36	Nil	Nil
	Local Scale Aquifers (Davenport Range)	10,160	10	Nil	Nil
	Cambrian Regional Scale Aquifers (Plains- Central)	10,590	5,880	5	50,754
	Cambrian Regional Scale Aquifers (Plains-NW)	10,130	0	Nil	Nil
	Cambrian Regional Scale Aquifers (Plains-SE)	6,470	0	Nil	Nil

REGION/ LOCALITY	AQUIFER	SUSTAINABLE YIELD ML/year	Total volume approved extraction ML/year	Number of licence applications pending processing	Total volume sought in licence applications ML/year
Tennant Creek Water Control District	Cabbage Gum	To be confirmed	200	Nil	Nil
	Kelly Well Dolomite	To be confirmed	2,000	Nil	Nil
Daly Roper Water Control District Outside Water Allocation Plan Area	Tindall Limestone (Daly Waters / Larrimah)	40,000	225	2	86
	Tindall Limestone (Mataranka)	36,800	25,400	2	10,000
	Tindall Limestone (Flora)	To be confirmed	0	1	1,868
	Tindall Limestone (Edith)	3,500	0	1	3,400
	Tindall Limestone (Douglas)	7,000	1,632	Nil	Nil
	Jinduckin Formation (Katherine)	4,400	2,249	Nil	Nil
	Jinduckin Formation (Tipperary)	14,000	15,400	Nil	Nil
	Ten Small Scale Local Aquifers	To be confirmed	97	5	327
	Oolloo Dolostone	60,000	65,982	11	40,534

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Daly Roper Water Control District Inside Water Allocation Plan Area	Tindall Limestone (Katherine Zone 1)	5,344	5,857	3	0 (amendments only)
	Tindall Limestone (Katherine Zone 2)	30,287	29,406	2	0 (renewals/ amendments only)
Darwin Rural Water Control District	Whites Formation (Acacia)	1,900	662	Nil	Nil
	Berry Springs Dolomite	7,900	651	2	1,035
	Koolpinyah Dolomite	40,800	12,728	2	375
	Coomalie Dolomite (Acacia)	1,450	1,194	1	1,194
	Wildman Siltstone	400	700	1	571
Darwin Region Outside Water Control District	Coomalie Dolomite (Batchelor)	To be confirmed	2,087	Nil	Nil
Darwin Region Outside Water Control District	Koolpinyah Dolomite and Cretaceous Sandstone (Wildman River)	To be confirmed	8,021	Nil	Nil
	Local Aquifer (Angurugu)	To be confirmed	0	1	543

REGION/ LOCALITY	AQUIFER	SUSTAINABLE YIELD ML/year	Total volume approved extraction ML/year	Number of licence applications pending processing	Total volume sought in licence applications ML/year
	Local Aquifer – (Yirrkala)	To be confirmed	0	1	321
	Unnamed Aquifer – (Palmerston)	To be confirmed	0	1	0 (renewal and amendment only)