

ASWAP: Objectives, strategies and performance indicators
Progress report - August 2017

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (CLAUSE 16.1)	NOTES ON PROGRESS
MAINTAIN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure a secure water supply, sufficient in volume and quality for essential services to the community of Alice Springs as well as for rural stock & other domestic water requirements • Consider the needs of future generations by adopting a conservative approach to water allocation. • Encourage best practice water efficiency measures and innovations • Integrate land-use, infrastructure and natural resource management planning with water planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional groundwater quality and water levels will be monitored for long and short term changes. (cl. 17.2) • There will be compliance monitoring of conditions on water extraction licences and bore construction permits (cl. 17.2). • Legal action may be taken to effect compliance with these conditions at the discretion of DENR (cl.16.2). • General rules will be developed for buffer zones around potential sources of pollution and for the siting of production bores, subject to the requirements of the Act or any other relevant legislation • Any reports of bore field interference or contamination of aquifers will be investigated (cl. 17.2) • In the event that DENR introduces a policy on backflow prevention, it is likely that backflow devices will be required for licensed production bores as a means of minimising risk of pollution to aquifers. • Provision of advice and comments by DENR on development applications within the Alice Springs Water Control District focussing on implications for water use and water resources (cl. 17.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in water quality in aquifers that are being used for licensed water extraction. (Action 1) • Incidence of disruption to water supply for communities and pastoral properties (Action1, Action 6). • Change in groundwater levels (Action 1). • Incidence of pollution events (Action 6). • Compliance with installation of appropriate backflow prevention and metering devices (Action 4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rocky Hill Investigation (Stage 1 complete; Stage 2 in progress)</i> • <i>Compliance:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>100% of all current GWEL’s in the Alice Springs Water Control District have been inspected for the financial year 2016-2017.</i> – <i>96% of all current GWEL’s are compliant with licence conditions.</i> – <i>11 Bore Construction Permits issued for 2016-2017 (6 inspected).</i> • Buffer zone rules: DENR refers to Guidelines for Groundwater Quality Protection in Australia”, National Water Quality Management Strategy, Australian Government, 2013. DENR has not established general rules but has endorsed and would apply the PWAC policy document “Standards for Wellhead Protection Zones”, August 2014. • <i>No reports of bore field interference or contamination of aquifers</i> • <i>Backflow policy – TBC</i> • <i>Advice provided through Comment Information System (CIS) on development applications and EIS for large projects (e.g. Chandler Mine –outside of ASWCD)</i>

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (CLAUSE 16.1)	NOTES ON PROGRESS
ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Development of sustainable water consumptive industries to form a significant part of the region's economy will be conducted within a sustainable framework.</i> • Ensure that the quantity and quality of water is appropriate for the purpose for which it is being used • Maximise the economic and social benefits from water extraction for the Alice Springs Water Control District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water extraction licences will be available for amounts within the estimated maximum allowable yield of the relevant aquifer (cl.16). • Water trading of water not allocated for public water supply will be permitted (cl.16). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether sustainable regional development projects have been impeded by lack of access to water resources (Action 9). • Whether commercial development projects on Aboriginal owned land have been impeded by lack of access to water resources (Action 9). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rocky Hill Table Grapes was not impeded by lack of access to water resources</i> • <i>No proposals for projects on Aboriginal owned land. There is 437.5 ML/yr unallocated in the consumptive pool for Ag. & Industry in Rocky Hill / Mereenie zone. Estimated that 648 ML/yr would be required for SWR (policy TBC).</i> • <i>No trading has occurred</i>
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain and protect the long term health of water dependent environmental sites, including waterways, aquifers, wetlands, springs and flood-outs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve 95% of surface water flows for the environment and non-consumptive cultural needs (cl. 16.1). • Continued documentation and assessment of environmental values of water dependent ecosystems within the Alice Springs Water Control District (cl. 17.2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported incidence of environmental degradation that can be attributed to water extraction (Action 6). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>100% of surface water flows are currently preserved</i> • <i>Comprehensive monitoring undertaken (Todd/Charles, Roe Creek, and Emily Creek).</i> https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/water-data-portal • <i>No further work on documentation or assessment of environmental values of water dependent ecosystems</i> • <i>8 m bgl drawdown limit set for Town, Inner and Outer Farm Basins. No limit set for Wannardi Basin</i>

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RECOGNISE INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND OTHER COMMUNITY VALUES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise and support Aboriginal and other non-consumptive heritage and cultural values through the protection of culturally significant water dependent sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve 95% of surface water flows for the environment and non-consumptive cultural needs (cl. 16.1). Strive towards documentation, identification and assessment of cultural values to traditional owners of culturally significant water dependent sites (cl.17.2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported incidence of environmental degradation of culturally significant water dependent sites that can be attributed to water extraction (Action 6). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>100% of surface water flows are currently preserved</i> <i>8 m bgl drawdown limit set for Town, Inner and Outer Farm Basins. No limit set for Wannardi Basin</i> <i>Monitoring of Town Basin water levels. See: https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/water-data-portal</i> <i>No further work on describing cultural values since Dick Kimber's 2011 report: "Cultural values of Alice Springs Water"</i>

Objectives 'Action' table

	OBJECTIVE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMING	NOTES ON PROGRESS
1	Assess and report on regional rainfall, surface water flow, groundwater levels and water quality in each of the management zones.	DENR	2020	<i>Data is being collated and will be reported on in 2020.</i>
2	Report annual regional water balances for each management zone.	DENR	annual	<i>Reporting has not been undertaken</i>
3	Review licensed entitlements.	DENR	following 2021 review	<i>N/A – following 2021 review</i>
4	Conduct compliance inspections for all licences and permits issued under the Water Act.	DENR	Licences - annual Permits - as required	<i>Compliance monitoring:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of all current GWEL's in the Alice Springs Water Control District have been inspected for the financial year 2016-2017. - 96% of all current GWEL's are compliant with licence conditions. - 11 Bore Construction Permits issued for 2016-2017 (6 inspected).
5	Provide advice to stakeholders on backflow prevention and metering devices.	DENR	as required	<i>Not requested or delivered</i>
6	Assist in the investigation of reported pollution events and reported degradation to water dependent ecosystems.	DENR	as required	<i>None reported</i>
7	Consider improved knowledge of environmental and cultural water requirements, and provide recommendations for renewal of the Plan.	DENR	2020	<i>Not commenced</i>
8	Inform stakeholders and the public about investigation and monitoring updates (e.g. through NTG websites, reports and public information sessions).	DENR	ongoing	<i>ASWAC re-established in 2017, has met 3 times + one field excursion</i>
9	Review and advise on the sustainability of proposed water resource extraction by proposed development projects.	DENR	as required	<i>Advice provided through Comment Information System (CIS) on development applications and EIS for large projects</i>
10	Undertake a detailed hydrogeological study of the Mereenie Aquifer, including development of a numerical model.	DENR	2017	<i>Regional groundwater assessment / modelling underway</i>