

Water trading

Water trading is an exchange of a water entitlement between two licence holders.

How it works

You can only trade water within a declared water allocation plan area. Each water allocation plan will have guidelines that apply to water trading. If you want to trade water, you should read the trade guidelines in the water allocation plan that applies to your licence. You can find water allocation plans and the areas they apply to at: denr.nt.gov.au/WAPs.

A water trade occurs between a **buyer** (the water licence holder who gets more water) and a **seller** (the water licence holder whose water entitlement is reduced). The department publishes a public register of approved water licences at nt.gov.au/licenceportal, which can be used to find licence holders to trade water with.

The buyer and seller must negotiate the details of the trade including the amount and security of water, the length of time the water will be traded, and the price for the water (if any). The department is not involved in the negotiations between the buyer and seller.

Once the buyer and seller have agreed on the trade, they must complete the application form and send it to the Department to be assessed. The department will aim to finalise simple trade applications within two weeks. Trades for more than 1,000 ML, trades that require a new licence to be granted or trades in or impacting on groundwater dependent ecosystem areas or groundwater discharge protection areas will take longer.

A water trade only takes effect once the Controller of Water Resources has approved the trade.

Apply to trade water

Step 1. Fill in the form

To trade water you need to fill in the form available on the website at nt.gov.au/watertrade.

The buyer and seller must both complete and sign the form. You should review the checklist included on the form to ensure you have included all the information and documents.

Step 2. Submit the form

You can submit the form and all supporting documents by:

- Email to water.licensing@nt.gov.au
- Posting it addressed to Water Licensing at 32 Giles Street, Katherine NT 0852

Contact

If you have questions about water trading in the Northern Territory, or need help completing the application form, please contact 08 8999 4455 or email water.licensing@nt.gov.au.