

Policy:

Verifying previously authorised water entitlements for mining and petroleum activities

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Acronyms	Full form
EMP	Environment management plan
MMP	Mining management plan
NT	Northern Territory

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Policy: Policy:

1. Purpose

To provide operational guidance, transparency and consistency as to the approach used by the department to verify a previously authorised water entitlement for a mining activity or a petroleum activity, for the purpose of providing advice to the Controller of Water Resources.

2. Scope

This policy applies to applications to take water under a licence under section 45 or 60 of the Water Act 1992 for the beneficial uses of mining activity or petroleum activity where the applicant benefits from the transition provisions in Part 15 of the Water Act 1992.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the NT Government's [Water extraction licensing – Mining and petroleum activity policy](#)¹ and [Processing Water Extraction Licence Applications policy](#)¹.

3. Commencement

This operational policy takes effect from 14 August 2020.

4. Context

Refer to the NT Government's [Water extraction licensing – Mining and petroleum activity policy](#)¹ (the Policy).

5. Verifying water entitlements

5.1 Applicant requirements

To enable an assessment of whether an application will benefit from the Policy, the applicant must include evidence to enable verification of a **previously authorised water entitlement**.

5.2 Evidence hierarchy

Evidence that may be used in an application is listed below, in order of preference. This is not an exhaustive list and additional documentation may be submitted by an applicant to support the verification of a **previously authorised water entitlement**.

1. A volume of water listed in the EMP or MMP.
2. A comprehensive site water balance which describes water demand, water sources and water reuse/recovery.
3. Metered water extraction records for a minimum of 12 months.
4. Documented evidence for pumping rates and duration.

¹ <https://denr.nt.gov.au/water/policy/water-licensing-policies>

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5.3 Insufficient evidence

If the department cannot verify an applicant's **previously authorised water entitlement**, the application may not benefit from the Policy. In this case, the department will notify the applicant by email; allowing the applicant 10 business days to provide additional supporting information to verify a **previously authorised water entitlement**.

This is a separate process from verifying if the application is an **accepted application** under the NT Government's [Processing Water Extraction Licence Applications policy](#)¹.

6. Glossary

Terms defined in the [Water extraction licensing – Mining and petroleum activity policy](#)¹ and [Processing Water Extraction Licence Applications policy](#)¹ have the same meanings in this operational policy and are shown bold in the text.

7. Legislation

This policy is to be read subject to the provisions of the [Water Act 1992](#)² and the [Water Regulations 1992](#)³.

8. Related documents

Related documents include:

- [Mining Management Act 2001](#)⁴
- [Petroleum Act 1984](#)⁵
- [Mineral Titles Act 2010](#)⁶
- [relevant water allocation plans](#)⁷
- Policy – [Northern Territory Water Allocation Planning Framework](#)⁸
- Policy – [Processing Water Extraction Licence Applications policy](#)¹
- Policy – [Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve Policy Framework](#)⁸
- Policy – [Recovery of Unused Licensed Water Entitlements](#)¹
- Policy – [Water Extraction Licensing – Mining and Petroleum Activity](#)¹
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources guidelines relating to mining management plans or environment management plans are available from: nt.gov.au/industry/mining-and-petroleum.

² <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/WATER-ACT-1992>

³ <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/WATER-REGULATIONS-1992>

⁴ <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/MINING-MANAGEMENT-ACT-2001>

⁵ <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/PETROLEUM-ACT-1984>

⁶ <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/MINERAL-TITLES-ACT-2010>

⁷ <https://denr.nt.gov.au/land-resource-management/water/water-management/water-allocation-plans>

⁸ <https://denr.nt.gov.au/water/policy/water-allocation-policies>

