

Minutes

Meeting opened 8.30AM

Attendance

PRESENT:

Members

Mr John Huigen (Chair)	Local resident, Huigen Advisory
Barbara Shaw	AAPA representative and Traditional Owner
Greg Owens	NT Farmers
Adam Davis	Power & Water Corporation
Rod Cramer	Alice Springs resident (Rural Resident's Association)
Jimmy Cocking	Arid Lands Environment Centre
Mr Glenn Marshall	Alice Springs resident (urban water efficiency expert)
Martin Campbell	Central Land Council

Observers:

Ms Veronica Dobson	Traditional Owner
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Apologies:

Mr Eli Melki	Alice Springs Town Council
Robyn Grey-Gardner	Alice Springs resident (remote water & water quality expert)

NT Government representatives (Non-members)

Tim Bond	Director, Water Planning & Engagement
Adrian Tomlinson	Water Planner, Water Planning & Engagement

Welcome and introductions

John Huigen (Chair) acknowledged that the meeting was occurring on Arrernte Country, and acknowledged the existing, present and future Traditional Owners including those present. John noted that the work of the Alice Springs Plan Review Committee (The Committee) was extremely important to Arrernte people and country.

The Chair welcomed attendees, introduced the meeting and confirmed the agenda.

The Chair asked Committee members to describe their interest in the plan.

- John Huigen is principal of Huigen Advisory and an Ilparpa resident seeking sustainable use of water resources.
- Jimmy Cocking is Chief Executive Officer at Arid Lands Environment Centre and an Alice Springs Town Councillor. He has participated on water advisory committees for the area between 2008 and 2017. His particular interests for the plan include water

re-use, sustainability and ensuring the numbers are correct. He hopes that the outcome of the process is deeper than a review.

- Barbara Shaw is long-time resident of Alice Springs, Deputy Chair of the Central Land Council and a committee member on the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.
- Adam Davis grew up in Alice Springs and is represents Power and Water Corporation on this and the previous Committee.
- Greg Owens has participated in water allocation planning in the Katherine Tindall and Ooloo plan areas. His interest is in opportunities for economic gain without impacting on the environment. Greg will be working with local farmers to bring their views to the table.
- Glen Marshall has been a committee member since the late 1990s. He represents general community interests, including careful economic development, but emphasises that very good management is needed of a scarce resource.
- Rod Cramer is long term resident and licence holder. He will be interested to see a better understanding of the Wannardi aquifer.
- Veronica Dobson is a resident originally from Santa Teresa. Veronica would like to see more aboriginal people involved in water management and is concerned about degradation of the rivers.
- Martin Campbell is a Regional Land Management Coordinator at Central Land Council. His interests in the plan include sustainable water management and restoration of cultural sites such as the Coolibah swamp and other wetlands, claypans and waterholes. Martin will be supported by Traditional Owners Veronica Dobson and Benedict Stephens.

The Chair advised that correspondence dated 2 November 2020 had been received from the Controller of Water Resources which was circulated to members prior to the meeting. It responds to a memorandum from the then Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee on the need demand management including recommendations to progress this. The letter received emphasised the Committee's functions in respect to participating in the plan review.

Members commented that they felt demand management needs to be in the plan and questioned why the previous committee was rescinded. Concerns were also raised about the short timeframe under which the review was to be conducted. It was agreed that further discussion on the letter and how to respond would be deferred until after the agenda items on the induction and the WAP review process.

Induction

The Water Planner outlined the materials provided in an induction package which was provided to all members. A presentation was provided addressing the following topics.

1. Materials provided in the induction package
2. Terms of reference including
3. Function of the committee
4. Role of the Chair
5. Role of members
6. Roles of the department
7. Description of the Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan

(Refer attached PowerPoint presentation.)

How will the committee work together?

The Chair invited discussion on how Committee members would like the Committee to operate and how he should perform his role. The following points were discussed.

- The Chair will work to keep the Committee on track and to the agenda and people will be responsive to that.
- As issues arise, key questions will be captured and parked to be returned to at an appropriate time.
- Given the short timeframe, Committee members need a strong commitment to and focus on the task at hand, as described in the Terms of Reference.
- The Committee does not need to reach consensus. Seventy five percent support is needed for a motion. There is also the opportunity to record disagreement and record other views via the minutes. Nonetheless consensus is preferred, and the Chair will work to find common ground.
- Technical issues should be referred directly to the water planner. Responses should be recorded at the meetings and any e-mail responses circulated to all members.
- Equality of voice (strength and amount) in the Committee's discussions is the aim. Members will be mindful of their contribution, and the Chair will actively work to achieve balance.
- Members are encouraged to ask questions.
- The principle that it is "ok to disagree but not to be disagreeable" was discussed and agreed-to as a good guiding principle.

Morning Tea

WAP review process

Tim Bond presented on water allocation reviews and the intended process for the Alice Springs review (refer attached PowerPoint presentation).

Under Section 22B(3) of the Water Act a review of a water allocation plan is conducted at intervals not longer than five years. It should consider how well a water allocation plan is:

1. achieving its stated outcomes, reflected in the vision, goals, objectives, strategies and actions described in a water allocation plan;
2. providing for the investigation, allocation, use, control, protection, management and administration of water resources within the context of section 22B of the Water Act 1992; and
3. adaptively managing the water resource by responding to outcomes of the monitoring program, new research findings and developments in policy, regulation, climate projections and socio-economic planning since the plan was declared.

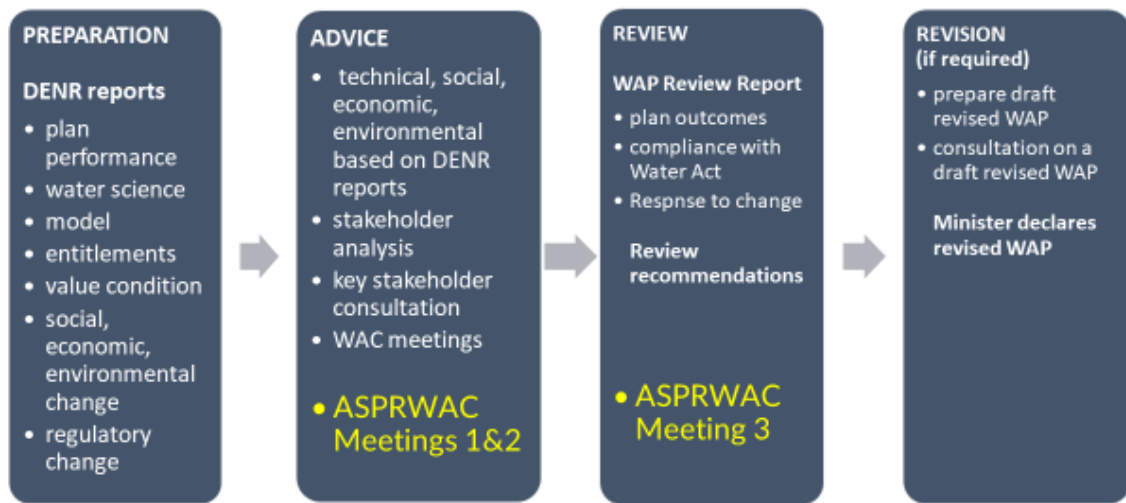
The Alice Springs Plan Review Water Advisory Committee has been established under section 23(1A) of the Act to advise the Controller of Water Resources (Controller) on the effectiveness of a water allocation plan in maximising economic and social benefits within ecological restraints.

Key questions for the Committee during the review are:

1. How well are the vision, goals, objectives and outcomes of the water allocation plan being met in maximising economic and social benefits within ecological restraints?
2. How could the water allocation plan be changed to better achieve its vision, goals, objectives and outcomes and what is the priority and timing for making these changes?
3. How should stakeholder feedback be incorporated into the review process and revised plan (if required)?

A four-stage process for conducting the review is proposed.

Four steps in the WAP review



1. The department prepares reports on: plan performance; water science; model; entitlements; value condition; social, economic, environmental change; regulatory change (commenced February 2020).
2. Advice is sought from the Committee and other stakeholders on technical, social, economic, environmental aspects of the plan (November 2020-January 2021)
3. The WAP review report is prepared reporting on plan outcomes, compliance with Water Act and response to changed circumstances. Report including recommendations on whether the water allocation plan can continue or changes needed (December 2020- February 2021)
4. If required a draft revised WAP is prepared depending on the outcome of review (February 2021 onwards) supported by a water advisory committee

Tim expects the Committee to be involved throughout the advice and WAP review report stages. Today's meeting and the next meeting relate to the "advice" stage. A third Committee meeting is proposed for WAP review report phase which would need to be in late January 2021.

Where problems with the current plan or changed circumstances are identified, the review will consider whether a change to the plan is needed and if so, when?

The following points were raised by Committee members during the discussion.

- The previous plan should have lasted to 2018 but a new plan was written three years after the review was completed. The rewrite included removal of the cap on public water supply allocations.
- The deadline for completing the review is very tight and it was queried what would happen if the timeline wasn't met. Tim commented that the department was always keen to meet statutory deadlines and failure to do so may impact on the department's reputation.
- If periods for public submissions and times allocated for the Committee to participate in the review were too tight, there is a risk the review's validity could be queried. To avoid this public submissions need to be received prior to the next Committee meeting and the Committee needs to be given concise summaries of any information before the meeting.

Communication and Engagement Plan (Brought Forward)

A communication and engagement plan was presented (refer attached PowerPoint presentation). The following key dates and committee roles were outlined.

When	Activity
Feb 2020	Stakeholder analysis
Oct 2020	Capacity building Water Advisory Committee (WAC)
Oct 2020	Capacity building for key stakeholders
12 Nov 2020	First WAC meeting
17 Nov 2020	Announce ASWAP review process and invite feedback
17 Nov to 13 Dec 2020	Public submission period – Have your say survey
Oct to Dec 2020	Key stakeholder meetings
Dec 2020	Second WAC meeting
Jan 2021	Key stakeholder consultation
Early Feb 2021	Third WAC meeting

The importance of members' role in representing stakeholders' views and encouraging their networks to participate directly was discussed.

It was noted that the announcement phase would involve a media release and radio and media opportunities.

A stakeholder analysis has also been conducted, which rather than discuss today, will be provided to members via e-mail. Members are requested to advise of any additional stakeholders who should be contacted and to forward information through their networks

Action 1: Water planner to provide stakeholder analysis to committee members for feedback.

Action 2: Members are requested to advise the water planner of any additional stakeholders who should be contacted and to forward information through their networks

The following points were raised:

- Central Land Council meeting is scheduled from 2 December to 3 December.
- **Action 3: DEPWS write to CLC advising of the review and offering a briefing**
- There is an Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority meeting next week which would be good to present at.
- CAAMA radio and Stewart Brash at 783 ABC Alice Springs are good opportunities to provide information on the review.
- A weekend forum may be needed. (The need for this to be considered after initial feedback is received.)
- Mining and petroleum industry attendance at any workshop is needed.

Action 4: DEPWS to offer the opportunity for the mining and petroleum industry to be an observer at future meetings

Pilot Have your say survey

A draft survey was circulated with the agenda which was to be finalised immediately after the meeting.

The following points were raised during the Committee's discussion:

- The draft survey demands pre-existing knowledge of the plan. Therefore only a limited group of people could respond. Without prior knowledge a substantial time commitment is needed to review the plan and complete the survey and few respondents should be expected.
- To overcome the need for prior knowledge, it is better to be give guidance on the plan's content and ask questions about specific points of interest.
- The survey should be re-crafted with more "pointier" questions including demand management and specifically gauging attitudes toward rates of aquifer storage depletion e.g. "What do you think about 25% of the water being taken per 100 years?"
- It was suggested the survey should provide a list of issues and ask respondents to rank them. The issues that emerge from the upcoming "first impressions" agenda item could guide this.

Action 5: Water Planner to re-craft the survey and provide the final survey to members.

Action 6: Members to do the survey and forward it through their networks.

Discussion of correspondence received and the Role of the Committee

Concern was raised about the length of time between the previous meeting and the change of name of water advisory committee was queried.

Tim Bond advised that since the previous meeting there had been a meeting of water advisory committee chairs and stakeholders. The feedback from the chairs that it was important for committees to have clear purpose. Committee meetings are to be held at points where advice was needed.

Committee members commented that they felt there is an ongoing role for a water advisory committee so that members remain informed and can give feedback. Committee members put heart, time and effort into the role and there should be the opportunity for stakeholders to be connected to allocation planning decisions. It was commented that things can change quickly. For example recent been issues with groundwater water levels in the Town Basin.

Adam Davis advised he could circulate charts information on water use and water level information.

Action 7: Adam Davis to circulate charts on water use and aquifer levels.

A suggestion was made that an annual meeting may be sufficient to keep Committee members informed (this view was not endorsed).

It was discussed that the Controller's letter and the Terms of Reference make it clear that demand management is "not on the table for the Committee's role" and that it is expected to have a single focus on the plan review.

It was noted that that members could seek to move onto the next committee, if there was one.

A view was expressed that the committee nominations in the past have been and should be by an open expression of interest rather than invitation.

A member summarised that the Committee's aspiration is different to the Terms of Reference which limits the committee's role to participating in a narrow review of whether the plan is meeting the requirements of the act and being implemented. It therefore requires a leap of faith by the Committee, that there will be a committee in place beyond the review and there will be an opportunity to work on water allocation planning beyond the review.

Committee members have reservations about the current plan and expects these to be documented in its advice on the review. However they hold concern that the committee's participation in the plan review could be used to "rubber stamp" the five-year review process without the advice being used.

Tim advised that the Committee's advice would be presented to the Minister but how the plan changes is always the Minister's decision.

Given the above considerations, the Chair offered to make contact with the Controller of Water Resources to convey the above concerns.

Action 8: The Chair will seek a meeting with the Controller of Water Resources, principally to raise the issue of longevity of the committee, with the aim of retaining the present committee for a period to enable engagement with the outcomes of the review and capacity to contribute to addressing those issues and updating the plan. I.e. a new WAC needs to be in place after the review is complete (and to clarify the Controller's expectations about the role of a water advisory committee beyond the plan).

Action 9: Chair to circulate the outcome of the meeting with the Controller of Water Resources.

Greg Owens, Martin Campbell and Veronica Dobson departed at 11.00 AM.

First impressions - ideas

Members were asked to list important ideas and came up with the following (not in order):

- Ongoing monitoring and evidence-based reporting
- An ongoing water advisory committee is required
- Strategic indigenous reserves need to be considered
- Making the document accessible to readers
- The plan reflects changes to legislation and risk analysis conducted to understand impacts on water resources
- Climate change
- The plan articulates intended licence conditions for different beneficial uses of water (I.e. the types of conditions that might be required on the respective groundwater extraction licences for the taking of water for public water supply, agriculture, industry etc.)
- More focus on surface water
- More education and awareness about the need to look after the District's scarce resources
- Manage current over allocation in the Town Basin
- Action focus... what next?
- Demand management is needed
- Address gaps in information for different management zones
- Engagement of mining and petroleum industry.

Closing matters

At the next meeting there should be items on conflict of interest and apologies on the agenda.

The record of the previous meeting to be circulated in a draft as early as possible.

Meeting closed: 11.30

Next meeting

Monday 14 December (all day workshop)

New action items

Action	Who	Due date	Status
1. Provide the stakeholder analysis report to committee members for feedback	Water Planner		
2. Advise the water planner of any additional stakeholders who should be contacted and to forward information through their networks	Members		
3. Write to CLC advising of the review and offering a briefing	Water Planner		
4. Offer the opportunity for the mining and petroleum industry to be an observer at future meetings	Water Planner		
5. Re-craft the survey provide the final survey to members for information	Water Planner		
6. Complete the survey and forward it through stakeholder networks	Members		
7. Circulate charts on water use and aquifer levels	Adam Davis		
8. Seek a meeting with the Controller of Water Resources, principally to raise the issue of longevity of the committee, with the aim of retaining the present committee for a period to enable engagement with the outcomes of the review and capacity to contribute to addressing those issues and updating the plan. I.e. a new WAC needs to be in place after the review is complete (and to clarify the Controller's expectations about the role of a water advisory committee beyond the plan).	Chair		
9. Circulate the outcome of the discussion with the Controller of Water Resources	Chair		

RESOLUTIONS: Nil

Department of Environment, Parks and Water
Security












Alice Springs Plan Review Water Advisory Committee Meeting #1



8.45AM Induction

Terms of Reference
Role of a committee member
Role of department staff
Questions
Plan overview

Induction Pack

-  [Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan 2016-2026.pdf](#)
-  [application-form-to-use-private-vehicle-for-official-purposes.docx](#)
-  [ASPRWAC board-members-payment-details-form.docx](#)
-  [ASPRWAC Terms of Reference_signed by CoWR_16092020.pdf](#)
-  [checklist-commencement-board-member.docx](#)
-  [Declaration of Personal Interests Form.docx](#)
-  [ei-12-code-of-conduct.pdf](#)
-  [ntg-boards-handbook.pdf](#)
-  [nt-water-allocation-planning-framework.pdf](#)
-  [WAP review process v2.pdf](#)
-  [Water Act 1992 at 080720 pdf \(1\).pdf](#)

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose
2. Statutory context
3. Terms of reference
4. Terms of appointment
5. Proxy members
6. Operating arrangements
7. Decision-making
8. Composition
9. Role of the Chairperson
10. Role of the Committee members
11. Role of the department

Purpose

- Established by the Minister
- To advise the Controller and the department on:
 - the effectiveness of the plan
 - Its five year review
 - other matters referred to it by the Controller.

By:

- Seeking stakeholder/community feedback on the Plan
on economic and social benefits.
- Advising the Controller on the Plan review
- Advising the Controller on key matters to be addressed in a revision of the Plan prior to 2026.

Role of the Chairperson:

- Sets meeting dates and agendas in consultation with the department
- Conducts meetings in way that fosters effective, respectful consideration of...
- ... issues referred to the Committee or raised by members
- Approves attendance by observers and those supporting members
- Reminds members of their roles and obligations
- Ensures accurate minutes and timely advice to the Controller after meetings
- Primary media spokesperson

Role of a committee member:

- Expertise, knowledge, skills, perspectives & opinions on...
- ...beneficial uses of water and water management in the Plan area.
- Considers all beneficial uses
 - (agriculture, aquaculture, environment, cultural, industry, rural stock and domestic, Aboriginal economic benefit, mining and petroleum activity and public water supply).
- Respects members and those present... and their views
- Accepts Departmental advice as the best available (not required to agree with it)
- Expresses alternative views in a respectful way.

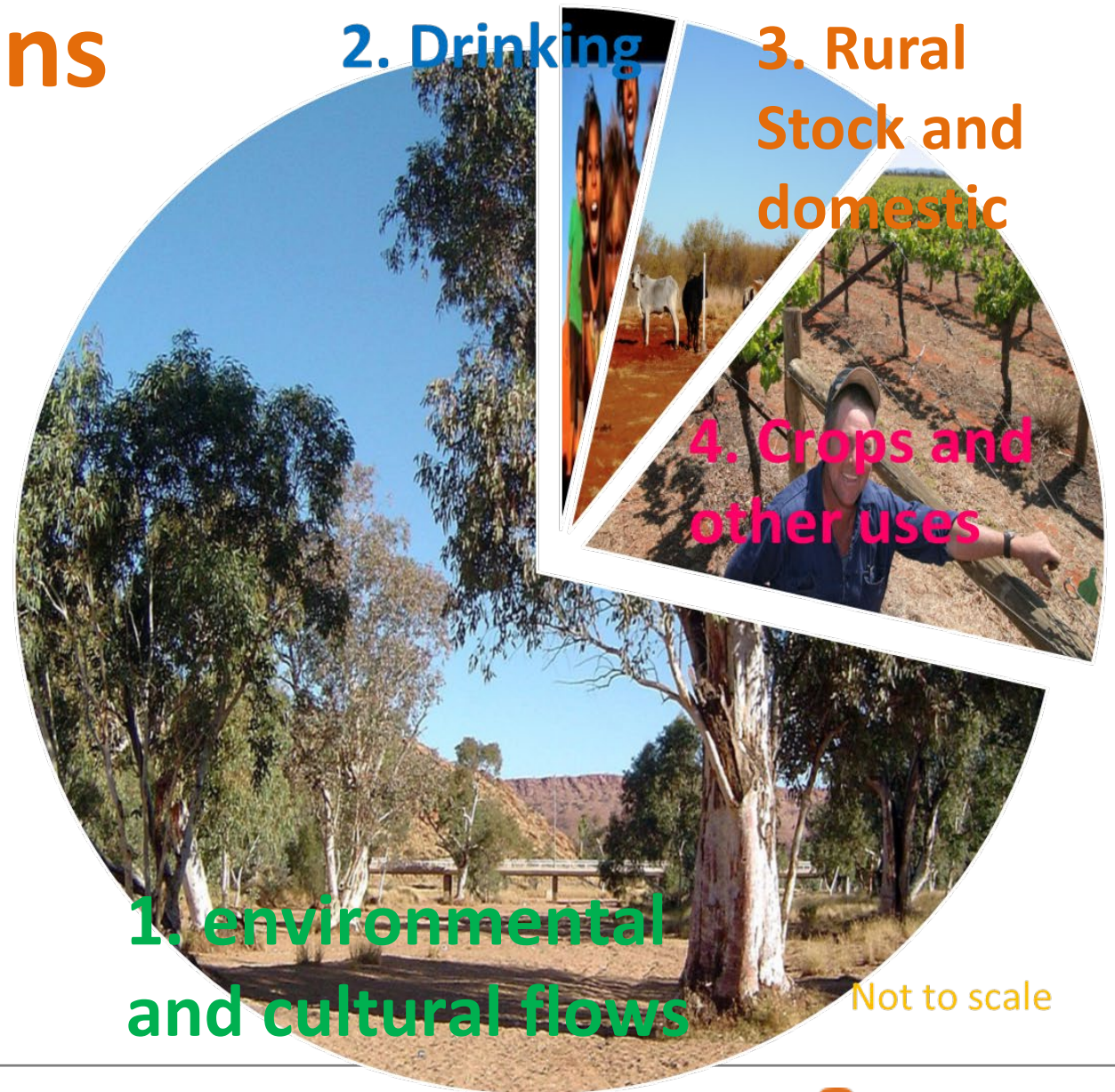
Role of the department:

- Supports the Committee with secretariat support and resources (including remuneration)
- Assists Chairperson to organise meetings, prepare agendas and record minutes
- Pays sitting fees, travelling allowance and other entitlements payable to non-government appointees in accordance with the Handbook.
 - (Includes reimbursement for private vehicle use.)
- Ensures the Committee is:
 - informed of all relevant matters
 - resourced to advise and report in a timely and efficient way.

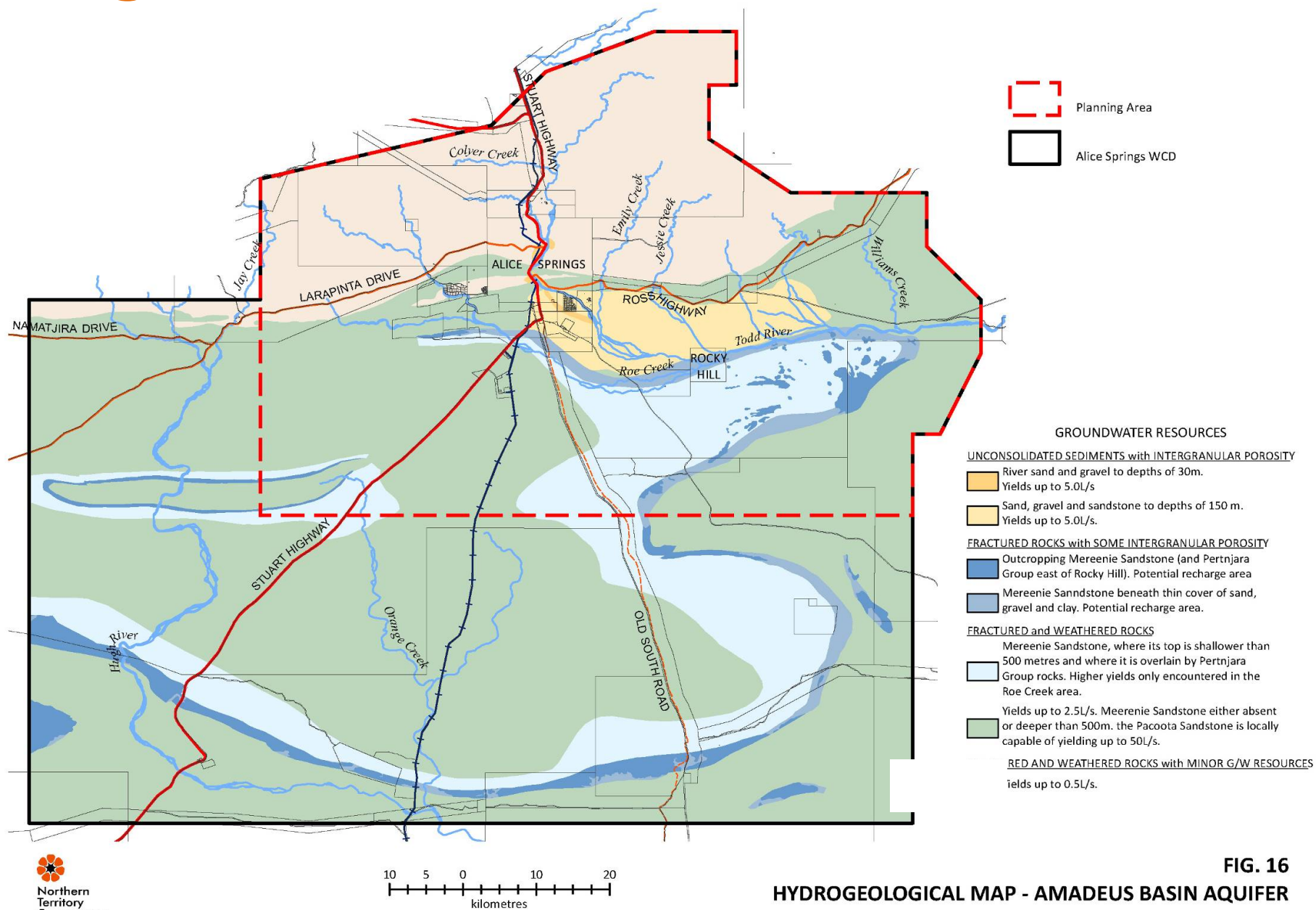
Induction (cont)
Plan Overview

Water allocation plans (*water sharing plans*)

- Allocate water within estimated sustainable (or 'allowable') yield to 'beneficial uses'
- Environmental and cultural
- Consumptive uses
- Set trading rules for water licences
- In force for up to 10 years
- Reviewed at intervals not longer than 5 years

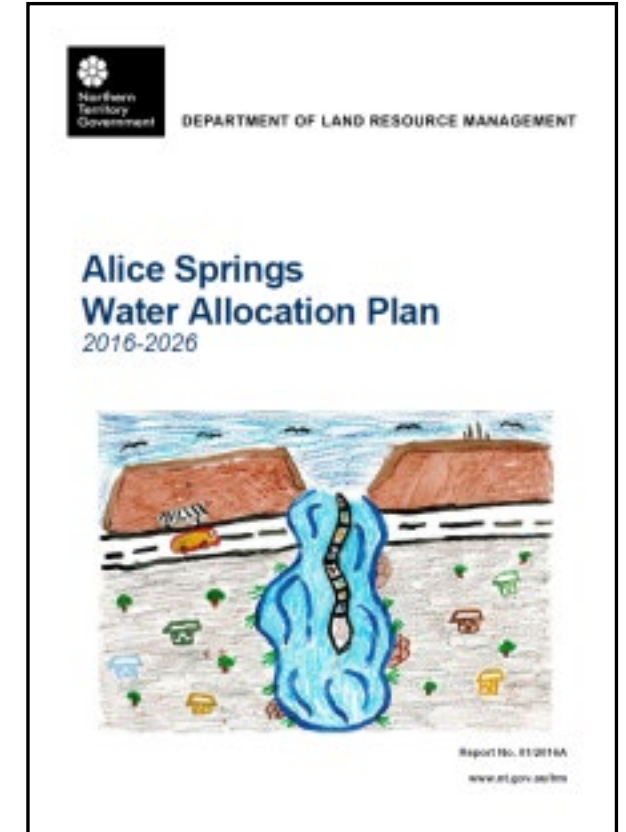


Alice Springs Water Control District & WAP area

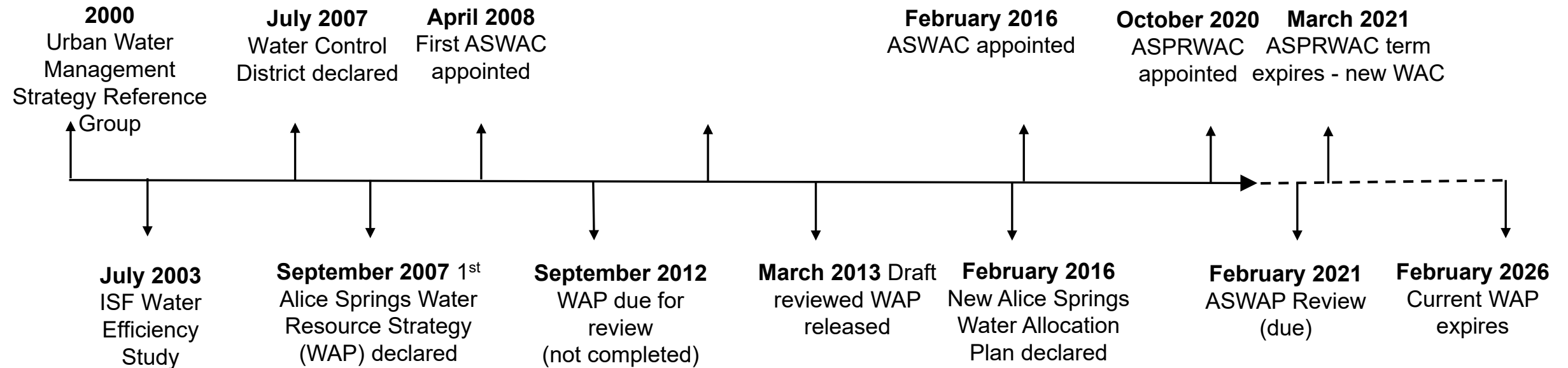


Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan

- Alice Springs WAP Feb 2016 – Feb 2026
(due for review not later than 2021)
- Water is allocated within the allowable yield to **beneficial uses**:
 - Cultural
 - Environmental
 - Public water supply
 - Rural stock and domestic
 - Agriculture
 - Industry
 - Petroleum activity
 - Mining activity



Recent history and expected future of water planning in Alice Springs





Plan Objectives

Maintain Public water supply



Ensure sustainable development

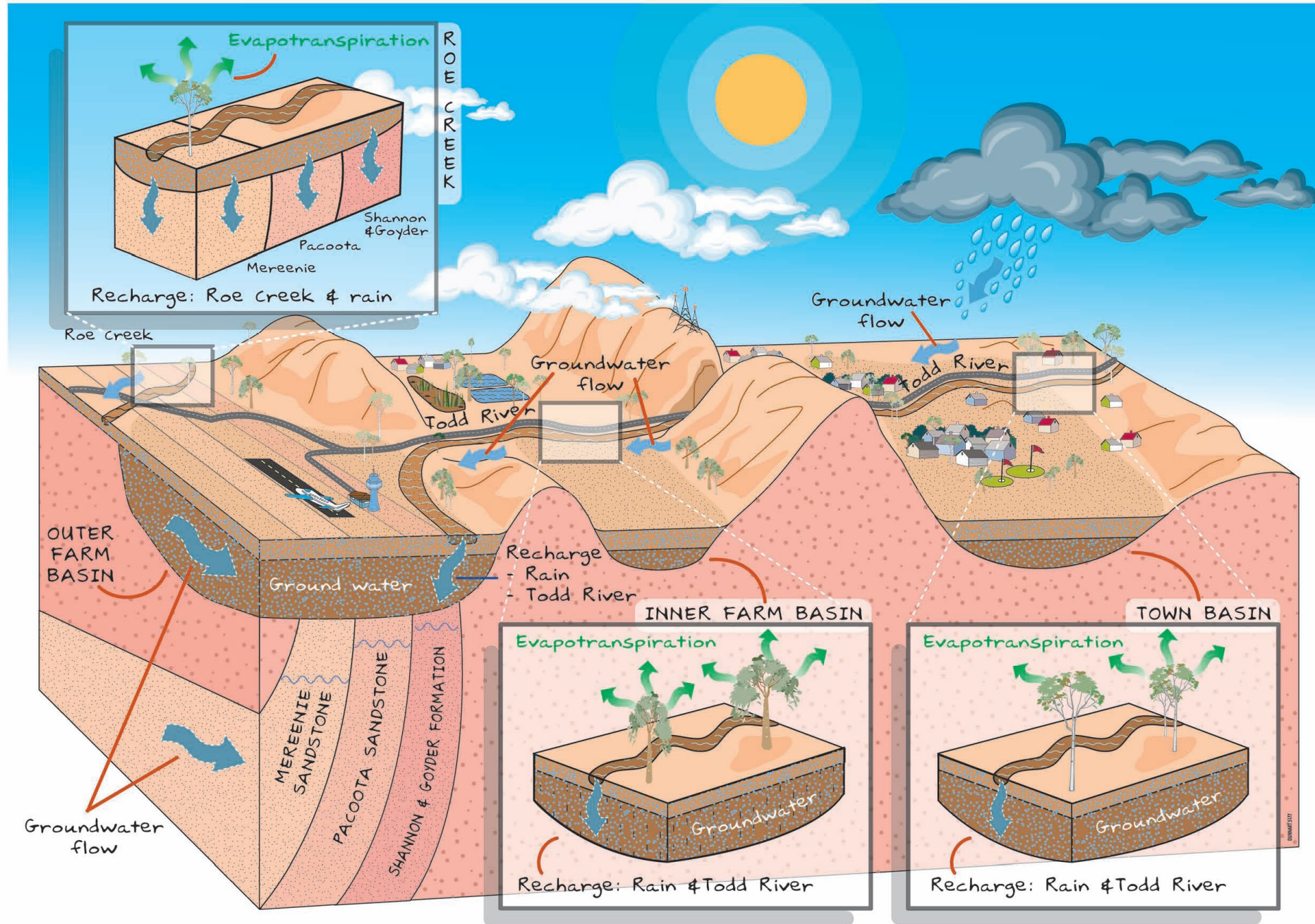


Protect the environment

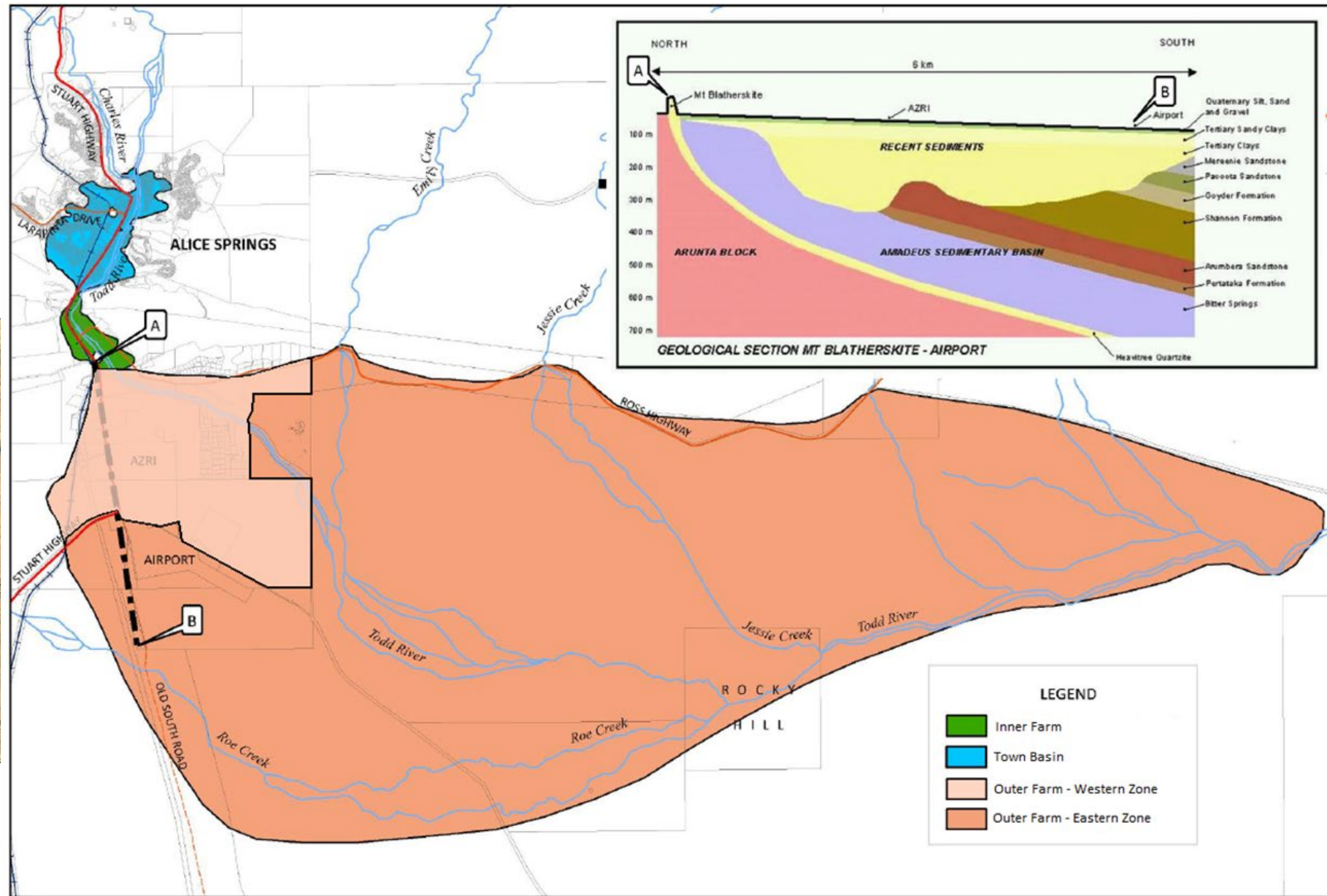


Recognise Indigenous culture & other cultural values

Water resources – aquifers



Alluvial aquifers



Basin aquifers

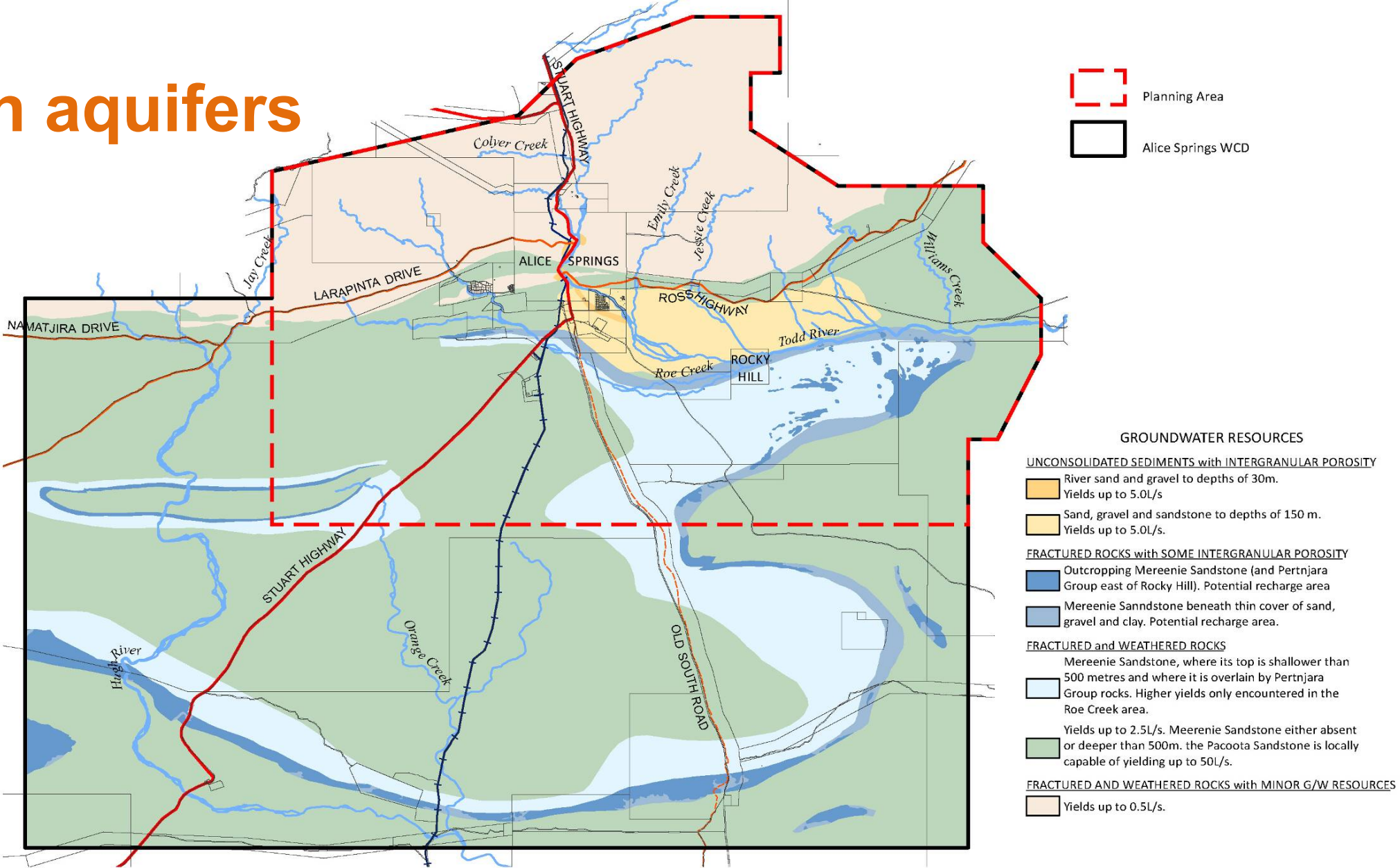


FIG. 16
HYDROGEOLOGICAL MAP - AMADEUS BASIN AQUIFER

Estimated Sustainable Yield

Determining 'Maximum Allowable Yield' (how much water can be taken?)

1. Amadeus basin aquifers: Extractions over not less than 320 years (from 1964) will not exceed 80% of the pre-development storage (to 300m below ground level).
2. Alluvial aquifers: Renewable consumptive pool = recharge minus losses through evapotranspiration and 'outflow' (from the 'water balance')
3. For Town, Inner Farm and Outer Farm basins – groundwater levels in the river corridor must not be fall below 8 mbgl

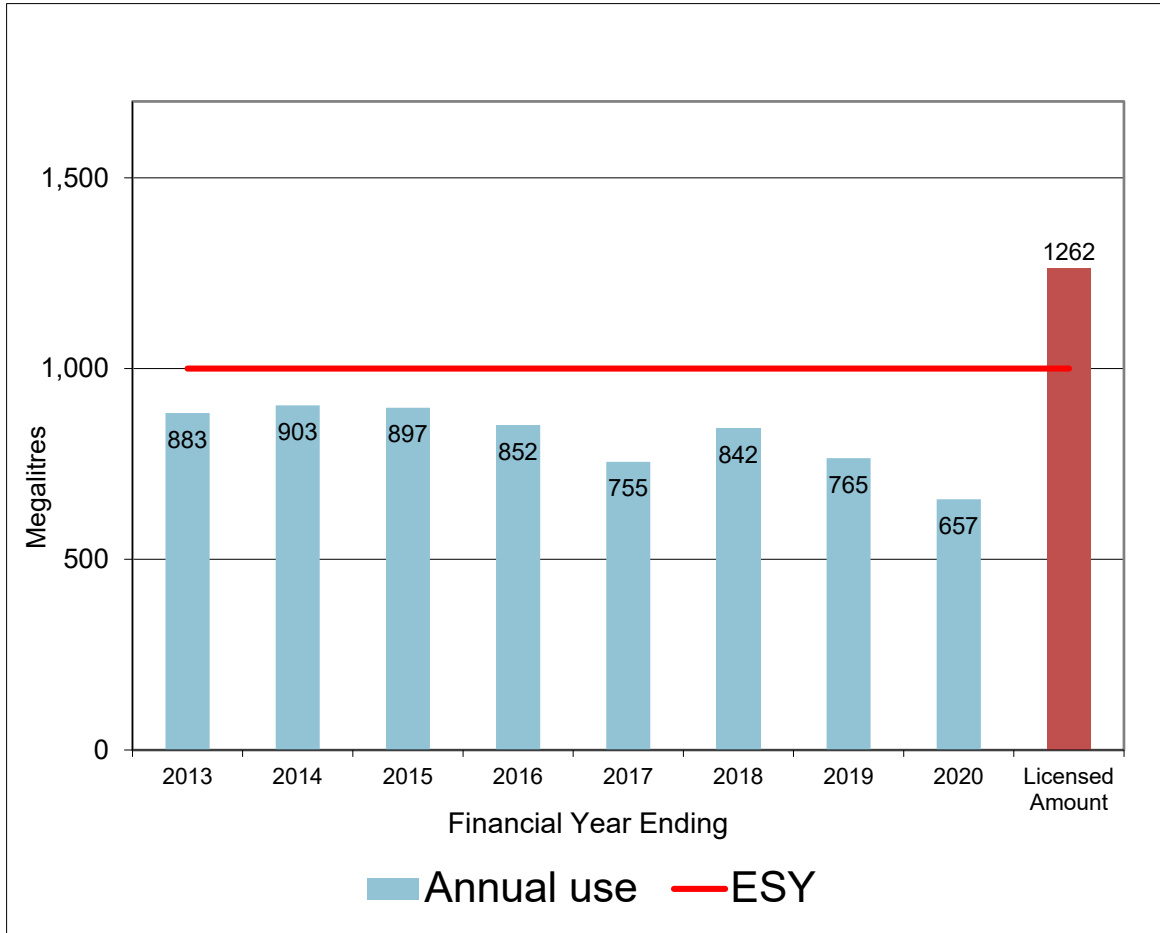
Allocations and Licensing Arrangements

Determining 'Maximum Allowable Yield' (how much water can be taken?)

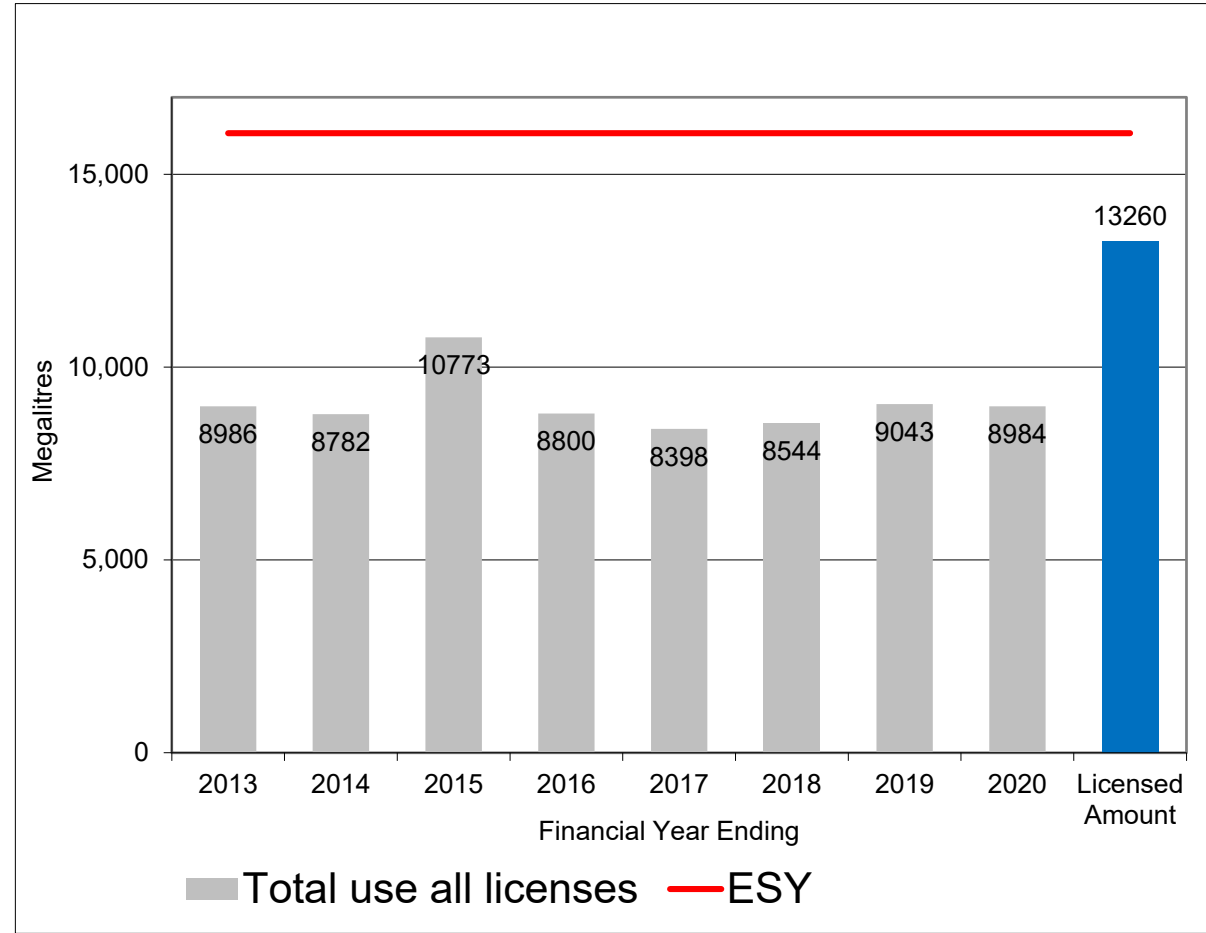
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3. For Town, Inner Farm and Outer Farm basins – groundwater levels in the river corridor must not be fall below 8 mbgl

Water use – steady

Town Basin (~1/10 volume)

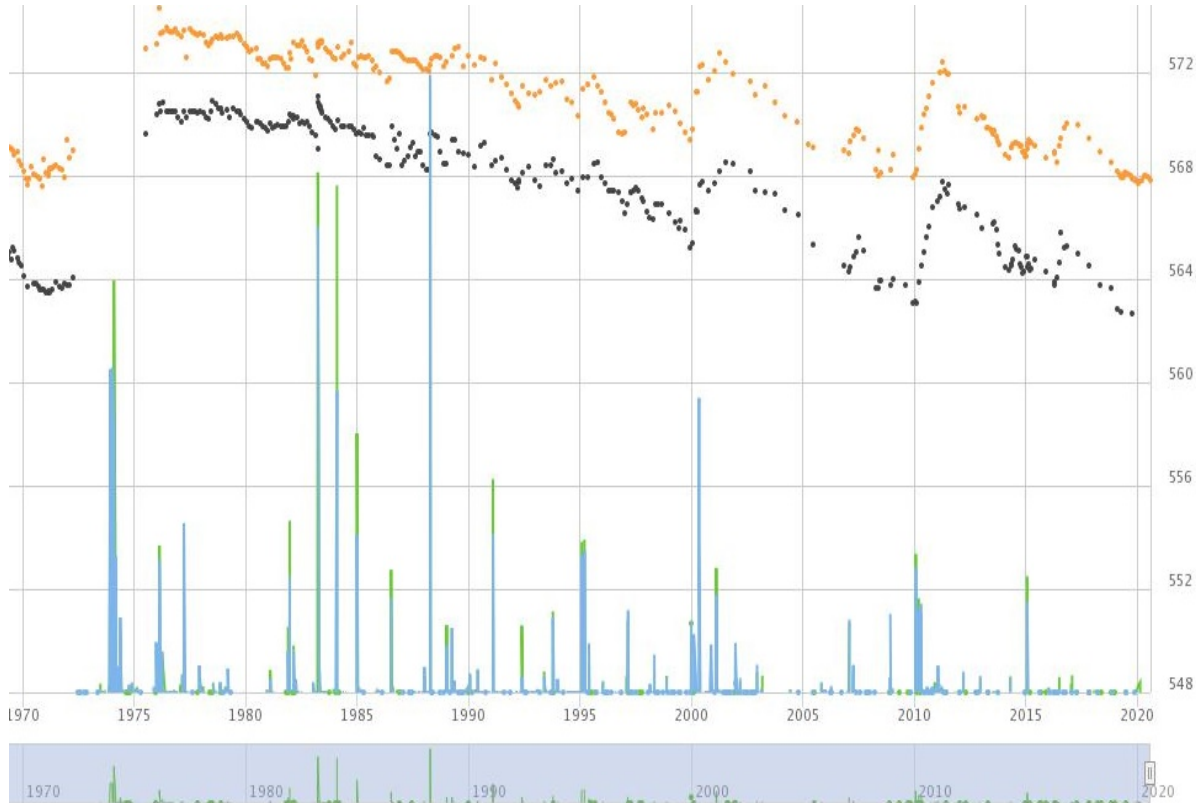


Roe Creek - all Amadeus Basin aquifers



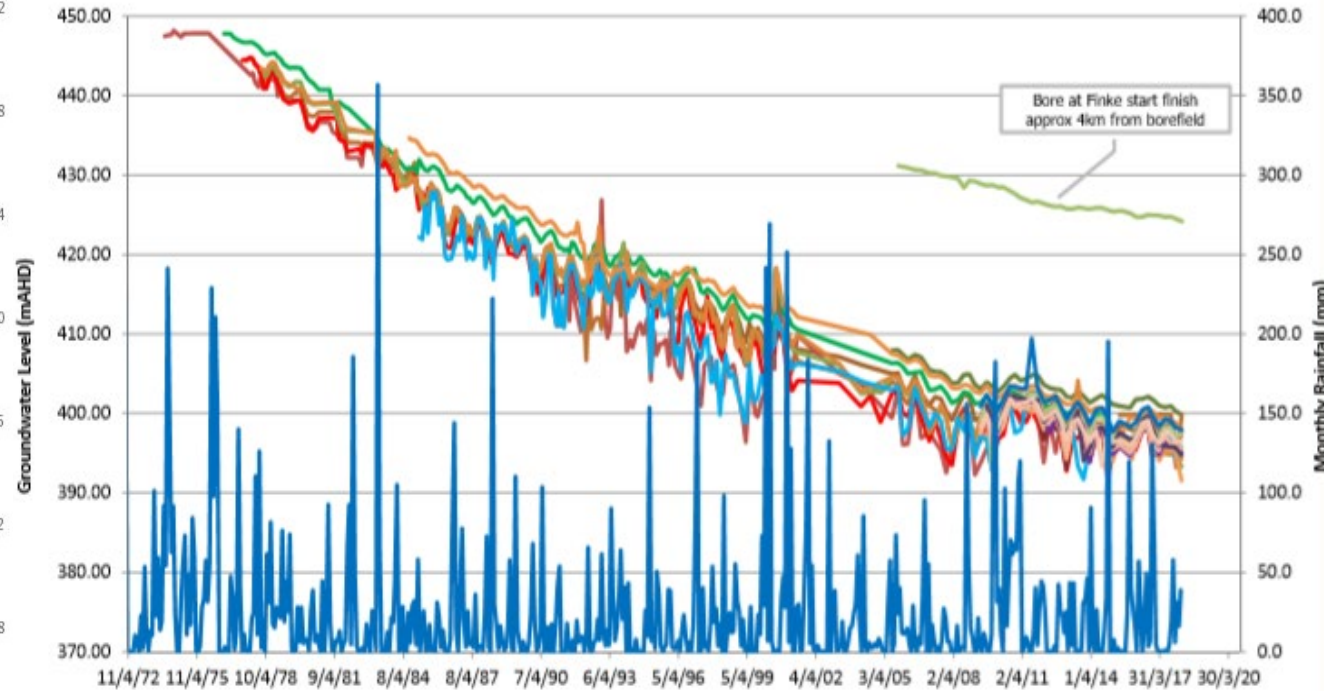
How are water levels going?

Town Basin – renewable - aquifer levels respond to river flows

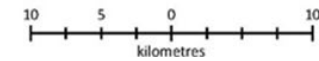
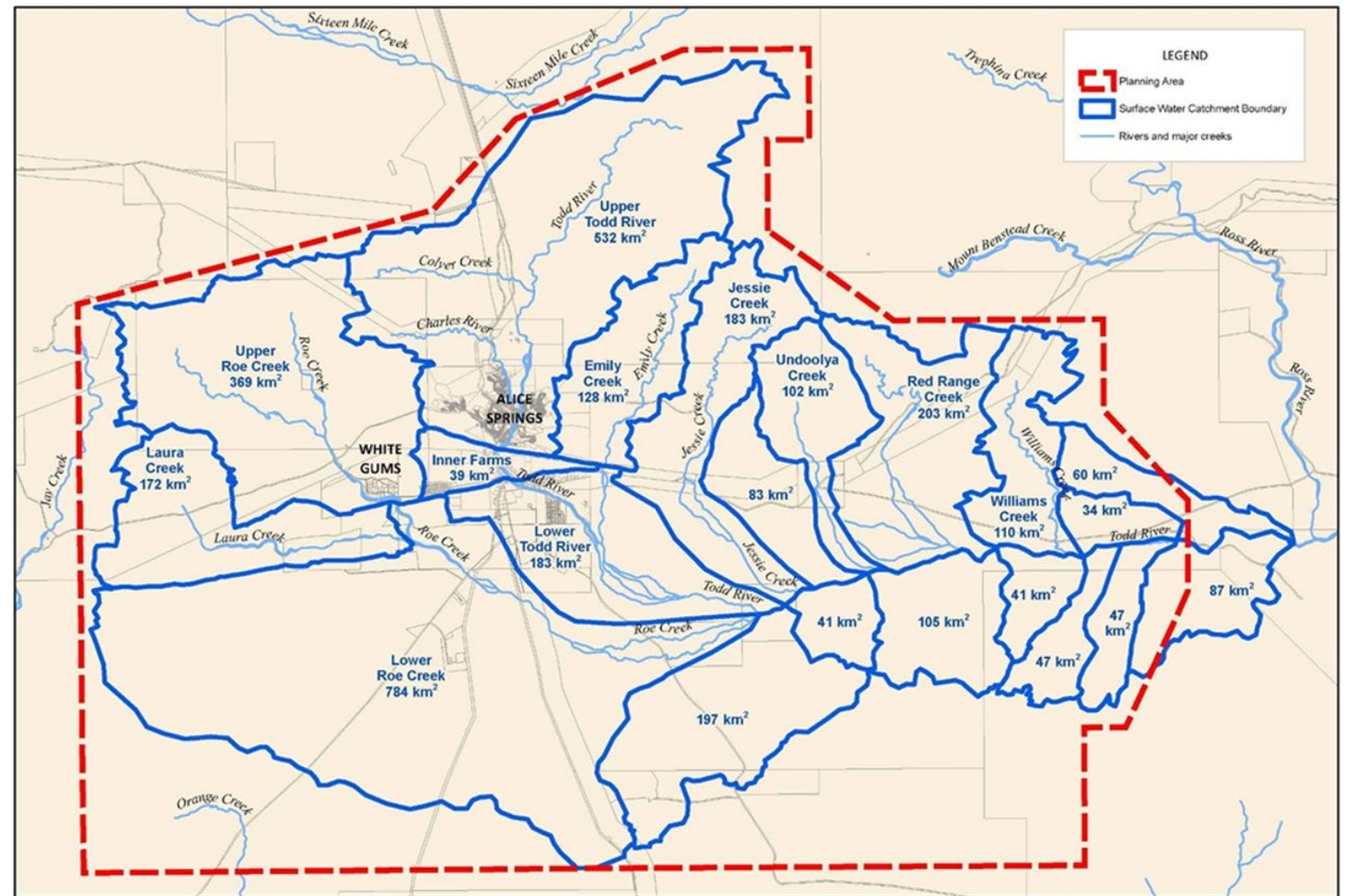


60126, Todd River - Heavitree Gap, Stream Discharge (m³/s) Water Elevation (AHD). Field Visits@RN005806, Alice Springs Town Basin, Water Elevation (m) ts@RN005818, Alice Springs Town Basin, Water Elevation (m) Stream Discharge. Publish@G0060009, Todd River - Anzac Oval, Stream Discharge (m³/s)

Mereenie Aquifer Rate of Decline



Surface water resources



Estimated sustainable yield – surface water

1. 95% of flow allocated for environmental and cultural use
2. No more than 5% of flow at any time available (stock and domestic use only)
3. Permits needed for rural dams with >3m bank and catchment more than 5km²

Implementation (Chapter 17)

A WAP also has an 'implementation' component:

- Management plan
 - Objectives
 - Strategies
 - Performance indicators
- Monitoring plan
- The review will check how these are going

Implementation (Chapter 17)

9.45AM Alice Springs WAP Review
Tim Bond Director, Planning
& Engagement

1. The review process
2. Points where Committee's advice is needed
3. The Department's role

What is a WAP review?

Section 22B(3): Minister must ensure that a review of a water allocation plan is conducted at intervals not longer than five years.

The review should consider how well a water allocation plan is:

1. achieving its stated outcomes, reflected in the vision, goals, objectives, strategies and actions described in a water allocation plan;
2. providing for the investigation, allocation, use, control, protection, management and administration of water resources within the context of section 22B of the Water Act 1992; and
3. adaptively managing the water resource by responding to outcomes of the monitoring program, new research findings and developments in policy, regulation, climate projections and socio-economic planning since the plan was declared.

Role of a WAC in a review

The Minister may establish a water advisory committee (WAC) under section 23(1A) of the Act to advise the Controller of Water Resources (Controller) on the effectiveness of a water allocation plan in maximising economic and social benefits within ecological restraints.

Key Questions

1. How well are the vision, goals, objectives and outcomes of the water allocation plan being met in maximising economic and social benefits within ecological restraints?
2. How could the water allocation plan be changed to better achieve its vision, goals, objectives and outcomes and what is the priority and timing for making these changes?
3. How should stakeholder feedback be incorporated into the review process and revised plan (if required).

WAP review process

PREPARATION

DENR reports

- plan performance
- water science
- model
- entitlements
- value condition
- social, economic, environmental change
- regulatory change



ADVICE

- technical, social, economic, environmental based on DENR reports
- stakeholder analysis
- key stakeholder consultation
- WAC meetings



REVIEW

WAP Review Report

- plan outcomes
- compliance with Water Act
- Response to change

Review recommendations



REVISION (if required)

- prepare draft revised WAP
- consultation on a draft revised WAP

Minister declares revised WAP

Four steps in the WAP review

PREPARATION

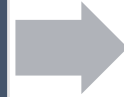
DENR reports

- plan performance
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ADVICE

- technical, social, economic, environmental based on DENR reports
- stakeholder analysis
- key stakeholder consultation
- WAC meetings
- **ASPRWAC Meetings 1&2**



REVIEW

WAP Review Report

- plan outcomes
- compliance with Water Act
- Response to change

Review recommendations

- **ASPRWAC Meeting 3**



REVISION (if required)

- prepare draft revised WAP
- consultation on a draft revised WAP

Minister declares revised WAP

Meeting 1 - Today

1. Preliminary feedback on social and economic considerations (first impressions session)
2. Stakeholder analysis
3. Communication and engagement plan
4. Feedback on consultation

ADVICE

- Technical, social, economic, environmental based on DENR reports
- stakeholder analysis
- key stakeholder consultation
- **WAC meetings**

ASPRWAC
Meetings
1 & 2

Meeting 2

Early-mid December

- Feedback on consultation
- Detailed feedback on social and economic considerations
- Consideration of information from technical reviews
- Advice to DEPWS on writing the draft review report

ADVICE

- Technical, social, economic, environmental based on DENR reports
- stakeholder analysis
- key stakeholder consultation
- **WAC meetings**

**ASPRWAC
Meetings
1 & 2**

Meeting 3

Late Jan or early Feb

- Follow up on stakeholder feedback
- Review draft report
- Review recommendations
- Endorse report as accurately describing committee's advice and the stakeholder feedback
- Discuss next steps

REVIEW

WAP Review Report

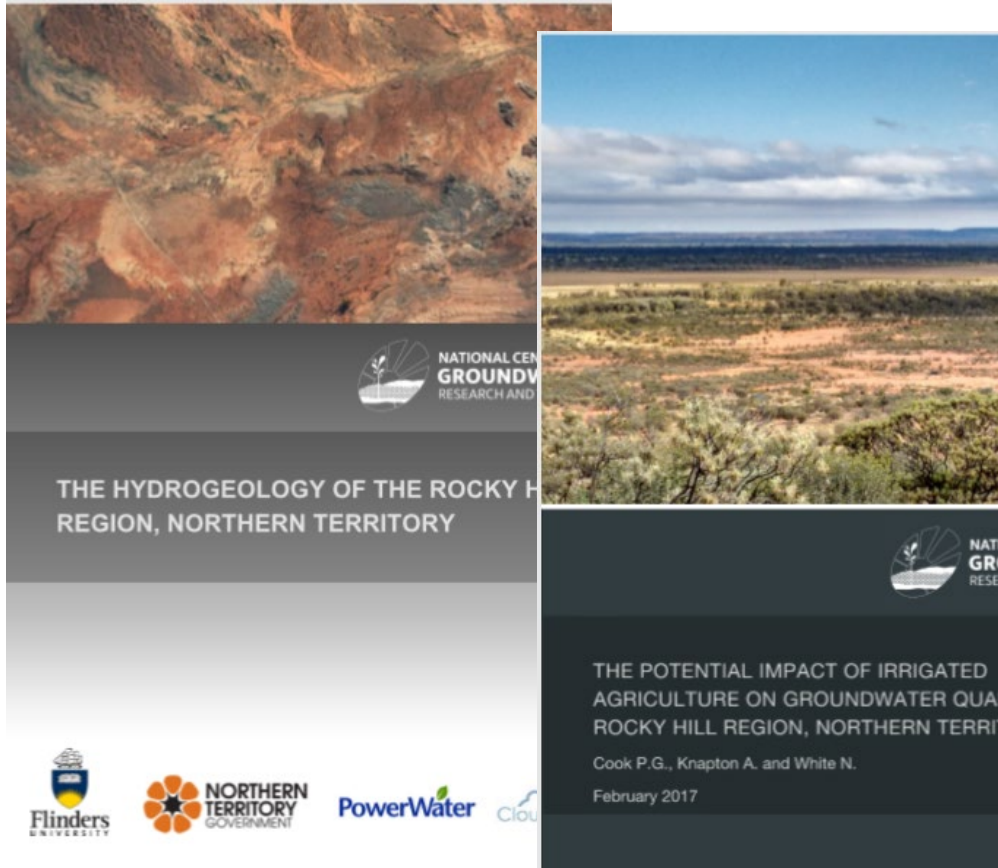
- plan outcomes
- compliance with Water Act
- Response to change

Review recommendations

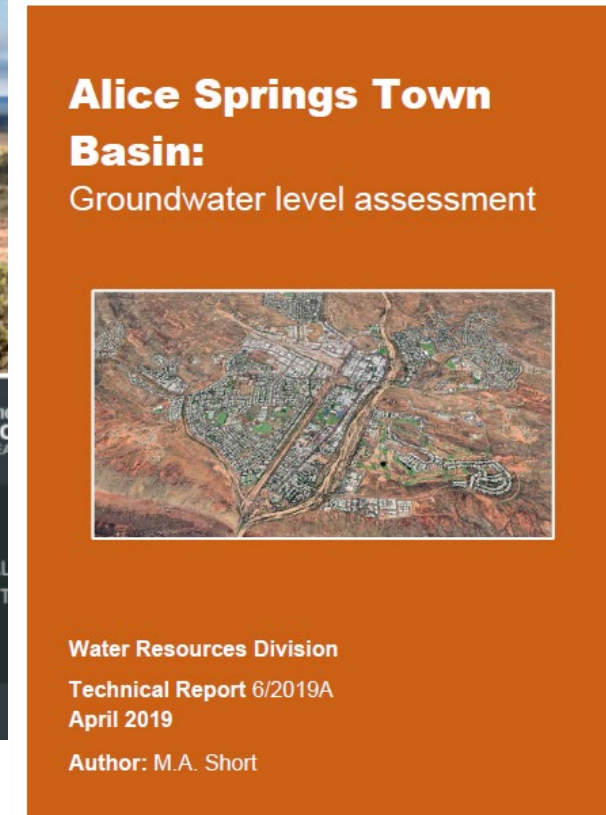
ASPRWAC Meetings 3

New science

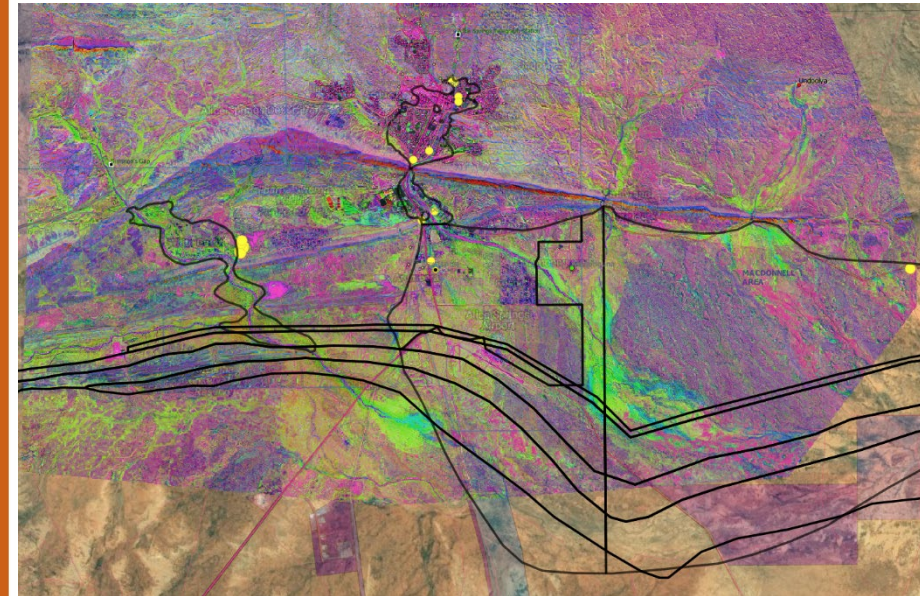
Amadeus Basin reports



Todd River report



Improved geospatial modelling



Changes and challenges in the last 5 years

Environment

Drought

Climate change

Improvements in spatial analysis

Groundwater dependent ecosystems

- **better understanding**
- **New protection strategies**
 - special protection areas
 - Limits to how the aquifer is drawn down

Improvements in monitoring

Economic

Economic Recovery Covid 19

Changing economics of the horticulture in remote areas

Tourism: slow international, stronger local

Hydrofracturing Enquiry

Cultural

Better understanding of the how much traditional cultural values depend on water

Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve

Learnings from other plans:

- **Aboriginal Reference Groups**
- **Opportunities for indigenous rangers**
- **Special protection areas**
- **Focus on values not places**

Social

Relatively slow population growth

New Alice Springs masterplan sets land use plans for the area includes a water management area

Resolution

Members note and provide feedback on:

1. The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) review process
2. The Committee's role and points where advice is needed
3. The Department's role.

11.00 AM Alice Springs Plan Review Community Engagement Strategy

Overview of the Communication and Engagement Plan
Committee members give feedback
Committee members discuss how they could contribute

Communication & Engagement Plan

Key dates

Date	Activity
Feb 2020	Stakeholder analysis
Oct 2020	Capacity building WAC
Oct 2020	Capacity building for key stakeholders
12 Nov 2020	First WAC meeting
17 Nov 2020	Announce ASWAP review process and invite feedback
17 Nov to 13 Dec 2020	Public submission period – Have your say survey
Oct–Dec 2020	Key stakeholder meetings
13+ Dec 2020	Second WAC meeting
Jan 2021	Key stakeholder consultation
Early Feb 2021	Third WAC meeting

Committee Member Roles in the engagement plan

- Participate in 3 x Committee meetings
- November - Promote through stakeholders networks the Review is happening and encourage people to do the survey
- Please do the survey
- Provide information to stakeholders about the review and the plan
- Bring feedback to the Committee

Stakeholder Analysis

1

Stakeholders that affect the plan

3

Stakeholders affected by the plan

2

**Stakeholders with which the plan
most directly and commonly
interacts**

4

Stakeholders interested in the plan

1. Stakeholders that affect the plan

- Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
- Minister for Renewables, Energy and Essential Services
- Minister for Primary Industries and Resources
- Members of Legislative Assembly
- Controller of Water Resources
- Local governments
 - Alice Springs Town Council
 - Macdonnell Shire Council
 - Central Desert Shire Council
- Central Land Council
- AAPA
- Centrefarm Aboriginal Horticulture
- Arid Lands Environment Centre
- NT Farmers Association
- NT Cattleman's Association
- Research institutions
- Alice Springs Regional Economic Development Committee
- Regional Development Australia NT
- Minerals Council NT
- Extractive Industry Association of NT
- Association of Mining and Exploration companies
- AAPEA

2. Stakeholders with which the plan most directly and commonly interacts

- DENR Water Licensing and Regulation
- Groundwater extraction licence holders
- Water bore drillers
- Horticultural interests
- Pastoral interests
- Public water supply
- Mining interests
- Petroleum interests
- Holiday and CV Park operators
- Water Monitoring Group

3. Stakeholders affected by the plan

- Central Arrernte people
- Mparntwe, Lhere Artepe and Irlpme Aboriginal Corporations
- Current water extraction licence holders (horticulture, agriculture, tourism, community facilities)
- Pastoralists
- Water bore drillers
- Stock and domestic groundwater users
- National Parks (Alice Springs)
- Mining interests
- Petroleum interests

4. Stakeholders interested in the plan

- Tangentyere Council
- Local Government
- Alice Springs Landcare
- Territory Natural Resource Management
- Department of Chief Minister
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- Department of Primary Industries and Resources
- Tourism NT
- Minerals Australia
- Community
- Tourism Central Australia

Resolution

1. Committee notes and provide feedback on the draft communication and engagement plan.
2. Members agree to their role in the plan.

11.10AM

Pilot "Have your say" survey

Desired Outcome: Feedback on the survey design

Resolution: Committee agrees the proposed survey is appropriate and agrees to promote through their networks

Alice Springs Plan Review Water Advisory Committee

Time: 8.15 Tea and coffee on arrival for 8.30 AM to 11.30 AM meeting

Date: 12 November 2020

Location: Tom Hare Building meeting room, Arid Zone Research Institute, South Stuart Hwy, Alice Springs

Acknowledgement of Country:

We respectfully acknowledge the past and present Traditional Custodians of this land on which we are meeting, the Arrernte people. It is a privilege to be standing on Arrernte country.

Attendees:

Committee: John Huigen (Chair), Cr Eli Melky, Cr Jimmy Cocking, Mr Rod Cramer, Ms Robyn Grey-Gardner, Mr Glenn Marshall, Mr Adam Davis, Mr Greg Owens, Miss Barbara Shaw, Mr Martin Campbell

Observers: Mr Benedict Stephens, Ms Veronica Dobson

DEPWS: Christine Long, Tim Bond, Adrian Tomlinson

Apologies: TBA

Required outcomes:

This first meeting is principally about setting the foundations of our work together – ensuring we know what we need to achieve, how we need to work together to achieve that, getting to know our roles, responsibilities and each other, and flagging ‘first impression’ issues.

Broadly, by the completion of the meeting we need to be ready to move into our substantive work.

1. *Committee members are well acquainted with each other and their areas of interest and expertise*
2. *Induction matters are addressed*
3. *Understanding and agreement on the objectives of the review*
 - *Scope and boundaries*
 - *Outcomes required*
 - *Outputs required*
 - *Timelines*
4. *Role of the Committee*
 - *points and topics that committee will be involved in*
5. *Role of the department and secretariat*
6. *How we work together*
7. *Agreement on a meeting schedule and themes*

8. *Committee members' perceptions about the Alice Springs plan are understood*
9. *Committee gives feedback on the communication and engagement plan and the "Have your say" survey to gather stakeholder and their own contributions*
10. *A record of the meeting is created recording resolutions and actions for the review*

Agenda Item 9.45AM – Alice Springs WAP Review

20 minutes

1.0 Format

Presentation, discussion, advice

2.0 WAC Action required

Members note and provide feedback on:

- The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) review process
- The Committee's role and points where advice is needed
- The Department's role.

3.0 Background

The department has prepared a draft WAP Review process (attached) which will guide this review.

Tim Bond (Director, Water Planning and Engagement) will give a presentation on:

- The WAP review process and critical dates for completion of the review
- Points where the Committee's advice is needed
- The status of the water resources covered in the Alice Springs plan
- Some of the issues that have emerged over the past five years that the Department is aware of.

4.0 Discussion

The WAC is asked to consider the presentation and provide feedback on the proposed review process.

There will be the opportunity for a more substantial discussion of issues relating to the plan from members' perspective in the following session.

5.0 Anticipated outcomes

A shared understanding of:

- The WAP review process
- Points where Committee's advice is needed
- The Department's role.

6.0 Outcomes

As an outcome of the committee considering this agenda item the committee may seek actions and make resolutions regarding the review process.

- Actions:
- Resolutions of the committee:

Agenda Item 11.00AM – Communication and engagement plan 10 minutes

1.0 Format

Presentation, discussion, advice

2.0 WAC Action required

- Committee notes and provide feedback on the draft communication and engagement plan.
- Members agree to their role in the plan.

3.0 Background

Presentation by Adrian Tomlinson, Water Resources Planner Alice Springs.

The department routinely prepares communication and engagement strategies for projects which need stakeholder input or involve significant community interest. These guide processes to ensure stakeholders are identified, informed and given suitable opportunities to contribute.

Communications and engagement plans also anticipate any points of contention and focus messaging accordingly. They are “living” documents and are periodically updated during the life of a project to keep pace with events.

4.0 Discussion

The committee is asked to consider the draft communication and engagement plan for the Alice Springs Plan Review (Attachment 1) and give feedback.

The stakeholders targeted in the communication and engagement plan are based on a stakeholder analysis. The identified stakeholders will be presented and discussed during the presentation.

Committee members will play a significant part in communication and engagement activities. Members are asked to consider and agree to their roles as described in the communication and engagement plan.

5.0 Anticipated outcomes

- The communication and engagement plan is improved by committee members’ feedback.
- Members agree to their roles as defined in the plan.

6.0 Outcomes

As an outcome of the committee considering this agenda item the committee may seek actions and make resolutions regarding the review process.

- Actions:
- Resolutions of the committee:

Agenda Item 11.10AM – Draft “Have Your Say” survey

10 minutes

1.0 Format

Presentation, discussion, advice

2.0 WAC Action required

The Committee:

- Resolves that the proposed survey is appropriate (subject to comments received on the day)
- Agrees to promote through members’ networks.

3.0 Background

Presentation by Adrian Tomlinson, Water Resources Planner Alice Springs.

One aspect of the communication and engagement plan is to invite feedback from the community via a survey. This is needed for procedural fairness; to gain an understanding of stakeholder attitudes and experience of the current plan; and, improve the quality of the review report.

It is appropriate to do the survey during the review rather than seeking comment on a final draft review report. This will allow stakeholders’ views to be considered during the review process.

4.0 Discussion

The WAC is asked to consider the attached draft survey.

We would like the Committee’s advice on:

- The survey questions and design
- Stakeholders who should comment
- How to extend the reach of the survey.

5.0 Anticipated outcomes

- The draft survey is improved by WAC members’ contributions and endorsed by the ASPRWAC.
- A strategy to promote the survey is agreed.
- Members agree to do the survey themselves and promote through their networks.

6.0 Outcomes

As an outcome of the committee considering this agenda item the committee may seek actions and make resolutions regarding the review process.

- Actions:
- Resolutions of the committee:

Attachments

Draft Have Your Say survey.pdf (Please read prior to the meeting.)