

Katherine Tindall Limestone Update

7 April 2021

This statement has been prepared to provide users with information about potential water availability during 2021-22. Providing this statement is part of the department's commitment to giving greater support and more timely information to water users to assist them in their forward planning.

Rainfall

During the water accounting year beginning 1 May 2020 to 7 April 2021 there has been significant rainfall over the broader Katherine catchment area, which is expected to result in improved water availability.

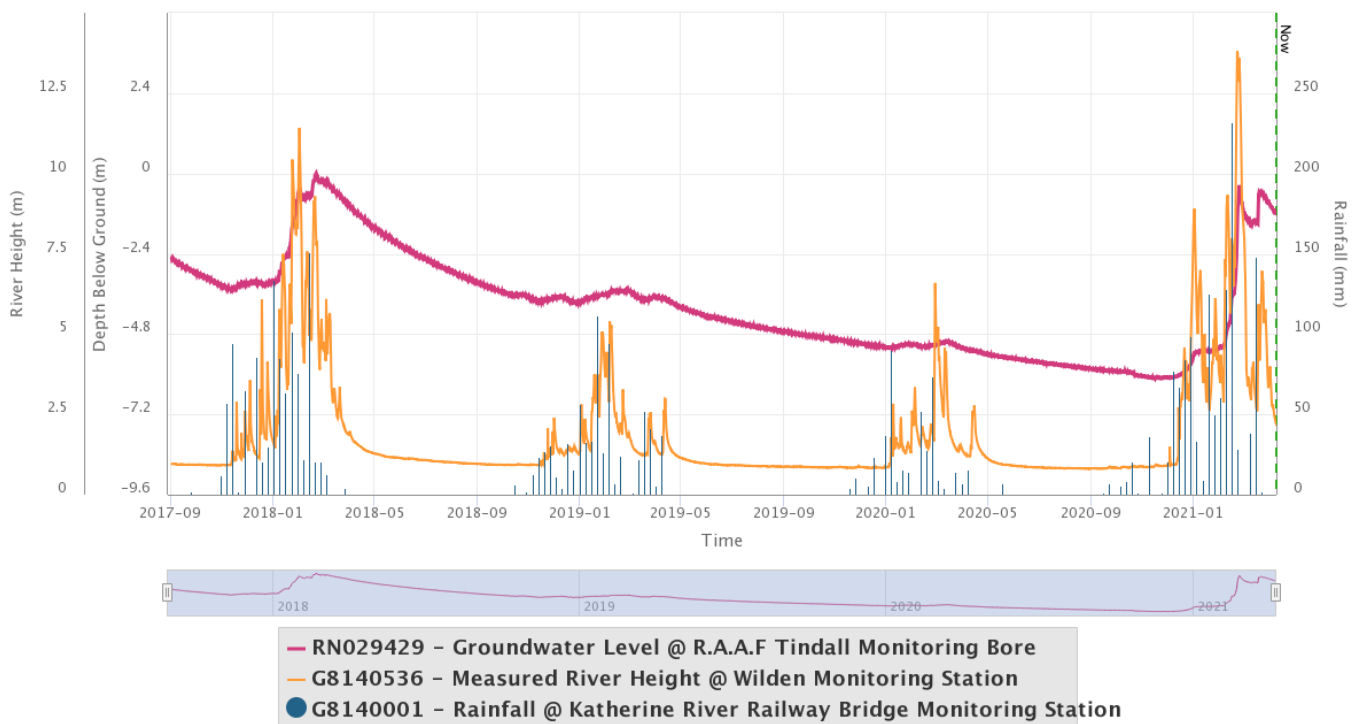
Recent rainfall events during the Jan-Mar quarter and a favourable outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology for the remainder of April indicate a positive recharge to available groundwater levels in the Katherine Tindall aquifer area.

An improvement in the cumulative rainfall from the RAAF Tindall station during the water accounting year 1 May 2020 to current date has observed a total of 1309mm. While the total for the same period the previous year stopped at 458mm.

Groundwater

Monitoring of groundwater storage volumes at the beginning of April 2021 have significantly improved. As highlighted in the below graph from the R.A.A.F Tindal ground water monitoring bore, the increase in ground water levels has naturally improved as a result of good rainfall across the catchment area.

Katherine – Groundwater Levels, River Heights & Rainfall Totals



Modelled predictions

Modelling scenarios which factor rainfall, total extraction and recharge were run in early March 2021 to predict the natural flow at the Wilden gauging station on 1 November 2021. Favourable outcomes aligned with the objectives of the plan were recorded. March rainfall and improving ground water levels are expected to improve on the modelling once the late April scenario has been finalised.

Statement

Based on the rainfall data groundwater levels and modelled predictions presented in this statement it is:

- Highly likely that announced allocations for the upcoming 2021-22 water accounting year will return to full allocation.

The Controller of Water Resources will provide advice to licence holders of their 2021-22 annual announced allocation before 1 May 2021.

More information

Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2024

www.denr.nt.gov.au/katherinewaterplan

Water Licensing Portal: <https://denr.nt.gov.au/water/permits-and-licences/water-licensing-portal>

Water Data Portal: <https://denr.nt.gov.au/water/water-information-systems/water-data-portal>

BOM Rainfall outlook: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/median/weekly/0>

For more information about water planning in the Northern Territory, please visit

www.denr.nt.gov.au/water.

Contact us

If you have any enquiries about this update, please contact Water Resources on 08 8999 4455 or by emailing waterresources@nt.gov.au.