

Daly River Water Advisory Committee: summary of meeting 4

Date: Tuesday 19th August (day one) and Wednesday 20th August (day two)

Time: 10:00 am – 4:30 pm (day one) and 8:30 am – 12:30 pm (day two)

Location: Katherine Research Station, 449 Stuart Highway, Katherine 0850

Attendance			
Initials	Name	Position and representation	Notes
Chair	Rod Marsh	Independent chair	
AA	Alister Andrews	Member, Aboriginal	
SC	Simone Cameron	Member, Agriculture	
JC	(Elna) Joy Cardona	Member, Aboriginal	
DC	David Ciaravolo	Member, Recreational fishing	
AD	Andrew Dalglish	Member, Agriculture	
WD	Whitney Dollemore	Member, Agriculture	
ML	Mona Liddy	Member, Aboriginal	
DN	Daniel Niceforo	Member, Agriculture	
AR	Alison Ross	Member, Community	
DLPE staff			
PH	Phillipa Hunter	Director, Water Management	
AS	Aless Smith	Project Officer	
Apologies			
Initials	Name	Position and representation	Notes
RD	Russell Draper	Member, Tourism	Apology
JH	Joshua Hunter	Member, Aboriginal	Apology
SM	Sam McBean	Member, Cattle and Agriculture	Apology

Day one: Tuesday 19th August

1. Meeting opening and attendance

Meeting commenced at 10:10 am and there was unanimous approval to record the meeting.

1.1 Welcome, acknowledgement of country, meeting purpose and evaluation nominee

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, thanked them for attending and acknowledged Country and Traditional Owners.

The purpose of the meeting was for the Daly River Water Advisory Committee (the Committee) to review the draft *Katherine water plan 2026-2036* and supporting documents and determine advice for the Minister for Water Resources on the release of the documents for public consultation.

The Chair confirmed the agenda, noting that there would be an additional item added regarding a recent publication on water loss from the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer (item 2.1). Members confirmed no new conflicts of interests had arisen since the previous meeting or from their original declarations as part of the Committee commencement paperwork

1.2 Attendance and introduction, evaluation nominee and confirm previous meeting summary

Committee members nominated one of the members to complete the meeting evaluation and confirmed the summary of the previous meeting.

2. Matters for noting and discussion

2.1 Review of publications on water loss in the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer

The Chair provided an overview of the methods and results of a recent research paper from Griffith University researchers on the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer as well as subsequent press releases and media reporting. The Chair used publicly-available GRACE satellite data, rainfall records and visual tools to assist the Committee in evaluating the claims made by researchers and their representation in the media.

Morning tea was served during this presentation

2.2 Review of the draft *Katherine water plan 2026-2036* background report

The department gave an overview of the timeline of the declaration process for the next *Katherine water plan* and explained the purpose of the Committee's advice to both the department and the Minister for Water Resources (the Minister).

The Committee reviewed the draft *Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036: Background report* (the background report) and identified key issues to be raised in their advice to the Minister as well as feedback for departmental consideration in finalising the background report for public consultation.

Break 1:00 pm lunch, resumed 1:50 pm

2.3 Review of the draft *Katherine water plan 2026-2036*

The Committee reviewed the draft *Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036* (the plan) and identified key issues to be raised in their advice to the Minister as well as feedback for departmental consideration in finalising the plan for public consultation.

Break 3:05 pm afternoon tea, resumed 3:45 pm

2.4 Review of the draft Katherine water plan 2026-2036 implementation actions

The Committee reviewed the draft *Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036: Implementation actions* (the implementation actions) and identified key issues to be raised in their advice to the Minister as well as feedback for departmental consideration in finalising the implementation actions for public consultation.

Meeting closed at 5:00 pm

Day two: Wednesday 20th August 2025

1. Meeting opening and attendance

Meeting commenced at 9 am. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Matters for noting and discussion

2.1 Review of day one discussions

The Chair summarised the key issues identified by the committee in the previous day's meeting for their advice to the Minister as well as feedback for departmental consideration in finalising the plan and supporting documents. The Committee finalised its list of key issues and agreed on issues to be included in a letter of advice to the Minister as well as issues to be considered by the department in finalising the Plan and supporting documents for public consultation. The Committee agreed to review and finalise a letter of advice to the Minister following the meeting by circular resolution.

Break 10:00 am morning tea, restarted 10:30 am

2.2 Next steps and meeting dates

The Committee noted the timeframes for finalising the Katherine water plan 2026-2036 documents. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 25th and 26th November. A contingency meeting was scheduled for January 2026 to allow for delays.

2.4 Meeting evaluation

Meeting evaluation completed and all checklist items were met.

Evaluation checklist			
Questions	Yes	No	N/A
Papers for the meeting were sent allowing enough time for members to read a familiarise themselves with agenda items prior to the meeting	✓		
Members arrived on time and stayed until the end of the meeting	✓		
Members were provided with the opportunity to speak	✓		
Members did not speak over others or dominate the discussion		✓	
Members felt able to ask questions without being discouraged or frowned upon	✓		
Committee issues are being dealt with at the meeting, not externally	✓		
Any potential conflicts of interest that were advised by members were dealt with appropriately	✓		

Closing comments

The chair thanked everyone for their contribution.

Meeting closed at 11:00 am