



Obtaining a water use or a water supply works approval?

You need approval from DIPNR to use water on land for irrigation.

You also need approval to construct water supply works that:

- extract water from a river or groundwater body (via a pump or bore);
- capture more rainwater run-off than your harvestable right (in a farm dam);
- store water taken from a river or aquifer (in tanks or off-river storages);
- convey water to another location to be used (via pipes or irrigation channels);
- divert water away from an area (via banks or levees, includes floodplain banks); or
- hold back water in a river (via a weir or in-river dam).

One approval may be issued for your water supply works and water use.

Why are water use and water supply works approvals important?

These approvals are used to ensure that impacts on the environment and other water users are minimised. To fit in with your business needs, you can apply for a water supply works and a water use approval before you purchase a water access licence. However you cannot take or use any water unless you have both a water access licence and the required approvals.

Are there exemptions?

When taking water in accordance with your basic landholder rights (ie for domestic and stock purposes) you do not need a water use approval.

You do not need a water supply works approval for:

- pumps, pipes, troughs or tanks to take and store water from a river for basic landholder rights;
- a farm dam or dams that is within the maximum dam capacity under the harvestable rights for your property; or
- conveyance works, provided they are located wholly within land that is subject to a water use approval

However, you still need a water supply works approval to construct a dam in a defined river or to sink a bore or well for domestic and stock purposes.

For more information on basic landholder rights and farm dams, refer to the information sheets *What are Rural Landholder's Basic Rights to Water?* and the series of farm dam information sheets. These can be obtained from DIPNR's website or from a DIPNR office.

Aspects to consider before lodging an application

A pre-application meeting with a DIPNR officer is recommended. At this meeting you will discuss the proposed activity, likely impacts, the application process and what information you will be required to provide. Pre-application meetings are a free service. To arrange for a meeting, call your local DIPNR office.

It is also necessary for an applicant to demonstrate that they have secure tenure over the land where the work is to be located or where the water is to be used. Secure tenure includes:

- ownership, or ownership within a reasonable time;
- an easement;
- permissive occupancy; or
- a right under the *Water Management Act 2000* to enter land in the case of Irrigation Corporations, Private Irrigation Districts and Trusts.

How do I apply for a new approval?

Collect the application form which includes a guide to completing the form from DIPNR or print this from DIPNR's website <http://www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au>

If you want to apply for a works approval for a domestic and stock bore use the *Application for approval to construct a basic landholder rights (domestic and stock) groundwater works* and for other purposes use the *Application for approval for water supply works, and/or water use*.

Make sure all the required information is included in the signed application and lodge the form at your local DIPNR office

What fees apply?

There are various application fees for water supply works and the water use approvals depending on the type of work. These are:

Application fees for water supply works and use approvals under the Water Management Act 2000.

Water Supply Works Approval	Surface Water	Groundwater
new approval for river pump for domestic purposes	\$60	
new approval for pump for non-domestic purposes (eg irrigation, town, stock, industry, farming)	sliding scale * from \$113 based on capacity of pump	
new approval for a storage for domestic purposes	\$95	
new approval for a storage for non-domestic purposes (eg irrigation, town, stock, industry, farming)	\$117	
new approval for a structure eg barrage	\$117	
new approval for groundwater non-artesian bore for domestic and stock purposes		NIL
new approval for groundwater non-artesian bore for other purposes		\$151
new approval for groundwater artesian bore		\$48
for more than one type of work	greater of fee for one approval	
Water Use Approval	Surface Water	Groundwater
new approval for irrigation	sliding scale* from \$113 based on area	sliding scale* from \$113 based on area
new approval for town water supply	\$95	\$95
Combined Water Supply Works and Use Approval	Surface Water	Groundwater
new combined approval	greater of fee for either issue of works or use approval	

*For the sliding scales you will need to check with a DIPNR office for the exact amount.

What happens after DIPNR receives the application?

A DIPNR officer will check that it is complete. If anything on the form is missing or incorrect, the application will be put on hold and you will be requested to provide further information. If the requested information is not received within a specified time, the application will be rejected and returned with a letter explaining the reason for rejection.

Applications will be assessed in accordance with the Department's environmental assessment procedures and guidelines. New applications for the following types of approvals need to be advertised by DIPNR:

- works taking water from river;
- bores (other than those solely for basic landholder rights);
- works that impound water in water source eg in-river dams and weirs
- works constructed and used to capture rainwater run-off; and
- water use.

DIPNR will assess any objections to the application and determine appropriate conditions. The applicant will be advised in writing of the determination and the conditions. For approved applications, a water use or water supply works statement will also be issued.

What are the key features of a water supply works/water use approval statement?

The main features on the statement are:

- **Kind of Approval:** The approval will be for either, or both, water supply works and water use.
- **Expiry date:** Water supply works and water use approvals can be issued for up to 10 years.
- **Water Use:** Lists the land parcels on which, and purpose for which, water can be used.
- **Authorised water supply works:** This lists the work type, the parcel of land where the work is located, the water source and zone from which the work extracts or captures water.
- **Nominated works:** Identifies the water access licence/s the works can supply.
- **Conditions:** Each water supply works and water use approval has conditions specified in relevant water management plans (eg. local water sharing plan). The approval may also have conditions that are specific to the particular approval and location.

What if I have an existing licence under the Water Act 1912?

Initial water use and water supply work approvals will be automatically issued from 1 July 2004 to all holders of existing licences under the *Water Act 1912*. These initial water use and water supply works approvals will be issued for 2 years or the balance of the current licence (whichever is the longer). After that you will need to apply to extend your water use and water supply works approval.

Where do I get more information?

Contact the resource access officer at your local Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources office (contact details are available separately and on the website), or phone 1800 353 104, or e-mail wma.info@dipnr.nsw.gov.au

More information sheets on dealings and water management in NSW are available on our website www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au

Note: This information does not constitute formal legal advice.