

# GROUNDWATER

## Domestic and Stock Bores

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October 2017

### **Do I need an approval to install a domestic and stock bore?**

Yes, approval is required to install a bore, well or spear point to take water to use for domestic consumption (non-commercial uses around the house and garden) and stock watering (excluding feedlots). A water supply work approval must be obtained before any drilling occurs. Note that groundwater is untreated and should not be considered safe for human consumption without proper treatment.

Applications for a water supply work approval can be made online through [Water Applications Online](#).

When your application is received, it is assessed by a Water Regulation Officer. The Officer may advise you at this time of any requirements. If the application is approved, your drilling contractor can commence construction of the bore subject to the conditions listed on the licence. Once the bore is constructed, your drilling contractor must submit a Form-A (bore completion report). When the Form-A is submitted you can commence operating the bore to extract water for domestic and stock supply.

The application fee for a water supply works approval for domestic and stock purposes is \$376.79 if lodged online or \$411.71 for a hard copy application. There are no annual fees for stock and domestic bores.

### **How do I find out if my bore is already registered?**

If you are unsure whether the bore on your property is registered with WaterNSW, contact the Customer Helpdesk on 1300 662 077.

Records for all bores are kept in a database so groundwater resources can be sustainably managed. The [All Water Data website](#) allows you to access information from these existing bores including: depth, geology, water level, yields and some water quality.

If your bore is not registered it might not be considered when impacts to groundwater sources are assessed by the Regulator, such as for major mining, other developments or new bore approvals.

## Where should I drill the bore?

The position of a domestic and stock bore on your property is subject to distance conditions as outlined in the relevant Water Sharing Plan. These rules may include distance conditions relating to a property boundary, a potential contamination source such as septic tanks, fuel or chemical storage or a high priority groundwater dependent ecosystem such as a karst environment.

These rules were designed to protect your new bore, other groundwater users and the environment. The distance rules as outlined in the [Water Sharing Plans](#).

## How deep should I drill?

The depth to which your new bore should be constructed is dependent on the geology that is found beneath your property. Whilst groundwater can be found in most places across NSW the yield and quality vary significantly. The information contained in the [All Water Data website](#) may help to build a picture of the conditions that may be found under your property and the depth range at which you might find a reasonable supply of groundwater.

A licensed driller will also be able to assist in selecting a depth for your new bore that suits the underlying geology. Drilling a deeper bore may help to limit the impacts felt during periods of drought.

## Who can drill a bore?

Only a licensed driller can be engaged to drill a bore. If you are engaging a driller, you are responsible for ensuring that the bore is drilled by a person who holds a current NSW driller's licence. Additionally, the licence class must be appropriate for the type of drilling to be undertaken. There are 6 classes of licence which are issued by WaterNSW to allow drillers to construct different standards of bores in different groundwater systems.

## How do I test the bore's supply?

A bore's supply can be tested by pumping the bore in a controlled manner and measuring change of the water level in the pumping bore and/or nearby bores. From the analysis of the pumping test data the appropriate depth to install the pump and the potential yield from a bore can be determined.

A pumping test can be carried out by a licensed driller or some pump suppliers. It is recommended that the analysis is conducted by a suitably qualified person such as a hydrogeologist.

## How do I get my bore water tested?

The quality and quantity of groundwater can vary widely across NSW. Groundwater is untreated and should not be considered safe for human consumption without proper treatment.

## For more information

[www.watersw.com.au](http://www.watersw.com.au)

Phone: 1300 662 077

Email: [Customer.Helpdesk@watersw.com.au](mailto:Customer.Helpdesk@watersw.com.au)

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2017). However users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely on is up to date and to check currency with WaterNSW or with the user's independent adviser.

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