

Selecting a site for your basic landholder rights domestic and stock bore

Fact sheet

This fact sheet will assist landholders when selecting a bore site to construct a stock and domestic bore (BLR bore) under basic landholder rights.

Licensing groundwater works and monitoring the levels of extraction help us to sustainably manage our groundwater sources, protecting water quality and the ecosystems that depend on them. Water sharing plans (WSP) in each region provide a local framework that may impose restrictions on where a bore can be located. The following guidelines may assist landholder planning to construct stock & domestic bores under BLR.

Please note: To access water under BLR, landholders must obtain a water supply works approval to construct a bore, well or spearpoint. A landholder cannot construct a bore, well or spearpoint without specific approval from WaterNSW. It is an offence under the *Water Management Act 2000* (WMA) to construct or use a water supply work without an approval.

Before you choose your bore location

- WSPs can be complex to understand. [Click here](#) to access your local WSP or call our Customer Service Centre on **1300 662 077** for advice on the requirements that may apply to your property – this may save you time later.
- Select a licensed water bore driller (a driller), servicing your local area. Ensure that the driller holds a current NSW Drillers Licence of the class required to undertake the work. For example, drilling in the Great Artesian Basin requires advanced knowledge.
- Your chosen driller should visit your property and provide advice about a suitable site for your bore. There may be a fee for the visit.
- Not all areas of NSW have good quality underground water. A qualified driller may be able to tell you about the quality of water you are likely to extract and the depth that water may be found. To access information about bores located in your immediate area and to access publicly available data on neighbouring bores use the [WaterInsights](#) web tool.
- Choosing a proposed location on your property will then allow you to obtain a written estimate of the cost to drill the bore.
- You can also consult a qualified hydrogeologist to assist you with bore site selection. The [Australian Drillers Industry Association](#) website may also be helpful.

Selecting the specific location

- WSPs contain rules for works located near contaminated sites. Proximity to an existing septic tank, effluent pond or other on-site sewerage disposal systems is important, including those on neighbouring properties. Applications for bores within 50 meters of an existing or proposed sewerage system will be refused.
- There may be other WSP rules to minimise impacts on the environment or interference between water supply works, for example, distance from a neighbouring bore or a watercourse – these rules may differ between regions and water sources.

- You should also consider road access to the site and be mindful of environmentally sensitive areas, for example, threatened species habitats or proposed clearing of native vegetation.

Organising your documents

- Apply for a basic landholder rights bore directly in the [Customer Portal](#) or download the [application form for a new/amended approval for a water supply work to take groundwater under a domestic and stock right](#) and guide to completing the [works and water supply approval form](#).
- You will need your property details (Lot/DP). If you are not the owner of the land, you will need to provide evidence of lawful occupation such as a lease agreement.
- Proposed bore construction details are required. You will need estimates of the proposed depth of the bore, pumping rate in ML/year and bore casing dimensions if the nominal bore casing is proposed to be greater than 220mm – discuss this with your driller.
- You will be asked to submit your property map with your application.

Engage a licenced driller

Landholders must engage a driller who holds a current NSW Driller's Licence of the correct class to construct the BLR Bore. It is an offence (under section 346 of the WMA and under section 118A of the Water Act) for a person (driller) to construct a BLR bore without a current NSW Driller's Licence. Your licensed driller must comply with the current version of the [Minimum Construction Requirements](#). For more information on Drillers Licensing contact [1300 662 077](tel:1300662077).

There are restrictions placed on the use of water from a BLR bore and these are outlined in [understanding domestic and stock rights fact sheet](#). Penalties for misuse of water under domestic and stock rights may be imposed by the Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR).

Need help?

If you need more information, please contact our Customer Service Centre on [1300 662 077](tel:1300662077), Monday to Friday between 8am–5pm or email Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au

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