

# Farm dam survey

## Fact sheet

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**WaterNSW requires a survey plan to support all applications for new farm dams, or modifications to existing approved farm dams. A survey plan provides the accurate, certified spatial and elevation data needed for WaterNSW to assess farm dam applications lawfully, efficiently, and consistently.**

### **Why a survey plan is required**

A certified survey plan provides precise measurements of:

- Wall height
- Storage area
- Capacity (ML)
- Surface levels and contours

This information is necessary to ensure the proposed dam aligns with NSW water laws, size thresholds, and approval pathways.

### **Confirmation of dam location and works footprint**

The survey plan confirms the exact location of the dam and associated works relative to:

- Property boundaries
- Watercourses, drainage lines, and riparian corridors
- Easements
- Neighbouring properties

This ensures the proposed works are located on the applicant's land and do not impact adjacent properties or Crown land.



## Verification of existing versus proposed works

A survey plan assists WaterNSW in confirming whether works are:

- New
- Modifications or
- Enlargements of an existing farm dam.

This distinction is important for regulatory assessment and for establishing lawful versus unlawful works.

A survey plan ensures our Water Regulation Officers have sufficient information to process the application efficiently.

## Supporting compliance and enforcement certainty

Surveyed data provides an authoritative and reliable record that WaterNSW can use throughout the assessment process. Any approval issued will also include a condition referencing the certified survey plan.

This approach provides several benefits to the approval holder:

- Verification of works – confirms that the dam has been constructed in accordance with the approved design.
- Support for future compliance inspections – ensures inspections are based on accurate, surveyed information.
- Greater certainty – provides assurance to both the applicant and the regulator regarding the location, size, and specifications of the approved works.

### Need help?

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

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