

Drill Torque is a Southern Rural Water newsletter for the drilling industry.

## Online BCLs

**Summary** - Southern Rural Water proudly introduced a new service to our customers in July 2015. Online bore construction licence applications were quickly accepted as a new, fast method of obtaining a licence to construct a bore.

Not only is the process quicker, it is also roughly half the cost of applying over the counter. The application fee of \$235 will also remain in 2016.

**Drillers' advantage** - Drillers have been quick to recognize the benefits for themselves too. Drillers can now help their customers to obtain a licence to drill a bore at the same time they quote for the job.

**Uptake** - Since the launch of online Bore Construction Licences in July 2015, over 1,500 new licences have been created and around 100 licences have been modified.

**Types of bores** - Online BCLs allows for the construction of:

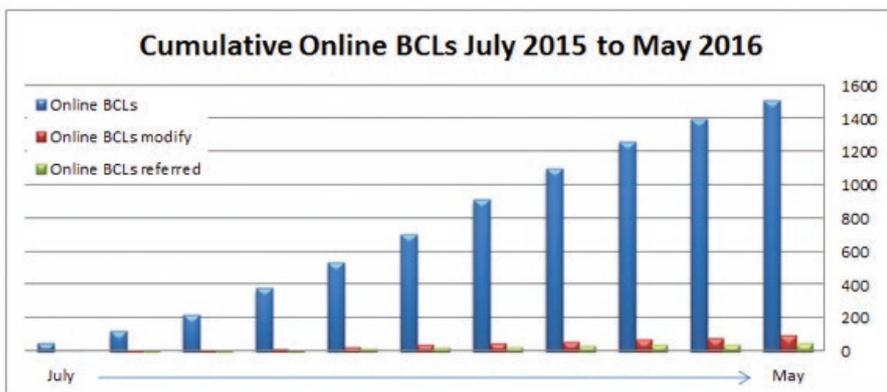
- domestic and stock bores
- observation bores
- investigation bores.

Drillers should note however that investigation bores must be decommissioned before the drill rig leaves the site.

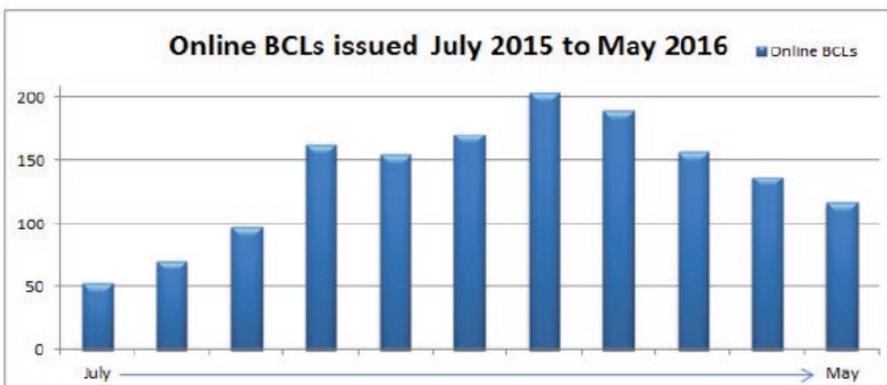
### Other benefits

- No paperwork
- Fast approval
- Cheaper
- Easy to use.

### Cumulative uptake graph



### Monthly uptake graph



### More information

More information about BCLs and the online process can be found at either:

[www.srw.com.au](http://www.srw.com.au) or  
[www.waterregister.vic.gov.au](http://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au)

# Recording and reporting data

Recording and reporting data is the key component in compiling groundwater data. This data assists in monitoring groundwater characteristics across the groundwater resource, the development of groundwater management plans and future drilling operations, and with localised pumping and drawdown levels.

*Taken from the publication "Minimum construction requirements for water bores in Australia"*

## 15. Recording and reporting data

### Good industry practice mandatory requirement

**15.1 A bore completion report shall be supplied as required by the state or territory water licensing authority.**

Most state and territory water authorities have a bore completion report (or drill log or specific form) they can supply to drillers to detail the information required. As the information required may vary between authorities, drillers should ensure they satisfy the requirements of the particular state or territory in which they are working.

**15.2 During the drilling and construction of a bore the driller should keep accurate records. These details should include:**

- the bore identification or licence number
- start and finish dates
- the name and address of the client
- the name of the driller
- the type of drilling method used
- the diameters and depth of hole drilled
- complete strata details
- details of any water supplies cut
- casing type and diameter (OD), class of pipe and/or wall thickness, position within the hole, and how it is secured and sealed
- cement grouting details
- water entry to the bore, for example, length of slotted sections and locations, screen type, dimensions and location, gravel pack material and size

- bore development procedure and record
- GPS coordinates and/or location sketch of the bore site showing a north point, distances from two adjacent property boundaries or other topographical features, and the real property description
- bore disinfection procedures used.

## 85. Recording and Reporting Data

**15.3 A detailed report, including a diagram of the bore, should be prepared by the driller on the decommissioning of any bore or test hole.**

**15.4 The driller should provide details of the bore construction report and any other relevant information to the client and should also retain a copy.**

Other relevant information could include:

- results of any pump tests
- a description of the water quality
- any geophysical logs/parameters that were run.

## National uniform drillers licensing system

The National Uniform Driller Licensing Committee (NUDLV) has for some time been developing a National Uniform Driller's Licensing System Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU is an agreement between states to fast track recognition of driller licences.

A preparatory step was the development of agreed procedures for granting licences, including protocols for the recognition of licences held in other states/territories.

This is an agreement that where a licensed driller applies to another state, and successfully passes that state's water law examination, the 'new' state will undertake a background check and if appropriate provide a converted licence within ten days. This should reduce waiting times and eliminate red tape.

The MoU objectives are to:

- provide an agreed uniform system for driller licensing across Australia.
- strengthen the consistency of drillers' licensing standards (water bores)

- improve the portability of drillers licences and reduce the 'red tape' in the licensing process; and
- provide business efficiency and greater flexibility for the drilling industry to address market demands.

The memorandum confirms the objective of driller licensing is to regulate the competence of drillers and thereby protect groundwater resources; prevent aquifer contamination; collect data; and protect the long term integrity of aquifers associated with water bores.

It maintains the three classes of licence which relates to the type of aquifer system in which a driller may operate:

- Class 1 - this licence is restricted to drilling operations in single non- flowing aquifer systems.
- Class 2 -this licence, in addition to operating in Class 1 conditions, permits drilling operations in multiple non-flowing aquifer systems.
- Class 3 – this licence, in addition to operating Class 1 and 2 conditions, permits drilling operations in flowing aquifer systems.

The memorandum confirms the endorsements which relate to the drilling and construction methods that a driller may use:

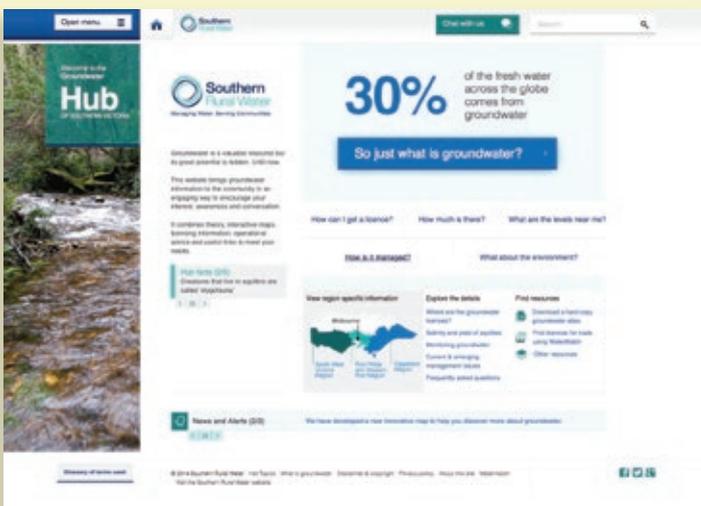
- auger
- cable tool
- non-drilling rig method
- rotary air
- rotary mud
- sonic

The memorandum also confirms an agreed description of the qualifications, experience, knowledge and skills a driller needs to be issued a licence at each class. It provides guidance to licensing bodies regarding procedures for granting licences; refusing to grant a licence; and record keeping.

A final version of the Memorandum of Understanding was developed by the NUDLC at its meeting held on the 9-10 March 2016 and distributed to the relevant licensing authorities in each state and territory to seek final sign-off and implementation. It is expected that the agreement will be implemented by the end of 2016.

## The Groundwater Hub of Southern Victoria

In late 2015, Southern Rural Water launched our new groundwater website – the Groundwater Hub of Southern Victoria.



Building on, and enhancing, the content of our Groundwater Atlases, the website provides a tailored, 'choose-your-own-adventure' style experience whether you are a groundwater user or want to use groundwater, a student, a professional in the water industry or someone with an interest in conserving our natural resources.

The Groundwater Hub aims to provide you with the information you need or direct you to other online resources so you can find what you are looking for quickly and conveniently.

**[gwhub.srw.com.au](http://gwhub.srw.com.au)**  
**Check it out today!**

## Drillers' licence renewals

Unless sooner revoked, a drillers licence remains in force for 10 years and, subject to the regulations, may be renewed from time to time on application to the Victorian Drillers Licensing Board (Board) and on payment of the prescribed fee.

The board shall advise the licensee by a notice prior to expiration of the licence stating that, if the driller's licence is not renewed on or before a date specified in the notice, the licence will expire.

In order to ensure that renewal notices are sent to the driller's current residential or postal address, the licensed driller must notify the board of any changes to their postal address.

## New application fees

The base paper application fee for a bore construction licence (works licence) remains at \$440. The fee for an online application remains at \$235. Fees may vary according to the assessment of the construction risk. Application forms and detailed fee schedules can be obtained from our website [www.srw.com.au](http://www.srw.com.au).

These fees are valid until 30 June 2017.

## Do you have an email address?

In order to reduce our carbon footprint, Drilltorque can now be emailed to all drillers.

If you received this newsletter by mail, that's because SRW doesn't have an email address on file for you.

To update your details, please contact Renae Cooke on **(03) 5139 3165** or [renaec@srw.com.au](mailto:renaec@srw.com.au)

## Drilling specialists across the state

### Southern Rural Water



**Robert Dunbar**  
**Werribee**  
**9974 4774** or  
**0417 159 928**  
(Central Region including  
Melbourne & Peninsula)



**Tony Sanders**  
**Maffra**  
**5139 3154** or  
**0427 326 771**  
(Central and East  
Gippsland Region)

### Other water corporations:

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water  
**Kel Sleep**  
**1300 659 961**

## Don't drink the water

ANY water from sources managed or licensed by Southern Rural Water, including irrigation storages, channels, rivers and creeks, groundwater and farm dams, is untreated. It should not be considered safe for human consumption without proper treatment.

## Updating your records

If you have changed your address please contact Vince Lopardi, Secretary, Drillers' Licensing Board on 5139 3113 or at [vincel@srw.com.au](mailto:vincel@srw.com.au) to update your personal details.

## Contact us



Phone  
Email  
Website

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**Werribee 3030**

**132 Fairy Street**  
**Warrnambool 3280**