

Fencing agreement Macalister Irrigation District

Southern Rural Water (SRW) established a Fencing Agreement for the Macalister Irrigation Area (MIA) after talks with our customer consultative committee.

This agreement outlines:

- who is responsible for fencing on channels and drains, including maintenance costs and access obligations
- our commitment to fencing new and existing reserves and easements, boundaries, roads and private property.

Why do we need a Fencing Agreement?

Because many of our channels, pipelines and drains are on private property, this agreement helps to:

- protect our assets and ensure access at all times for maintenance
- ensure the cost of initial and replacement fencing across the MIA is documented for future reference.

Who is responsible for fencing along new and existing reserves?

A reserve is property that is owned and managed by SRW to allow us to construct or protect assets.

SRW is responsible for the initial fencing of a reserve. All future fence maintenance or replacement costs will be shared equally between SRW and adjoining landowners as per the Fences Act 1968.

Who is responsible for fences along new and existing easements?

Easements used by SRW for supplying water and drainage are generally owned by farmers in the area. SRW has unrestricted access within the easement area for managing, operating and maintaining its assets.

If landowners plan to build or repair fencing along a channel or drain to protect their stock, or to prevent damage to a channel or drain, the landowner is responsible for the full cost of fencing the easement boundary.

However, if the fencing is required by SRW for any reason other than to minimise stock damage we will meet the full cost of materials, construction and ongoing maintenance.

Who is responsible for fences along new and existing property boundaries?

Where a new boundary fence is required, or where an existing boundary fence crosses a channel or drain, SRW will meet the cost of fencing that secures access and ensures the channel or drain profile is stock-proofed.

Where existing cross fences within the property don't allow access to channels or drains, the cost of providing gates and fencing is shared equally by landowners and SRW.

If a property is subdivided, the landowner must ensure that SRW continues to have unlimited access to the channel or drain as part of any subdivision conditions.

Who is responsible for fencing along drains or roadways for access?

Where SRW needs access to a channel or drain from the road, it will provide and maintain secure access fencing at designated entry points. This includes stock-proofing the channel profile.

Who is responsible for fencing within properties that cross a channel?

Where existing fences within a property cross a channel or drain and there is no access, SRW will share the cost of providing access. Generally, this means SRW will provide the gate and hardware that the landowner then fits into the fence. If a new fence is to be constructed over the channel bank, then access must be provided by the landowner.

More information

For more information, contact us on 1300 139 510 or visit www.srw.com.au