

Private Dam Construction Licence

You will require a Private Dam Construction Licence before you can build a dam if the proposed dam is:

- Being constructed on a waterway
- Has a wall height of 5 metres or higher and 50 megalitres capacity or larger; or
- Has a wall height of 10 metres or higher and 20 megalitres capacity or larger; or
- Has a wall height of 15 metres or higher, regardless of capacity.

Note: "Waterway" includes rivers, creeks, natural channels or dams with a catchment of 60 hectares or greater.

Note: The height of the dam or embankment is the difference in level between the natural surface level, bed of a gully, stream or waterway at the downstream toe of the dam and the crest.

Getting a licence

We strongly recommend that before you begin, you make an appointment to have a chat with one of our staff.

To obtain a construction licence, you need to submit:

- An application form (see our website)
- A site plan or location plan
- Appropriate fees (see our website)
- Depending on the location and size of your proposed dam, we may ask you to provide a surveillance and emergency plan prepared by a suitably qualified engineer. Our website has a list of consulting engineers should they be required.

When considering whether to approve your application to construct the dam, Southern Rural Water must take into account many things, including:

- the availability of water at the site and in the catchment;
- the impact that taking water and the construction of the dam might have on other users and the environment; and

- the conservation policy of the government, existing acts, plans, strategies or policies at a catchment, regional or state level.

We may also inspect the site to assess water availability, environmental, safety and other issues, if the proposed construction site is on a waterway.

Referrals

Southern Rural Water will refer your application to the Department of Sustainability and Environment, local government and catchment management authorities for comment before it is approved

You may also be required to obtain an Environmental Assessment Report, particularly if your dam is proposed to be on a waterway.

Licence conditions

Once approved, your Works Licence is only valid for 12 months. If your dam is not completed in this time, you can apply to renew the licence prior to the expiry date. After this date, you will need to apply for a new licence.

You cannot start construction until you have received your licence.

Your Works Licence will have a number of conditions on it - please read and understand the conditions before any work starts. If you have any questions about your conditions, please call us.

Southern Rural Water inspects most dams during or after construction and before the dam is filled.

More information

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

See also our fact sheets on:

- Private Dam Surface Water Licence
- Private Dam Operating Licence
- Private Dam Maintenance
- Consulting Engineers List