

Constructing a bore

You need a Works Licence to construct a bore

You must understand and comply with the licence conditions

If you want water for anything but domestic and stock use, you will also need to apply for a Groundwater Licence.

If you are planning to construct a bore, you need a Works Licence. You can find a Works Licence application form on the Southern Rural Water website, or obtain one by calling us on 1300 139 510.

For domestic and stock use only, you can apply online at www.waterregister.vic.gov.au

Approving applications

Southern Rural Water prefers that our customers have no surprises during the application process. We strongly urge anyone thinking of constructing a bore to talk to one of our assessment officers before you apply.

In most cases, applications to construct a bore for domestic and stock purposes only are approved.

However, if you are applying for a bore that will be used for new irrigation, commercial or industrial purposes, you should remember that many areas in Victoria are “capped”, which means no new Groundwater Licences can be granted. If you want to apply to use groundwater in a capped area, your Works Licence application should be sent to us together with an application to transfer groundwater from someone else with an existing licence. Information about groundwater trading can be found on our website.

Commercial use includes irrigation, dairy shed water, mining, aquaculture, feedlots, piggeries, poultry farms, golf/sporting areas, guest accommodation, water bottling and snow making.

In many cases, applications for Groundwater Licences must be advertised locally, including notifying neighbours, and submitted to relevant authorities for comment.

Works Licence conditions

Once approved, your Works Licence is only valid for 12 months. If your bore 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 drilling 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 workstarts. If you have any questions about your conditions, please call us.

Southern Rural Water inspects most bores during or after construction.

Proposed position / setback distances

While legislation sets strict guidelines on where bores can be positioned, we recommend that you talk to your neighbours and local council prior to drilling a bore.

You will also need to consider accessibility to the proposed site and whether it is prone to flooding, what type of pump will need to be installed and if it will need power.

As a general guide, these are the suggested minimum setback distances from a bore:

Building foundations, 3 metres ¹

Lakes or waterways, 200 metres

Power lines, 6 metres ¹

A bore not in your ownership, 300 metres

Drainage pipes, 20 metres ¹

Storage sheds or feed lots, 20 metres

Onsite effluent disposal systems up to 50 metres ^{1 2}

Irrigation channels, 50 metres

Drain field systems, 40 metres

¹ Contact EPA Victoria, your local council or agency for more information.

² Refer to the Code of Practice - Onsite Wastewater Management. Available from www.epa.vic.gov.au

Specific setback distances may be listed on a Works Licence.

Water quality/quantity

Southern Rural Water does not guarantee the quality or quantity of any groundwater. Groundwater should not be considered safe for human consumption unless properly treated.

To get an idea of what water quality you might expect from a new bore, check with:

- A qualified hydrogeologist
- Drillers who work in the area
- The Department of Sustainability and Environment Groundwater Database (www.dse.vic.gov.au)

If you are unsure about how much water you need, we recommend you seek advice from the Department of Primary Industries on 136 185 or www.dpi.vic.gov.au.

Once your bore has been drilled, you or your driller must submit a water sample to Southern Rural Water's laboratory of choice for testing. We will advise laboratory details when your licence is issued.

You or your driller must also provide us with a Bore Completion Report within 28 days of the bore being drilled.

Metering

If your bore is for a commercial use, it has to be metered.

Southern Rural Water will provide a water meter at cost. It must be installed to our specifications, either by yourself or a contractor. We will inspect the installed meter to ensure it meets our standards.

All meters remain the property of Southern Rural Water.

Domestic and stock bores do not need to be metered.

More information

Contact us on **1300 139 510** for more information or to make an appointment to chat to one of our assessment staff.

More information can also be found at www.srw.com.au