

Private Dam Operating Licences

By law, many private dams require an Operating Licence. They include dams that are:

- A dam belonging to a prescribed class of dams meaning one that is potentially hazardous based upon the ANCOLD Guidelines. These guidelines determine hazard by considering whether there is potential: a) risk to the population or loss of life; b) loss or damage to third party property; or c) environmental damage.
- 5 metres high at the wall with a capacity of 50 megalitres or more
- 10 metres high at the wall with a capacity of 20 megalitres or more
- 15 metres high at the wall, regardless of capacity

These dams are regarded as potentially hazardous, and require special operating conditions.

Your dam requires an operating licence even if it is not used.

Getting a licence

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

To obtain an operating licence, you need to submit:

- A dam safety emergency plan (DSEP). (See forms on our website)
- An application form (see our website)
- Appropriate fees (see our website)

Surveillance and Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)

The SEMP must be prepared by an experienced consulting engineer.

It should include as a minimum:

- A summary of the dam properties, current dimensions and other features

- An appropriate dam surveillance program and check list
- A Dam Safety Emergency Plan (see our website)
- Inspection photographs
- Spillway capacity computations
- Locality and catchment plan
- Any recommendations regarding works needed to bring the dam to acceptable standards

Licence conditions

Your licence may include conditions such as:

- Submitting monitoring when required by Southern Rural Water
- Remedial works to correct any faults identified by the SEMP

Your Dam Operating Licence is valid for 5 years, and has an annual fee. When your licence is due for renewal, we will send you an application, and you will need to submit an updated SEMP.

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 Consulting Engineers
- Private Dam Construction Licences
- Private Dam Maintenance
- Private Dam Surface Water Licence