

Private Dam Surface Water Licence

When you are planning to use your dam water for irrigation or commercial purposes, you will need a Surface Water Licence.

You will need to hold a licence for the period of time that you wish to take and use water out of the dam. You also need a Surface Water Licence before you can get a licence to construct a new dam.

Dams used for domestic and stock purposes built on your property do not require a Surface Water Licence.

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 Surface Water Licence, you need to submit:

- An application form (see [our website](#))
- A site plan and location plan
- Appropriate fees (see [our website](#))

Referrals

When we assess your application, we may refer it to other agencies, and we may also ask you to advertise the proposal and notify neighbours to seek public comment. We will provide templates to help with this.

We may also ask you to submit:

- an environmental assessment report (technical information which we will analyse)
- a water use plan to support your proposal; and/or
- a development plan if you are proposing to expand over a period of time

Licence conditions

If your licence is approved, it will be subject to conditions, including:

- How much water you can take and from where and when
- Installation of a meter to measure and monitor your water use
- The need to comply with restrictions, rosters and bans
- Other conditions

What do I do if I don't have a surface water licence?

Surface water licences are usually obtained either by buying an entitlement from a licence holder, through a water auction, or, through a property purchase.

If you don't think you have a surface water licence after a property settlement you need to follow up with your solicitor or agent and check whether the licence or water entitlement was included in the contract of sale. If it was then you will need to complete an application form to transfer the entitlement. All current licence holders (the seller) as well as all proposed new licence holders (the buyer) must sign this form.

If the licence wasn't included in the contract of sale, you should phone Southern Rural Water on 1300 139 510. You will need to secure an entitlement through a temporary or permanent transfer, or water auction.

All applications need to be submitted to Southern Rural Water for assessment. Transfer applications are not always approved.

More information

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