

# Water for my rural property - do I need a licence?

You may need a licence to obtain water from your rural property, depending on how and why you want to use the water, and where it comes from.

Licences are issued by your Southern Rural Water as your local rural water corporation.

## For domestic and stock use of water

(which includes water for household purposes, watering of animals kept as pets, watering of cattle or other stock, watering around the house for fire prevention and watering a kitchen garden).

If your land fronts a waterway:		If your land does not front a waterway:		If you want to sink a bore or well:
Check with your local water corporation to see if you have a private right to access water		and you want to build a small dam	and you want to take water from a nearby river	
<p><b>If you do:</b></p> <p>Domestic and stock rights apply. You do not need any consent from your rural water corporation to take water.</p>	<p><b>If you don't:</b></p> <p>You will need a Surface Water Licence (or "take and use" licence) from your rural water corporation.</p>	<p>Check with your rural water corporation. You may need a licence, depending on the dam's location and size</p>	<p>You must obtain a Surface Water Licence from your rural water corporation.</p>	<p>Domestic and stock rights apply. You must obtain a licence to construct your bore or well from Southern Rural Water, either by applying online or contacting us. You do not need an annual licence to take groundwater for domestic or stock use.</p>

## For commercial activities

(eg irrigation, mining, aquaculture, feedlots, piggeries, poultry farms, golf/sporting areas, guest accommodation, water bottling, snow making).

If you want to build a dam”		If you want to take water from a waterway:	If you want to take groundwater:
<b>And it’s on a waterway</b>	<b>And it’s not on a waterway</b>	In many areas of Victoria, water licences for commercial activities are fully capped. In these areas, you can only obtain water by buying an existing licence. Check with your rural water corporation to see if you are in a fully capped area	
You will need to obtain a Dam Construction Licence from your rural water corporation. You may also need a Dam Operating Licence.	Check with your rural water corporation. You may need a Dam Construction Licence, depending on the dam’s size. You may also need a Dam Operation Licence.	You will need to obtain a Surface Water Licence from your rural water corporation	You will need to obtain a Bore Construction Licence and a Groundwater Licence from your rural water corporation.

### More Information

For more information, contact your nearest rural water corporation:

Southern Rural Water  
1300 139 510 or visit [www.srw.com.au](http://www.srw.com.au)

Melbourne Water (surface water, Yarra and Maribyrnong waterways)  
131 722

 [srw@srw.com.au](mailto:srw@srw.com.au)

 1300 139 510

 [www.srw.com.au](http://www.srw.com.au)

 **Southern  
Rural Water**