

Exploration drilling

If your licence is for investigation of the groundwater resource, to support an application for a licence to take water, you may be required to submit a hydrogeological report.

Hydrogeological reports should be prepared in accordance with the department's policy *Hydrogeological reporting associated with a groundwater well licence*. The department accepts electronically submitted reports. The policy and further guidelines are available at the department's website, www.water.wa.gov.au. Select > Business with water > water licensing > relevant links.

Decommissioning bores

If you are replacing a failed or collapsed well, then you should ensure the old well is properly decommissioned. For more information refer to *Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia 3rd ed.* available on the department's website.



Water drilling rig.

Definitions

Well. Any opening in the ground made or used to obtain access to underground water. This includes bores and soaks or other excavations that intercept groundwater.

Bore log. Bore logging is the practice of recording the ground materials encountered when drilling. Bore log is the common name for a record of drilling which commonly includes the depth, size, details of construction and location of the bore, results of any soil testing and pump testing, and a 'strata' which is a description of the materials encountered through drilling.

Geophysical bore log. A geophysical log is prepared by lowering a device into the borehole. Ground materials and the water they contain can be analysed this way. Measurements and readings such as electrical conductivity can be printed out as a log.

Driller class. Drillers are certified by ADIA, according to the type of aquifers they may drill and the drilling methods they may use. Class 1 drillers are restricted to drilling operations in non-flowing (sub-artesian) single-aquifer systems. Class 2 drillers may, in addition, operate in non-flowing (sub-artesian) multiple-aquifer systems. Class 3 drillers are qualified to operate in flowing (artesian) aquifer systems.

Casing. A tube used as a temporary or permanent lining for a bore.

Annulus or annular space. This is the space between the casing and the sides of the drill hole. The annulus provides a space for drill cuttings to be able to be brought to the surface. Some licences will require the annulus to be cement filled, on completion of drilling.

Screen. The section of the well casing that is slotted or perforated to allow water to pass into the casing.

Centraliser. A device secured around the casing at regular intervals, to keep it centered in the drilled hole.

For further information

More information about water licensing and water resources, including the depth to the water table (in the Perth region), is available at the department's website www.water.wa.gov.au.

Select > Business with water > water licensing > relevant links.

or Select > Tools & data > Maps and atlases > Perth groundwater atlas.



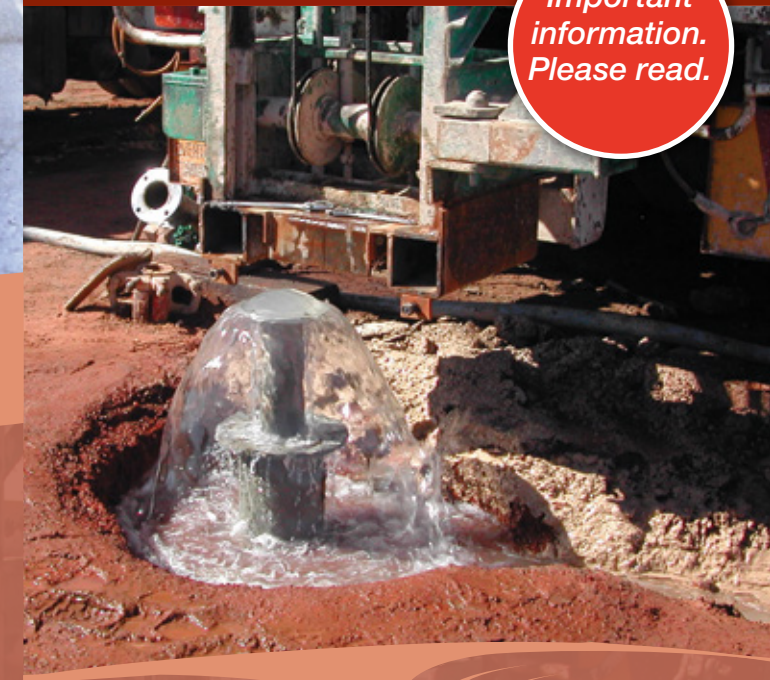
Bore headworks with meter fitted.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Water

Your licence to construct or alter a well

Important
information.
Please read.



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Looking after all our water needs

2014

This document explains your licence and responsibilities as a licensee. It may be an offence to construct or alter wells in any way that is contrary to your licence.

Please keep your licence in a safe place and make a copy available to your driller or excavator before work commences.

This is not a licence to take water. Unless you also hold a valid licence to take water from the same water resource, you may only draw water from the well for testing and sampling purposes. Any unauthorised taking or use of water is an offence.

Please contact the department if the details on your licence seem in any way incorrect.

Before construction

Make sure you understand your terms, limitations and conditions. Failure to comply with all of your licence conditions is an offence and may attract a penalty. If you hire a driller to do the work, you should ensure the driller is qualified appropriately.

If you believe you or your driller or excavator may not be able to comply with all of your licence conditions, please contact the department as soon as possible.

Make sure you are authorised to access the property where the works are to be undertaken.

Choosing a driller

Your licence may require that you use a specific class of driller. Classification is given to members of ADIA, the Australian Drilling Industry Association. For a list of certified drillers (or approved equivalent), contact ADIA (www.adia.com.au).

Locally based drillers are likely to have useful relevant experience with the groundwater in your area.

After construction

For non-artesian wells, the driller must provide details of bore construction to the department, on a Form 2, within a month of completion. For an artesian well, you are responsible for providing this information, on a Form 2A. If you have also applied for a licence to take groundwater, the department may not be able to grant you a licence without this information.

You must keep the well and related equipment in good order and condition.

Other things you should know

Successful access to water does not guarantee a licence to take water will be issued.


You should tell the department if the construction program will not be completed while the licence is valid. This licence cannot be renewed and you may need to reapply for a new licence. The department recommends an application be made at least one month before the proposed date of construction.

If you wish to change your construction program in any way, contact the department as you may need to request an amendment or apply for a new licence.

You must apply for a new licence if you wish to construct another well in the future, or alter the depth or bore size of an existing well.

This licence does not give you any rights except to construct or alter a well or wells. You must still comply with any relevant Commonwealth and state legislation, and by-laws.

Understanding your licence

File No: RF  Government of Western Australia
Department of Water Instrument No. Page 1 of 1

LICENCE TO CONSTRUCT OR ALTER WELL
Granted by the Minister under section 26D of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

Licensee(s)		
Description of Water Resource		
Location of Well(s)		
Authorised Activities	Activity	Location of Activity
Duration of Licence		

This Licence is subject to the following terms, limitations and conditions:

-
-
-
-
-

End of terms, limitations and conditions

File and instrument numbers

The file number (top left) refers to the department's records of your licence(s) and the applications you have made. The instrument number (top right) is your licence number. You may be asked to quote these numbers if you make an enquiry about your licence.

Licensee(s)

The licensee(s) section shows the name of the applicant for the licence. If the property is sold or leased, the licence is deemed to be held by new owner(s) or occupier(s). There is no need to transfer the licence.

Water resource

This is the name of the groundwater area and aquifer you are allowed to access.

Underground, there are different water resources at different depths. You are not permitted to construct or alter a well such that it accesses water resources other than the resource shown here. Your driller is able to use soil samples and testing equipment to work out which aquifer is being accessed. On some licences, the terms and conditions will require specific tests such as geophysical logging to be conducted to determine the correct depth.

Location of wells

This is the property on which wells may be constructed. However, the terms, limitations and conditions of your licence may direct you to construct the well in a certain area or a minimum distance from a feature on the land.

Authorised activities

This part of your licence lists the number of wells that may be constructed or altered, and the type of well. It also defines where these activities may take place.

Duration of licence

The licence is valid for the period shown.

Terms, limitations and conditions

This licence entitles you to construct or alter a well, or wells, subject to these terms, limitations and conditions.