

# INFORMATION FOR DRILLERS

## WATER RESOURCES ACT 2007

### WHAT IS THIS INFORMATION SHEET ABOUT?

The following information deals with the condition applying to the construction of groundwater bores and the use of water from bores arising from the *Water Resources Act 2007* (the Act) which came into effect on 1 August 2007.

A bore includes a borehole, a hole, well, excavation or other opening in the ground or an underground cavity (whether naturally, or having been artificially constructed or modified) from which water is, or is capable of being obtained or used. For the purposes of the Act, these features are also considered to be bores if they are used, or are capable of being used, for the disposal of water or waste. However, subsoil drains are not included.

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Under the Act you are required to hold a Water Access Entitlement (WAE) before a Licence to take Water and Bore Work Licence can be issued.

A WAE is a right to an amount of surface water or groundwater within a Water Management Area (WMA).

A Licence to take Water is required to extract water authorised under a WAE. The Licence to take Water states the location from which water can be taken and used.

### WHEN CAN A BORE BE CONSTRUCTED?

A bore may only be constructed or altered after a Bore Work Licence has been issued to the lessee or occupier of the land. A Bore Work Licence may be issued for a period of up to twelve months and it is subject to any necessary conditions. If the bore or alterations have not been completed in that time, then another licence would be required.

### WHO CAN CONSTRUCT A BORE?

Only qualified drillers licensed in the ACT are allowed to construct, modify or seal off a bore located within the ACT. Driller's licences are only issued to persons holding the necessary qualifications and are issued for periods of up to three years. Licences include conditions, and drillers can be required to provide information and samples to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in relation to their activities performed under the licence.

For a list of licensed drillers in the ACT contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 and ask for the Water Regulation area.

### LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

A licence to take water is required for every bore regardless of whether it is used for stock and domestic purposes only or not. Licences will be issued subject to a number of conditions which include to:

- > keep and maintain records
- > install, operate and maintain equipment including a water meter
- > provide information in relation to compliance with the licence
- > conduct specified monitoring and testing
- > mark places from which water is taken under the licence
- > specify the rate at which, or the maximum amount of, water that may be taken, or both.

**Failure to comply with licence conditions may result in prosecution.**

## ARE THERE OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO BORES?

It is an offence under the Act to waste bore water or to place any matter including water in a bore without approval.

It is an offence to fail to submit a bore completion report within 30 days of drilling a bore.

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR A LICENCE?

Application forms are available at [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)

It is helpful if you contact the Water Regulation office to discuss your particular situation before making an application.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the EPA by calling Access Canberra on 13 22 81 or email [water.resources@act.gov.au](mailto:water.resources@act.gov.au)

Go to [www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au](http://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au) for other information relating to Water Regulation.