



Well Works Permits

Application assessment

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is responsible for managing groundwater resources and permitting bores in Tasmania.

Although groundwater is a renewable resource, it needs to be managed to ensure that the aquifer, existing licence holders and the environment are protected. NRE Tasmania has a legal obligation to consider the potential impacts of well works to existing users of groundwater and surface water as well as potential impacts to the environment.

How is my application assessed?

Applications are considered in accordance with Section 135B of the *Water Management Act 1999*. The proposed site and volume of water take will be assessed to determine whether or not the risk to the environment or other users is acceptable. This assessment includes many different factors and an NRE Tasmania officer may contact you to clarify details or suggest different options regarding your application.

What factors lead to high risk works applications?

The Department considers an application to be high risk where there is likely to be measurable impacts on the aquifer, environment of other users, and where the possibility of mitigating such impacts would be limited or very expensive.

Depending on the individual application, the Department may consider a well works permit application as 'high risk' if a proposed well is sited.

- Near a National Park, Environmental Reserve or protected water body.
- Within the boundary of a Groundwater Area.
- Close to or within towns/communities with domestic water sourced largely or solely from groundwater.
- Within close proximity (less than 300m) to any waterway, irrigation channel or other water body.
- Less than 300 – 500 meters from any other bore, including domestic and stock bores or licenced bores.
- Within close proximity to environmentally or culturally significant sites.
- Where groundwater development is already high.
- Where interference between existing bores is known.
- Near a site with the potential to be a point source of groundwater contamination such as a rubbish tip, service station or industrial site.
- NRE Tasmania will consider risks based on the volume requirements you have estimated, and the quality of the groundwater extracted from a newly constructed bore.

Further technical work may be required

If your works permit application is assessed as presenting a high risk, the Department may require you to undertake technical work to demonstrate that your proposal will not adversely impact upon existing authorised groundwater users and the environment.

The technical work may include a hydrogeological assessment and potentially more detailed site investigations which require a pumping test. Please note that the costs for further technical work, if required, are to be paid by the applicant. If you are required to undertake such work you will be advised by the Department once it has received and assessed your application.

