



Well Works Permits

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who manages groundwater?

NRE Tasmania is responsible for managing groundwater resources and permitting bores in Tasmania to ensure groundwater users and the environment are considered and protected.

What is a well?

A well or bore is usually thought of as drilled holes constructed by drilling rigs. However the definition of a well is far broader and includes any bore or other excavation used to access groundwater.

Do I need a permit to construct a well or bore to access and use groundwater?

Yes. State legislation requires that all “well works” undertaken to give access to groundwater for water supply require a well works permit, anywhere in Tasmania. This includes major alterations to, or replacement of, a water supply well.

Do I need a permit to clean out my well?

No. Minor maintenance not involving deepening by more than 1.5 meters, or substantial changes to the casing or screen do not require a well works permit.

Where do I get a Well Works Permit from?

To get a permit to construct a well you need to apply to the Department using the approved application form. The Department accepts applications and issues permits in accordance with Part 7 of the *Water Management Act 1999*

How much does it cost to get a Well Works Permit?

The current cost of a well works permit is available on the fee schedule on the Department website: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/water/water-management-forms>

How do I pay

You can pay at any Service Tasmania shop or by attaching a cheque to your application form.

How long does I take to get a Well Works Permit approved?

The time taken to process a well works permit is dependent upon each application. In general you should allow at least 10 working day to process a permit for non-commercial water supply and up to 2/3 times as long for a commercial permit, depending on the degree of complexity.

Do I need a water licence to use water from my well

An owner or occupier of land may take groundwater from their well for any purpose unless their land has been appointed a Groundwater Area.

What is a Groundwater Area?

Groundwater Areas are established in areas where groundwater has been intensively developed, or has the potential to be developed and management is required.

Who can I get to construct my well?

All water well drilling contractors must hold a current licence. Their level of qualification determines the type of bores they can drill.

What if I change my mind about the wells I want or need?

If you wish to change the type of well authorised on the permit; Eg S&D to Irrigation, or change the terms and conditions of a permit, you must apply for a variation the well works permit using the approved application form.

Do I need a water meter for my well?

If you are in a groundwater area, or an area managed under a Water Management Plan, you may be required to install an approved water meter on your well.

For commercial users of groundwater we highly recommend you install a water meter at the time on construction to monitor your wells performance over time and keep a record of water use.

All water meters must be installed in accordance with NRE Tasmania's metering standards. Contact your Regional Water Management Officer for further information regarding water metering:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/water/water-licences/water-management-regions>

What if I sell my land? Can the permit remain valid for the new owner?

Yes. A well works permit can be passed on from one landowner to the next upon written notification to the Department. An administrative variation to the permit register is required to register the new landowner as the permit holder. An application to vary a well works permit is required to be submitted to the Department with proof of land ownership.

Where can I get my water tested?

It is recommended you have your groundwater tested upon completion of your well to ensure the quality is suitable for the proposed use. Your permit conditions may also specify the water must be tested and results forwarded to the Department.

It is recommended you use a NATA certified laboratory for bore water analysis.

