

Well Works Permits

Application assessment

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The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water 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. DPIPWE 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 136B 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 a DPIPWE 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 or other users, and where the possibility of mitigating such impacts would be limited or very expensive.

Depending on the individual application, DPIPWE 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.
(If you are applying to construct a bore in Groundwater Area you should contact your regional water management officer for advice on the availability of a groundwater licence entitlement).

- Close to or within towns/communities with domestic water sourced largely or solely from groundwater.
- Within close proximity (<300m) to any waterway, irrigation channel or other water body.
- Less than 300 - 500 metres from any other bore; including domestic and stock bores or licensed bores.
- Within close proximity to groundwater dependent ecosystems such as wetlands or protected Karst.
- 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.

DPIPWE 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, DPIPWE may require you 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 borne by the applicant. If you are required to undertake such work you will be advised by DPIPWE once it has received and assessed your Well Works Permit application.

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information, to obtain an application contact your Regional Water Management Officer. Ph: 1300 368 550
Web: www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/water



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