



Coastal Burnett groundwater management area—groundwater for stock and/or domestic purposes

The Burnett Basin Water Resource Plan was amended in November 2007 to include the Coastal Burnett groundwater management area (CBGMA).

The plan introduces new arrangements for access to groundwater for stock and domestic purposes.

What is stock and domestic use?

The *Water Act 2000* defines stock and domestic purposes in relation to taking water as:

Stock purposes:

- watering stock of a number that would normally be depastured on the land on which the water is, or is to be used
- watering travelling stock on a stock route.

Domestic purposes include irrigating a garden, not exceeding 0.25 hectares, being a garden cultivated for domestic use and not for the sale, barter or exchange of goods produced in the garden.

Plan areas

For the purpose of this fact sheet, the CBGMA is considered as two areas, A and B, (see Figure 1).

Area A

Stock and domestic users in Area A (see Figure 1) no longer require a licence to access water. The Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) has removed the licensing process that previously applied, and licences have automatically been revoked.

There is no paperwork to complete and no fees payable. Users are authorised to continue accessing groundwater for domestic and/or stock purposes.

It should be noted that bores used for domestic supply: domestic supply/gardens only; domestic supply/stock; gardens only; gardens only/stock; and stock/domestic supply are all included in the category of 'stock and domestic'.

Area B

Groundwater users for stock and domestic purposes in Area B (see Figure 1) can continue to access the water for stock and domestic purposes without a licence.

There is no paperwork to complete or fees to pay unless a bore is being replaced (see section on replacement bores).

New stock and domestic users

The plan provides for landholders to make an application to construct a new bore to access groundwater for stock and domestic purposes, except where the land:

- is in a service area for a retail water service (e.g. supplied by town water supply). This will help to minimise additional extraction of groundwater from the CBGMA.
- has been subdivided or reconfigured since 22 January 2007. This relates to the subdivision of large lots into smaller lots and ensures that the number of bores constructed within new subdivisions is no greater than the number of bores constructed on the original lot.

If the land is not in a service area for a retail water service and has not been subdivided or reconfigured since 22 January 2007, the owner is required to apply to the department for a development permit to construct a new bore.

If a development permit is issued, the owner may construct the bore and extract water.

Replacement bores

A replacement bore is one that is constructed to replace an existing authorised bore. A replacement bore must be constructed within 10 metres of the original bore and be no deeper than the original bore.

Once a replacement bore is operational, the original bore must be decommissioned.

Landowners in Area A may construct a replacement bore in accordance with the Code for Self-Assessable Development of Replacement Bores. This code is available from the NRW website <www.nrw.qld.gov.au> or any NRW service centre.

If a replacement bore cannot be constructed in accordance with this code a development permit must be obtained from the department prior to constructing the works.



Landowners in Area B wanting to construct a replacement bore are required to apply to the department for a development permit. Once a development permit is issued, the owner may construct the bore and extract water.

Constructing a stock and domestic bore

In Queensland, all water bores deeper than six metres must be constructed by a licensed water bore driller. Licensed drillers are required to comply with minimum construction standards to ensure that a bore is constructed correctly.

Further information

For more information on the coastal Burnett groundwater management area, see fact sheets W134 and W135 or go to the department's website <www.nrw.qld.gov.au> or contact the Bundaberg water services group on 07 4131 5855.

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For further information phone 13 13 04

Figure 1: Coastal Burnett groundwater management area map

