

Code for self-assessable development of subartesian bores

WSS/2013/585

Version 1.08

06/06/2022



Queensland
Government

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Version History

| Version | Date | Comments |
|---------|------------|--|
| 1.00 | 09/07/2003 | Policy Register |
| 1.01 | 24/06/2005 | Conversion Project - New Word XML Template |
| 1.02 | 03/06/2006 | Convert to new SharePoint template |
| 1.03 | 12/01/2010 | Make changes associated with the implementation of the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> (replaced <i>Integrated Planning Act 1997</i> on 18 December 2009). Update departmental name. |
| 1.04 | 28/02/2014 | Updated licensed water bore driller requirements to reflect section 816 of the <i>Water Act 2000</i> . Updated departmental references. Changed policy ID number from WAM/2003/1157 to WSS/2013/585 |
| 1.05 | 01/07/2016 | Updated departmental template. |
| 1.06 | 06/12/2016 | Section references and title of document updated to be consistent with changes from the <i>Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014</i> |
| 1.07 | 03/07/2017 | Amendments associated with implementation of the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> (replaced <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> on 3 July 2017). |
| 1.08 | 06/06/2022 | Update department branding and template. Insert dictionary |

Approval

| Position | Name | Date |
|---|------------|------------|
| Director, Water Operations – Divisional Support | Ian Gordon | 06/06/2022 |

1.0 Development to which this code applies

This code only applies to the development of water bores identified in Schedule 9 of the Water Regulation 2016 as self-assessable bores. Normally, these bores are used for stock or domestic water supplies.

All water bores in Queensland deeper than six metres must be constructed by, or under the supervision of, a licensed water bore driller in accordance with the Minimum construction requirements for water bores in Australia.

For the purposes of the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act), development in accordance with this code is considered accepted development.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this code is to ensure self-assessable bores are:

- constructed to an adequate standard that prolongs the productive life of the bore to the benefit of the user
- constructed to protect the aquifers from which water is extracted
- sited and constructed to protect the quality and quantity of the water resource for other users
- decommissioned in a way that protects public safety and the aquifer after they have deteriorated or have been abandoned.

3.0 Code requirements

Table 1 below lists the performance criteria and acceptable solutions for meeting the requirements of this self-assessable code.

Table 1 – Performance outcomes and acceptable outcomes

| Performance outcomes | Acceptable outcomes |
|---|---|
| Legal owner/occupier of land—the person responsible for the development must be the legal owner or occupier of the land. | The person responsible for the development is the legal owner or occupier of the land, either as a freehold title or leased from the freehold title owner. If the land on which the development is proposed is Crown Land (e.g. a road reserve) then a permit to occupy that site will be required before any work can commence. |
| Construction standards—to ensure that the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of water bores is carried out in a consistent way that protects the integrity of the resources (e.g. quality and quantity). | Drilling is carried out in accordance with Minimum construction requirements for water bores in Australia. A licensed water bore driller will be familiar with these standards. |
| Site rehabilitation—the aquifer is protected from pollution or damage after the bore is abandoned. | If the bore is abandoned, the site needs to be rehabilitated to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectively plug the bore with a cement grout to prevent leakage • prevent inundation of the aquifer by flood or surface water drainage • restore the natural level of the ground. |

4.0 Dictionary

Aquifer means a geological formation or part of a geological formation capable of transmitting and yielding water.

Bore means a subartesian water bore and may include a shaft, well, gallery, spear or excavation, and any works constructed in connection with the shaft, well, gallery, spear or excavation, that taps an aquifer and the water does not and never has flowed naturally to the surface.

Completion of a water bore in the context of this code means construction and equipping of a water bore such that it is capable of delivering water.

Owner of land is defined in Schedule 4 of the *Water Act 2000*.



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