



Do I Need a Licence to Extract Water?

Why do we have water extraction licenses?

Groundwater - Groundwater extraction licenses are issued in areas where there is a need for enhanced management to avoid stressing of groundwater reserves. This is generally within a Water Control District.

When is a groundwater extraction licence not required?

Anywhere in the Northern Territory when only using water for the purposes of:

- Stock;
- Domestic;
- Irrigation of a crop of an area less than 0.5 ha;
- Road construction and maintenance; or
- A Mining or Petroleum activity.

Then a licence to extract groundwater is not required.



When is a groundwater extraction licence required?

Anywhere in the Northern Territory if the bore is capable of pumping at a greater rate than 15l/s and using the groundwater for one of the following purposes:

Agriculture - That is providing irrigation water for primary production, including related research. For example: market garden; irrigated pasture; melons; vines; or fruit trees

Aquaculture - That being to provide water for commercial production of aquatic animals, including related research. For example: farming aquatic animals or cultivating aquatic plants.

Public Water Supply - That is providing a source of water for drinking purposes delivered through a community water supply system.

Industry - That is providing water for industry, including secondary industry. For example: Tourist Park; School; Golf Course; or Roadhouse.

Then a licence to extract groundwater is required.

Maps of NT Water Control Districts can be viewed or downloaded at the following WEB address:
<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/water/manage/maps.html>

Why do we have water extraction licenses?

Surface water – Surface water extraction licenses are issued for enhanced management to avoid stressing of river flows, wetlands and groundwater reserves. This is anywhere in the Northern Territory.

When is a surface water extraction licence not required?

Anywhere in the Northern Territory when only using water for the purposes of:

- Stock;
- Domestic;
- Irrigation of a crop of an area less than 0.5 ha;
- Road construction and maintenance; or
- A Mining or Petroleum activity.

Then a licence to extract surface water is not required.

When is a surface water extraction licence required?

When extracting surface water from any waterway within the Northern Territory which includes rivers, creeks, watercourses, swamps, lakes and lagoons and using the water for one of the following:

Agriculture - That is providing irrigation water for primary production, including related research. For example: market garden; irrigated pasture; melons; vines; or fruit trees

Aquaculture - That being to provide water for commercial production of aquatic animals, including related research. For example: farming aquatic animals or cultivating aquatic plants.

Public Water Supply - That is providing a source of water for drinking purposes delivered through a community water supply system.

Industry - That is providing water for industry, including secondary industry. For example: Tourist Park; School; Golf Course; or Roadhouse.

Then a licence to extract surface water is required.

Further Information:

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