

## What has been happening

Welcome to the annual Drillers' Newsletter. The 2020/21 irrigation season saw conditions that were somewhat at odds with the predicted wetter than average forecast for areas north of the Great Dividing Range.

Much of Goulburn-Murray Water's (GMW) operational region did not receive the benefits of spring and summer rainfall events, unlike other parts of the country.

These conditions have resulted in a large number of bore construction licence applications.

- Domestic & Stock (including Water Register applications) = 603
- Investigative = 222
- Observation = 217
- Dairy = 1
- Irrigation = 27
- Industrial/commercial = 11

## Review of groundwater temporary transfer processes and fees

Our fees are set to only recover the actual cost to deliver the services we provide. One fee that was increased in 2020/21 was the Tier 2 Temporary Transfer of Water Entitlement application fee. Over the previous four seasons under Water Plan 4, the fee we recovered was not meeting the actual cost to deliver the service; and as a result it was increased in Water Plan 5 to \$1600.

In response to this price increase, and in consideration of a revised business structure, GMW initiated a review of the assessment process to explore opportunities to implement a streamlined approach. This resulted in the creation of a Tier 2b assessment criteria and an accompanying fee of \$360.

To qualify for a Tier 2b trade and assessment an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- operated in a single year trade period
- trades that have a history of trading in and/or use of similar volumes in the past and have previously had a Tier 2 inspection performed in the last 3 years
- there are no known interference issues at, or surrounding, the buyers' points of extraction; and
- detailed information regarding buyers' groundwater licence is known and on record

We believe that the revised process and fee will benefit a large number of groundwater licence holders who are active in the temporary trade market.



## Reviews of Groundwater Management Plans

GMW is actively working towards the review and development of a number of groundwater management plans.

The development of these new plans will involve the establishment of a reference committee and representation will be sought from a range of related stakeholders.

To review the existing management plans please visit the GMW website at <https://www.gmwater.com.au/water-resources/ground-water>

## Bore Completion Reports (BCR)

Please ensure you complete and return a Bore Completion Report (BCR) for all bores that you construct or decommission within 28 days of the works being completed. Please note this is an important condition on the Bore Construction Licence. The speed at which the BCR is returned to GMW influences the timing of the issuing of subsequent approvals.

When completing a BCR the following information must be completed:

- Works licence number
- GPS co-ordinates
- Site address (this is the property address where the bore is located, not the postal address of the bore owner).
- All bore construction details – including depths of seals, grout and backfill.

Once you have completed the BCR, please forward the BCR to GMW via post or email the report to [licensingadmin@gmwater.com.au](mailto:licensingadmin@gmwater.com.au) We can then finalise the application.

If the bore has been drilled for licensable purposes further requirements will be required from the customer.

Please ensure you send the paperwork to the

correct water authority. If you are unsure, please phone the Customer Experience Team on 1800 013 357 for advice.

## Drillers' Licence Board

If any of your personal details have changed, please contact the Victorian Drillers' Licensing Board on (03) 5139 3100 or 1300 139 510 to update these. This will assist us when making contact with you if required.



## Investigation Bores

Drillers are reminded that a condition on a Bore Construction Licence (BCL) for investigative purposes is that the bore needs to be decommissioned in accordance with the Minimum Construction Standards for Water Bores in Australia Fourth Addition before the

drilling rig leaves the property. To request a copy of the recently updated standards visit [https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/329971/minimum-construction-requirements-for-water-bores-fourth-edition.pdf](https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/329971/minimum-construction-requirements-for-water-bores-fourth-edition.pdf)

We have been made aware of a small number of cases where the investigation bores have been left open after the drilling rigs have left. While we understand in some instances the investigation bores will be drilled out under a separate BCL for Licensable Purposes; this must be done under the appropriate authorisation.



## Online applications for Domestic and Stock bores

If one of your customers wants to construct a bore to use solely for Domestic and Stock water supply, or for investigation or monitoring purposes, you or they can apply for a licence online at <https://mywater.waterregister.vic.gov.au>.

Upon application, the licence will usually be sent to the nominated email address within 15 minutes. The cost for this application is \$235.00.

It is a requirement that you sight the Works Licence prior to drilling.

Please note there has been an increase in the number of landowners who are applying online for Domestic and Stock, Investigation or Observation bores with the intent to use the bore for licensable purpose. This may have significant financial consequences for the customer, and can also could lead to the refusal of any Take and Use Licence application as the appropriate assessment has not been undertaken at the drilling stage.

Works licences for bores that are to be used for irrigation or any other licensable purpose are only available by applying directly to GMW. This enables GMW to let customers know about potential risks and opportunities associated with obtaining a groundwater extraction licence.

Customers should phone the GMW Licensing Team on 1800 013 357 to begin this process

## Useful websites

- Online Works Licence: <https://mywater.waterregister.vic.gov.au>
- Visualising Victoria's Groundwater (VVG): <http://www.vvg.org.au/>
- Water Management Information Systems (WMIS) : <http://data.water.vic.gov.au/static.htm>



## 2021/2022 Schedule of Fees and Charges

### Groundwater and Bore Construction Application Fees - Licence to Construct Works (Bores)

GROUNDWATER	\$
<b>Works Licence</b>	
Construct Works Licence – Non Licensable Bore - After Existing / Issue New / Replace Existing (Form 72)	230
Construct Works Licence – Non Licensable Bore - Amend Existing / Renew existing / Transfer Ownership (Form 72)	230
Construct Works Licence – Non Licensable Bore – Additional Assessment (Form 72)	150
Construct Works Licence – Licensable Bore – Issue New / After Existing / Amend Existing (Form 70)	1,835
Construct Works Licence – Licensable Bore – Renew Existing / Transfer Ownership (Form 70)	210
Construct Works Licence – Licensable Bore – Replace Works (Form 70)	1,100
Construct Works Licence – Licensable Bore – Additional Assessment (Form 70)	150
Online – Construct a Domestic and Stock Bore	235
Online – Amend and renew a Domestic and Stock Bore	80
Online – Construct an Investigation or Monitoring Bore	235
Online – Amend or Renew an Investigation or Monitoring Bore	80
<b>Take and Use Licence</b>	
Licensable Bore – Issue New (Form 91)	1,835
Licensable Bore – Temporary Transfer Water Entitlement Tier 1 (Form 75GW)	210
Licensable Bore – Temporary Transfer Water Entitlement Tier 2 (Form 75GW)	1,600
Permanent Transfer Water (Form 74GW)	1,835
Licensable Bore – Transfer Ownership / Transfer Extraction Share (Form 93)	210
Licensable Bore – Renew Existing (Form 73GW)	700
Licensable Bore – Decrease Volume / Remove Land (Form 91)	210
Licensable Bore – Surrender a Licence (Form 79)	150
Licensable Bore – Subdivide a Licence (Form 78)	1,300
Licensable Bore – Amalgamate Licences (Form 77)	1,300
Licensable Bore – Amend Existing (Form 91)	700

If you are unsure of the amount applicable to your application, please contact the Licensing Unit on 1800 013 357.