



# Rural Dams

## Frequently Asked Questions

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## What is this fact sheet about?

To provide an outline of the approval process for the construction of dams in rural areas.

## What are the general requirements?

Dams are considered to be ancillary to agricultural use on land in rural zoned areas. It is unlikely that rural dams can comply with the relevant provisions for earthworks within the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* (Codes SEPP); and therefore, the construction of a rural dam will most likely require development consent from Council.

A licence or other consent may additionally be required from WaterNSW (formerly NSW Office of Water) if:

- The dam is collecting flow from a major stream.
- The combined capacity of the proposed dam exceeds the Maximum Harvestable Rights Dam Capacity (MHRDC) for your property.

WaterNSW manages water access and licensing and has prepared a range of information sheets to update and guide landholders who intend to construct dams. These can be accessed through the WaterNSW website at: <https://www.watarnsw.com.au/>

For farm dams on major streams or dams which will exceed the MHRDC, the development is considered integrated development and an approval from WaterNSW is required. It should be noted that annual charges are payable for licensed dams.

## Who can I call for assistance?

Contact Council on 02 4823 4444 or WaterNSW on 1300 662 077.