



# Farm dams in the Western Division of NSW

In the Western Division of NSW, most farm dams do not require a licence.

The size of farm dams is not restricted in the Western Division, unlike other areas of the State, for several reasons:

- in many places runoff water does not reach major rivers;
- runoff events are usually few;
- the amounts of water intercepted are not likely to significantly affect natural resources; and
- because most properties are already fully watered for stock and domestic purposes.

Therefore the harvestable rights provisions of the *Water Management Act 2000* do not apply in the Western Division.

## Do I need a water licence?

Table 1: Water licence requirements

Type of dam or structure	Used for stock or domestic purposes	Used for irrigation or other commercial purpose
Dam not on (or supplied from) a river, lake or floodplain	No	No
Existing dam on (or supplied from) a river	Yes*	Yes
New or enlarged dam on (or supplied from) a river, lake or floodplain	Yes*	Yes
Block banks, diversion banks, and other water diverting structures on a river, lake or floodplain	Yes	Yes
Existing dam on lake or floodplain	No	Yes

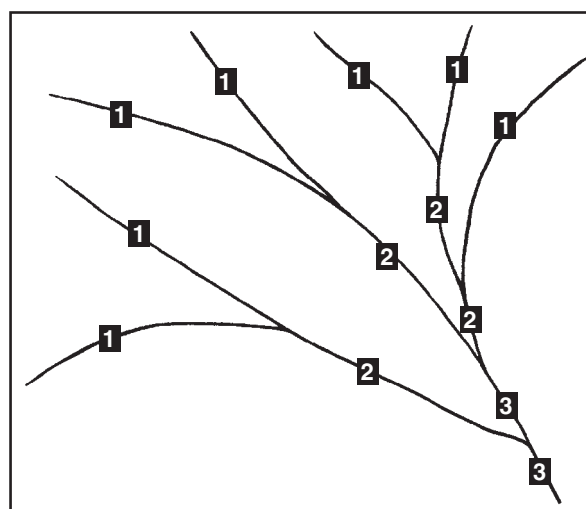
\* Unless the dam is under 7 ML and was constructed before 1 January 1999.

## Definitions

Rivers, lakes and floodplains are defined as:

- streams (drainage lines) which show on 1:100,000 scale topographic maps produced by the Central Mapping Authority and later Land Information Centre, as 3rd order streams or greater see Figure 1;

Figure 1: Stream Order



- effluent creeks (ie. creeks running **out** of streams), billabongs and anabranches;
- lakes which are described as “perennial or intermittent” and generally coloured blue on the maps; and
- those areas of the active floodplains of the main rivers which are hatched on 1:100,000 scale topographic maps and marked “land subject to flooding”. In some cases 1:50,000 maps are used (see Table 2).

Where dams existing prior to 1 January 1999 now require licensing, the process has been streamlined by having:

- advertising and objection provisions waived; and
- no requirement to obtain (by water trading) the volume necessary unless the use is being changed from stock and domestic to irrigation or some other commercial purpose.

Where a farm dam licence is required, a fee of \$95 will license all dams on a property for five years.

## Other approvals needed

If you are considering building a dam, you should be aware that approval is required to:

- clear land of native vegetation for cropping or sowing pastures;
- cultivate land on Western Lands Grazing Leases;
- harvest yabbies or fish for commercial purposes; and
- construct irrigation water storages for water pumped from any surface water source.

## Topographic maps

The **topographic maps** can be viewed at DNR offices in Bourke, Broken Hill, Buronga, Cobar, Condobolin, Hay and Walgett and at Dubbo Regional Office.

**Table 2: Map sheets where 1:50,000 scale applies:**

Annuello	Maude
Balranald Lake	Mildura
Billybingbone	Mogil Mogil
Booligal	Monak
Cal Lal	Murrawombie
Cargelligo	One Eye Tank
Colignan	One Tree
Collarenebri	Oxley
Cowl Cowl	Perekerten
Culpataro	Tarwong
Euabalong	Toms Lake
Eulalie	Tooleybuc
Euston	Walgett
Hillston	Wanourie
Geera	Weimby
Kiacatoo	Wentworth
Kyalite	Womboin
Marra	

## Where do I get more information?

Contact the water licensing officer at your local Department of Natural Resources office (contact details are available separately and on the website), or phone 1800 353 104, or e-mail [wma.info@dnr.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wma.info@dnr.nsw.gov.au)

More information sheets on dealings and water management in NSW are available on our website [www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au](http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au)

There are several more information sheets on water management in NSW.

Note: This information does not constitute formal legal advice.