

Adjustments to the Fitzroy – Derby Water Resources Management Plan May 2026

1.1. Without limiting the matters that may be relevant, the Department will consider the following as relevant in the Plan Area when assessing applications¹: ...

2.1. The Department will require the applicant to provide further information, within a specified time, to help assess whether the proposed take and use of water are environmentally acceptable and ecologically sustainable, which must include: ...

2.2. The Department will require the applicant to provide further information, within a specified time, regarding how an application may affect Traditional Owners' water-related rights, interests, cultural values and heritage. This will include evidence that the applicant has consulted with the relevant native title party/ies: ...

2.3. In addition to the factors the Department considers in determining whether a hydrogeological assessment is required, as outlined in Operational policy no. 5.12 – Hydrogeological reporting associated with a groundwater well licence (DoW 2009), the Department will also consider: ...

2.4. In addition to the factors listed in policy 2.3, the Department will require a hydrogeological assessment for applicants requesting more than 50,000 kL/year, if the proposed production bore is: ...

2.5. The Department will undertake baseline monitoring to support water licence assessment. This will include:

a) constructing monitoring bores at designated locations

2.6. The Department will require applicants to undertake detailed, site-specific investigations into hydrogeology and the potential impacts of water use to support the Department to determine a sustainable volume that can be taken from water resources where an allocation limit has not been set.

2.7. The Department will require the applicant to provide information that demonstrates how they will prevent and minimise impacts at sites of ecological, cultural and social significance during the licence term. This will be achieved by: ...

3.4. The Department will not grant a licence for more than 3 gigalitres of groundwater per year in a single application.

3.6. The Department will not grant a licence for abstraction that is predicted to impact on the water regime in ways that would have an unacceptable impact on sites of ecological, cultural or social significance or a detrimental effect on other water users.

4.1. The Department will include a condition that all bores are constructed in accordance with the latest edition of Minimum construction requirements for water bores in Australia (National Uniform Drillers Licensing Committee 2020; or as updated).

4.2. As a condition of bore construction, the Department will require an applicant to conduct downhole geophysical logging (including gamma and resistivity) or sample palynology on new and replacement bores at the time of drilling.

4.7. Applicants will be asked to prepare a nutrient and irrigation management plan, in addition to an operating strategy, where the application of nutrients and fertilisers has the potential to contaminate water sources.

5.1. In addition to the factors listed in policy 2.3, the Department will require a detailed hydrogeological assessment for applications involving water abstracted from an aquifer that underlies the Alluvial aquifer or may cause drawdown in the Alluvial aquifer. In addition to, or as part of the detailed hydrogeological assessment, the Department will also request: ...

5.3. The Department will require, as part of a hydrogeological assessment, under Schedule 1, Division 2, clause 4(2) of the Act, that the applicant: ...

5.4. In addition to policy 2.1, if the predicted impact of the take and use of water extends to this management zone, the Department will require evidence that the applicant has: ...

5.6. The Department will not grant new water licence applications that are located outside of this management zone but are likely to cause drawdown within the zone.

1.1 The Department will seek specialist advice during licence or permit assessments if impacts from the take and use of water are likely, including advice from the: ...

Potential applicants should consider that the Department:

- a) expects potential applicants to meet the Department at the project planning stage, and before submitting a water licence or permit application, to identify the water management issues that relate to their project
- b) expects applicants to seek advice from the Department about whether a licence to construct or alter a well is required in the Wallal, Erskine, Liveringa, Noonkanbah, Grant Poole or Devonian Reef aquifers because these aquifers are artesian in some areas
- c) expects applicants to submit applications at the same time (for a licence to take water and a licence to construct or alter a bore) to help the Department assess water needs early and clarify the required information, while noting that licences may not be issued together (bore construction and testing results often inform the hydrogeological assessment for the licence to take water)
- d) will request an applicant to submit a project proposal report and/or a scope of works before the applicant begins investigations, to make sure the investigations are appropriately designed and to reduce any delays from the Department possibly requesting additional information later.

Local licensing guidance 3.4

Where there is uncertainty about groundwater behaviour, connectivity or the groundwater-dependence of nearby sites of ecological, cultural or social significance, the Department will not grant a licence.

4.5 The Department requires an applicant to undertake monitoring in a manner that is consistent with any agreement/s with Traditional Owners.

Table 9 Performance indicators

Environmental outcomes: The Department will review the changes or trends, relative to natural conditions, in one or more of the following: ...

Monitoring

Sources of information will include: • the Department's regional monitoring sites in the Plan Area (Appendix C) • monitoring and sampling by licensees as part of their licence or

permit conditions, which will include water levels, water quality and ecological monitoring.

Water use outcomes Performance indicators

The Department will review the changes or trends in one or more of the following: ...

Monitoring

Sources of information will include: ...

Community outcomes Performance indicators

Together with a Water Advisory Committee, the Department will review one or more of the following: ...