

Water extraction licences for mining and petroleum activities

The Water Act 1992 applies to mining and petroleum activities. To use surface water or groundwater you will need to comply with the Water Act 1992.

A **transition period** is in place to enable mining and petroleum activities to move into the water extraction licensing regime under the Water Act 1992 within a reasonable timeframe.

For the transition period to apply, the mine or environment management plan must have been:

- approved before 1 July 2019 or
- submitted for approval before 1 July 2019 and then approved with no change

The transition period does not apply to hydraulic fracturing activities.

Surface water extraction licence

Mining and petroleum activities need a surface water extraction licence if taking water that is flowing or contained in a waterway (for example a river, creek, lake or dam) and:

- you are engaged in hydraulic fracturing activities
- you do not have a mine management plan or environmental management plan that was approved before 1 July 2019
- you have an approved plan, and want to increase the volume of water taken
- your approved plan has expired
- you want to change your approved plan

A surface water extraction licence is **not** required for clean water diverted around a mine site.

Groundwater extraction licence

Mining and petroleum activities need a groundwater extraction licence if taking water from a bore that is greater than 3 metres deep and:

- the water is for hydraulic fracturing activities
- you do not have a mine management plan or environmental management plan that was approved before 1 July 2019
- you have an approved plan, but want to increase the volume of water taken
- your approved plan has expired
- you want to change your approved plan or
- you are using water for operational use and mine dewatering

A groundwater extraction licence is **not** required for extraction of water from an active mine pit via an in-pit sump.

Exemptions

Read about exemptions [here](#).

Apply for a licence

To apply for a licence you must complete a surface water or groundwater licence application form and submit the form with all of the required information to water.licensing@nt.gov.au.

Applications must include any relevant, previous or current:

- Mining Management Plan or
- Environment Management Plan

to identify any previously authorised water entitlement.

Applications submitted without all of the required information will be returned.

Read about applying for a water extraction licence, and find the application forms, at waterresources.nt.gov.au/licenceapply.

Submit an application

- **Email**

Attach the completed and signed application form and all the required supporting information to water.licensing@nt.gov.au.

- **Post**

Water Resources Division
Licensing and Regulation Branch
PO Box 496
PALMERSTON NT 0831

Need help?

Contact Water Resources Division for more information.

- Phone **08 8999 4455** during business hours or email water.licensing@nt.gov.au.