

Mining Management Plans and the Water Act 1992

Background

Amendments to the Water Act 1992 (the Act) which commenced in December 2018 mean that the requirement for water licensing and permits to take water resources, apply to mining, extractives and ancillary activities.

A Mining Management Plan (MMP) is regulated and approved under the Mining Management Act 2001. This fact sheet provides guidance on what information should be included in an MMP to address the requirements of the Water Act 1992 as administered by Water Resources Division of the department.

Taking water - surface and/or groundwater

Obtaining a secure and reliable water supply for the lifetime of a project is imperative for its economic viability. An MMP must detail the anticipated water demand (water balance) and source of water for the life of the proposed mining activity.

If a project is proposing to take surface or groundwater, the MMP must detail:

- **Water extraction licence status** - Whether a groundwater and/or surface water extraction licence has been obtained (or been applied for) and include reference to the licence or application number. The MMP should include a commitment to obtain all required water extraction licences prior to any take of water.
- **Water supply infrastructure** - Whether the identified supply bores or pumps are sufficient to provide the required volume and/or rate of supply, or whether additional infrastructure is required.
- **Water demand** - The MMP should include a site water balance which demonstrates water demand over the life of the project. If the MMP relates to an existing operation it should detail whether the water demand is projected to increase or decrease.

Read further information on how to apply for a licence at <https://nt.gov.au/water-extraction-licence>

Interference with a waterway

To enable assessment of whether a mining activity triggers the requirement to obtain a **Permit to interfere with a waterway** an MMP should include a scaled map/figure that clearly shows the project footprint in relation to all waterways (perennial and ephemeral), denoting stream order(s) in the activity area.

If the proposed activity involves interference with a waterway, the MMP should include justification on why this is required, detail on any site surveys which informed the mapping and proposed mitigation measures, and GPS-located photographs of the target waterway (upstream and downstream).

Read further information on how to apply for a permit at <https://nt.gov.au/interfere-waterway-permit>

Bore work permits

An MMP should identify the proposed number of bores, location and purpose. Furthermore, if the proposed bore work is inside a water control district, a bore work permit will be required.

All bore work must be undertaken by a NT licensed driller and in accordance with the Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia (current edition).

All final Statement of Bores must be supplied to the department by email to water.regulation@nt.gov.au. This commitment should be made in the MMP.

Read further information on how to apply for a bore work permit at www.nt.gov.au/BWPs

Grant of a recharge licence

If the mining or ancillary activity involves any aquifer injection/infiltration it is recommended that you contact the Water Resources Division in the department to discuss the proposal on water.licensing@nt.gov.au.

Need Help?

Contact Water Resources Division for more information.

Phone: **08 8999 4455** during business hours

Email: water.licensing@nt.gov.au