



Record of groundwater take under exemption

October 2020 Natural Resources Access Regulator

How to use this form

Use this form to record and report groundwater taken by aquifer interference activities¹ when claiming either of the following **water access licence exemptions** (please mark which exemption you are claiming):

- Taking up to 3 ML per water year per groundwater source through certain² aquifer interference activities in connection with an authorised project³ ('the **<3 ML aquifer interference exemption**') (see clauses 21(1), 21(6), 231(1) and clause 7 of Schedule 4 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018)
- or
- Taking more than 3 ML of groundwater per water year from the Botany Sands Groundwater Source for the purposes of excavation dewatering ('the **>3 ML excavation exemption**') (see clauses 21(1), 230(5) and 231(6) and clause 17A of Schedule 4 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018).

You will need to complete and submit a separate form for each authorised project and each groundwater source that you take water from every water year (1 July–30 June) that you take water.

To claim the **>3 ML excavation exemption**, a meter must be used to record the take but telemetry is not required.

To claim either of the exemptions, you must meet the conditions of the relevant exemption, including record-keeping and reporting requirements set out in the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 and in this form. These requirements are in addition to any record-making and reporting requirements of any related approvals or authorisations you hold for your project.

This form is the approved form and manner for the purpose of clauses 21(6)(c), 21(6)(e), 230(5)(b)(i) and 231(6)(b)(i) of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

Please read the **additional information** contained in the notes on pages 13-15. If there is insufficient room in any field please provide the information as an attachment.

Ensure you complete Sections A-E and H, and Section F or G as applicable.

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Section A Summary of water taken under exemption

Identify the water year that applies to this record and the total volume of groundwater that was taken under the exemption in that water year.

Water year (1 July – 30 June 20xx)		Total recorded volume ⁴ taken within the water year (in megalitres or litres)		ML
				L
Groundwater source ⁵				
Reference number ⁶				
Date received (Office use only)				

Section B Project authorisation⁷

Complying development⁸ Exemption applies

or

If your project is **not** a complying development or exempt from authorisation please provide details of the approval, consent, licence, permit or other **form of authorisation for your project**.

Authorisation number/s	Determining authority

If claiming the **>3 ML excavation exemption** please provide the annual water extraction limit stated on your water supply work approval⁹.

Annual extraction limit (ML)	
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Section C Details of person taking water¹⁰

Name
Company/organisation (including ACN)
Postal address
Phone
Email

Section D Activity description

Project Name
Describe the activity/s resulting in groundwater being taken ¹¹
Describe the means by which the groundwater is being taken ¹²

Section E Activity location

E1 Provide relevant groundwater work numbers ¹³ if known

(please complete **either** E2 **or** E3)

E2 Locality or suburb ¹⁴ (for explorers/large linear infrastructure only)
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E3 For all other activities please complete **one** of the following:

Address		
Town	NSW	Postcode

or

Lot / Deposited Plan / Section

or

GPS coordinates ¹⁵ (For example 32.25316 S 148.60022 E)
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Section F Record of metered volumes taken

Complete **either** Section F **or** Section G.

Complete this section to record **metered** volumes taken under either exemption.

For the **>3ML excavation exemption** make a record in this section **for each week that water is taken**¹⁶. To claim this exemption, metering equipment¹⁷ must be used to record the groundwater taken.

For the **<3 ML aquifer interference exemption**, if a meter has been used to record the groundwater taken, record in this section the water taken **for each period of take** (rather than for each week) **no later than 24 hours after the water is taken**¹⁸. If the groundwater take was not measured using metering equipment, do not complete this section, **go to Section G**.

Meter brand and type

Meter serial number

Week ending <small>(only complete column for the >3 ML excavation exemption)</small>	Start date and time	Start meter reading	End date and time	End meter reading	Volume taken	Units (L, ML)	Date and time record made

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Week ending <small>(only complete column for the >3 ML excavation exemption)</small>	Start date and time	Start meter reading	End date and time	End meter reading	Volume taken	Units (L, ML)	Date and time record made

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Section F Record of metered volumes taken (cntd.)

This page provides additional space and may be copied multiple times, if needed

Meter brand and type **Meter serial number**

Week ending <small>(only complete column for the >3 ML excavation exemption)</small>	Start date and time of take	Start meter reading	End date and time of take	End meter reading	Volume taken	Units (L, ML)	Date and time record made

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Week ending <small>(only complete column for the >3 ML excavation exemption)</small>	Start date and time of take	Start meter reading	End date and time of take	End meter reading	Volume taken	Units (L, ML)	Date and time record made



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Section G Record of non-metered volumes taken

Complete this section to record non-metered volumes taken under the **<3 ML aquifer interference exemption only**. Make a record of the water **taken for each period of take no later than 24 hours after water is taken**.

Describe the method used to **measure** the volume of groundwater taken¹⁹

Start date of take	End date of take	Volume taken	Units (L, ML)	Date record made

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Section G Record of water take – non-metered volumes (cntd.)

This page provides additional space and may be copied multiple times, if needed.

Start date of take	End date of take	Volume taken	Units (L, ML)	Date record made

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Section H Declaration

I declare all information contained in this record is accurate, true and complete.

Signature	Date
Name/company officeholder	
Position	Phone
Address	
Email	

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under Part 5A of the *Crimes Act 1900*. It is an offence under section 91J of the *Water Management Act 2000* for a person to make a statement or furnish information in or in connection with a metering record required to be kept that the person knows to be false or misleading in a material particular.

Returning completed forms

You must submit a copy of the completed form not later than 28 days after the end of the water year in which the water was taken (that is by 29th July) or earlier if requested²⁰.

Please return your completed form/s and any attachments to:

- **WaterNSW customers**
Customer.Helpdesk@watnsw.com.au or PO Box 398 Parramatta NSW 2124
- **Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR) customers**
nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au or Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Where to get help

Further information is available at:

- **WaterNSW** /1300 662 077 / Customer.Helpdesk@watnsw.com.au
www.watnsw.com.au/customer-service/water-licensing/dewatering
- **NRAR** / 1800 633 362 / nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au
www.industry.nsw.gov.au/natural-resources-access-regulator



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Privacy Statement

The personal information you provide on this form is subject to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*. It is being collected by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and will be used for purposes relating to the regulation of water take under the *Water Management Act 2000* and in particular water take under the water access licence exemptions described in this form. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment may disclose your personal information to the NRAR and WaterNSW. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will not disclose your personal information to anybody else unless authorised by law. The provision of this information is required to be supplied under the *Water Management Act 2000*. If you choose not to provide the requested information in this form you may not be able to take water under the relevant water licence exemption and you may be in breach of the *Water Management Act 2000*. You have the right to request access to, and correct details of, your personal information held by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Further information regarding privacy can be obtained from the department's website www.industry.nsw.gov.au/privacy

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Notes

1 Aquifer interference activity has the same meaning as set out in the dictionary to the *Water Management Act 2000*, which is an activity involving any of the following:

- a) the penetration of an aquifer
- b) the interference with water in an aquifer
- c) the obstruction of the flow of water in an aquifer
- d) the taking of water from an aquifer in the course of carrying out mining, or any other activity prescribed by the regulations
- e) the disposal of water taken from an aquifer as referred to in paragraph d).

2 The activities to which the **<3 ML aquifer interference exemption** applies are listed in clause 7(2) of Schedule 4 to the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.

3 Authorised project is defined in clause 7(5) of Schedule 4 to the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*, being an activity:

- a) that is the subject of a consent, approval or other lawful authority conferred by or under an Act or
- b) to which Division 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* applies or
- c) that is exempt development under that Act.

4 Record the **total volume of groundwater taken** in the water year for the groundwater source in either megalitres (ML) or litres (L).

5 If you are unsure which **groundwater source** you are taking water from check at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/water-sharing-plans/status/_nocache

or please contact WaterNSW or NRAR for assistance.

Note, if your project takes groundwater from more than one groundwater source, you will need to complete a form for each groundwater source from which you are taking water and claiming an exemption for.

6 As these exemptions commenced in December 2019, no **reference number** is available for the 2019–20 water year. In following years, provide the reference number that will be issued to you by WaterNSW or NRAR after submitting this record for a previous water year.

7 Examples of authorisations may include:

- water supply work approvals granted under the *Water Management Act 2000*
- water licences granted under the *Water Act 1912*
- exploration licences or assessment leases granted under the *Mining Act 1992*
- petroleum exploration licences and petroleum assessment leases granted under the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*
- development consents granted under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

8 Complying development is a combined planning and construction approval for straightforward development that can be determined through a fast-track assessment by a council or an accredited certifier.

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9 It is a requirement of the **>3 ML excavation exemption** that the water supply work approval be subject to an **annual extraction limit** (see clause 17A(1)(a) of Schedule 4 to the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018).

10 For infrastructure or construction projects, this may be the **proponent's representative**, for example a contractor.

11 Describe the activity/s taking groundwater while conducting the aquifer interference activity and the number of works involved.

For example:

- extraction using a battery of 15 spear points to dewater a building construction site
- drilling 25 reverse circulation mineral exploration drillholes
- groundwater extracted from a permanent sump in a building basement
- pump-and-treat of contaminated groundwater from four extraction bores
- evaporation from two artificial lakes that fill from groundwater
- investigating a contaminated site
- geotechnical or geoenvironmental investigation
- groundwater extracted from a temporary trench or excavation
- groundwater seepage from a cutting
- water quality sampling from eight monitoring bores
- conducting a pumping test on a bore
- dewatering from six coal seam gas pilot production bores
- groundwater extracted while drilling a ground source heating system
- investigating groundwater resources

12 Examples of the **means by which the groundwater is taken** include surface pump, airlift, downhole/submersible pump, bailer, water removed with ground materials, water freely draining from a cutting, pit seepage/inflow, evaporation from artificial lake that has filled from groundwater. Where several means of take are involved please identify the number and type of each.

13 This is a **departmental reference number** 'GWxxxxxx'. For government-owned monitoring bores this number is stamped on the bore headworks.

14 Provide **name of locality or suburb** that relates to the project.

15 Please provide GPS coordinates as longitude and latitude in decimal degrees.

16 For the **>3 ML excavation exemption**, the person claiming the exemption must record water taken on this record and keep a copy of this record for five years (see clauses 230(5), 230(6) and 238(1) of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018).

17 It is a condition of the **>3 ML excavation exemption** that the **mandatory metering equipment condition is required to be complied with** in respect of a water supply work being used to take the groundwater, except for clause 4(3) of Schedule 8 to the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018. For the purposes of this exemption, metering equipment consists of a meter and a data logger. **Telemetry is not required under this exemption.** However, other metering equipment and standards may be specified by a condition of the water supply work approval.



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In the **event metering equipment becomes faulty**, you must report within 24 hours to WaterNSW at www.waternsw.com.au/s91i. An offence applies under section 911A of the *Water Management Act 2000* for failing to report faulty metering equipment within 24 hours.

- 18** For Section F (or Section G if using) you must make a new record for each period of take during your activity. The **period of take** is either the date groundwater was taken, or the start and end dates for a period of continuous take. This record must be retained for five years.
- 19** Examples of **non-metered methods used to measure** the volume of water taken include: v-notch weir or velocity times area; borehole, sump, bailer or bucket volume; evaporation or seepage calculation.
- 20** You may be required to give a copy of this form to the minister or delegate earlier if requested (see clauses 21(6), 230(5) and 231(6) of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018).