

Domestic and stock rights

Frequently asked questions



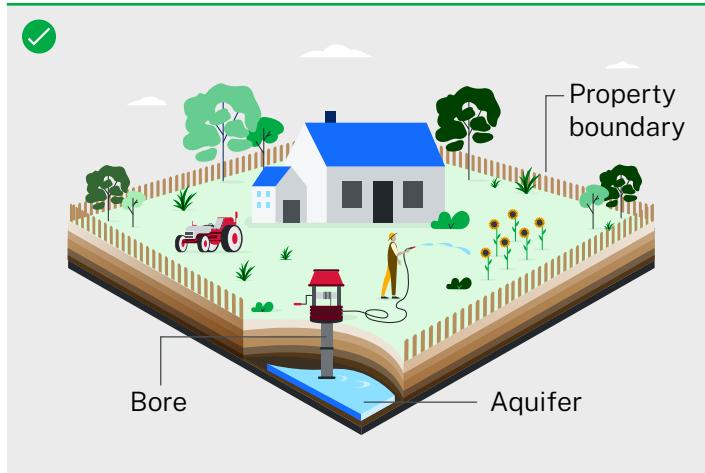
This fact sheet provides a basic overview of domestic and stock rights, how they can be used and what they can be used for.

What are domestic and stock rights?

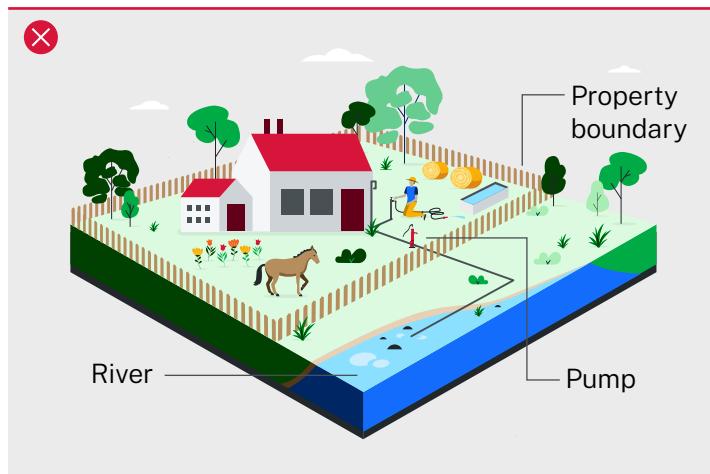
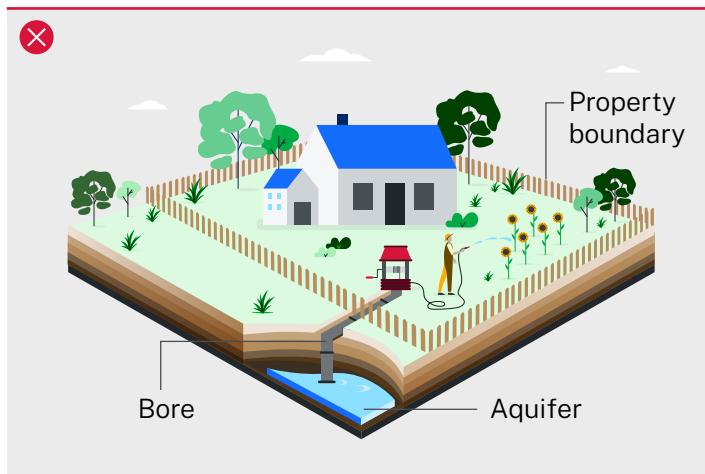
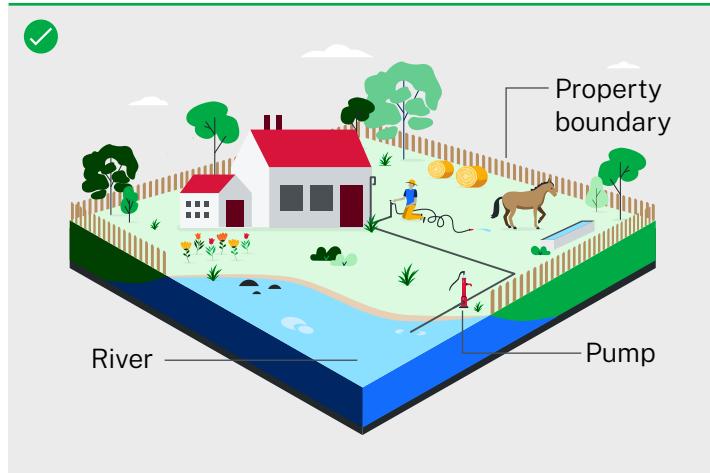
Landholders can take and use water for domestic consumption and stock watering without certain authorisations if their land has river, lake, or estuary frontage, or is overlaying an aquifer.

This is called domestic and stock rights, which is a type of basic landholder right.

Properties overlaying an aquifer



Properties with river, lake or estuary frontage



Who has domestic and stock rights?

For domestic and stock rights to apply, the landholder can be the owner of the land or a lawful occupier. A lawful occupier includes a person with a lease, easement or Crown land licence.

What authorisations are needed to use domestic and stock rights?

If you take water under your domestic and stock right using a bore, you need a water supply work approval to authorise the bore's construction. You may also need a water supply work approval to build a dam.

An approval is required to ensure that the construction of the dam or bore does not cause negative impacts on water sources and their dependent ecosystems, or other landholders' access to water for landholder rights.

What can domestic and stock rights be used for?

Domestic Consumption

Domestic consumption means the use of water for normal household purposes in connection to a domestic premises, (including a residential shed, caravan or tent), situated on the land to which the basic landholder right exists. This includes water for drinking, laundry, or watering a garden connected to the household.

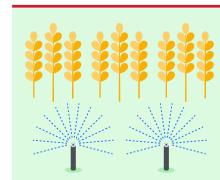
Domestic consumption does not relate to commercial activities.

✓ Examples of authorised use



Watering a garden on the same landholding as the domestic premises.

✗ Examples of unauthorised use



Watering a cultivated area such as a plantation, orchard or any crop (including fodder) that is used for commercial purposes.



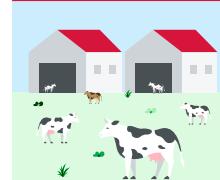
Ordinary residential purposes such as washing clothes, bathing, drinking water, cleaning and pet care.



Purposes related to large scale commercial activities.



Use of water in sheds, other outbuildings or structures (on the same landholding) for normal household purposes.



Use of water in sheds, other outbuildings or structures used for commercial purposes e.g. hydroponics or dairy.



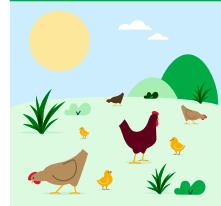
Stock watering

Stock watering is the provision of water to stock animals being raised on the land to which the basic landholder right exists for drinking, and for other purposes to maintain health and hygiene.

Stock watering does not mean:

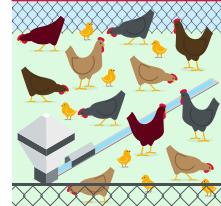
- the provision of water to stock animals on an intensive commercial basis, where the animals are housed or kept in feedlots or other building types, or
- the irrigation of feed for stock animals.

✓ Examples of authorised use



Watering stock and other farm animals being kept on a largely 'free range' basis.

✗ Examples of unauthorised use



Watering stock kept housed in structures for a substantial period of their raising (such as feedlots) or for the purposes of operating a commercial zoo or wildlife park.



Water for horses kept for farm work or pleasure activities by landholder, such as recreational riding.



Water for racehorses at a local racetrack brought in for race days.



What about water needed for unauthorised purposes?

Any take of water by domestic and stock rights holders for purposes outside of domestic and stock watering must be authorised by a water access licence (see Water Licensing at www.waternsw.com.au/licensing).

What guarantees exist for domestic and stock rights?

Domestic and stock rights are given a priority under the *Water Management Act 2000*. It specifies that sharing of water from a water source (for example, as outlined in a Water Sharing Plan) must protect basic landholder rights.

There is no guarantee however, that water will always be available to take from the river or aquifer. This may depend on environmental factors such as rainfall or seasonal flow. Restrictions may be imposed in drought conditions.



For more information

For more information visit the department's website at www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water (Licensing and trade > Rights, licensing and trade > Domestic and stock rights).

If you are uncertain whether you are entitled to domestic and stock rights or for further details, contact the WaterNSW Customer Service team on **1300 662 077** or email Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au.