



Bore extraction limits (BEL)

Fact sheet

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) is an independent regulator established under the NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator Act 2017.

As the NSW regulator, we ensure water is used lawfully so that all communities and the environment get a fair share. Water is for everyone.

Bore extraction limits¹ help protect groundwater sources, dependent ecosystems and the community.

A bore extraction limit is the maximum amount of water that you are approved to take from a groundwater source using a bore. This applies even if the water allocation in your water access licence is higher than your bore extraction limit.

Finding your bore extraction limit

Not all bores have extraction limits. They might be established when someone applies for a new or additional bore or they want to increase the volume they pump.

You can find your bore extraction limit in the conditions section of your water supply work approval. Each bore will have its own set of conditions. It is important that you understand all of the conditions on your approval.

Check your conditions on the [NSW Water Register](#)².

Why bore extraction limits are important

Bore extraction limits help to protect complex and fragile groundwater sources from contamination, deterioration and depletion. Limiting the water that we take from groundwater sources ensures the long-term sustainability of water for our communities and the environment.

Exceeding your bore extraction limit may reduce the water available in nearby bores or surface water sources. This reduction of water can affect your neighbours as well as groundwater-dependent vegetation and ecosystems.

Bore extraction limits – what you need to do



Check the conditions on your water supply works approval to understand your bore extraction limit



Ensure your bore is fitted with the required meter to measure your water take. Find out more on [our metering webpages](#)³



Record your water take using the WaterNSW online water accounting system (iWAS) or logbooks



Monitor your water take to ensure you do not exceed your bore extraction limit

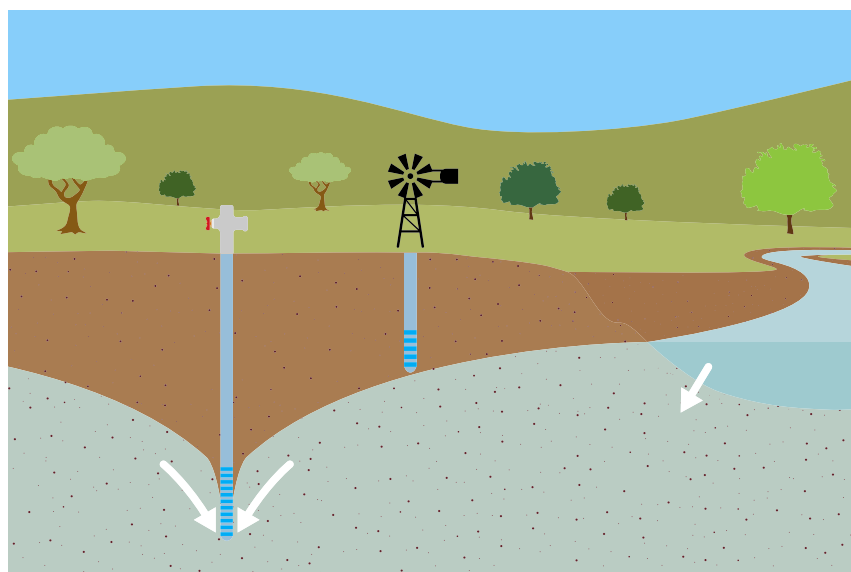
What happens if I exceed the bore extraction limit?

We respond in a range of ways to potential breaches. For example, we may:

- provide information to help you comply
- issue stop work orders and directions
- issue cautions and fines
- prosecute in serious cases.

Exceeding the bore extraction limit is an offence under section 91 G of the *Water Management Act (2000)*.





Under the Act, water users may be charged up to 5 times the value of water illegally taken.



Taking water in excess of a bore extraction limit can have many negative effects, including drawdown of groundwater which can lead to impact on neighbouring groundwater bores and waterways.

- 1 nrar.nsw.gov.au/how-to-comply/bore-extraction-limits
- 2 waterregister.watarnsw.com.au/water-register-frame
- 3 nrar.nsw.gov.au/how-to-comply/metering

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More information

To contact NRAR, you can write to us at nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au

To find out more about bore extraction limits, scan the QR code below.

