

WATER Districts

Irrigation and Water Supply Districts

Application to Minister

An application may be made to the Minister for Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment to create a water supply or irrigation district.

Application can be made:

- By the owners of at least two-thirds of the land comprised in any area specified in the application which can be irrigated or watered from a common source of supply, requesting that that area be constituted a water supply district or a water supply district;

Or

- By a water entity (to which Division 1 Part 9 of the *Water Management Act 1999* applies) where an area specified in an application can be irrigated or watered from a common source of supply, requesting that that area be constituted a water supply district or an irrigation district.

Drainage Districts

Establishing a Drainage District

A drainage district may be established for all or any of the following purposes:

- Deepening, widening, straightening, diverting or otherwise improving any existing drain or outfall for water, within its drainage district, and removing obstructions to drains or outfalls for water, and raising, widening, or otherwise altering any existing defence against water
- Making any new drain or new outfalls for water, erecting any new defence against water, erecting any machinery and doing any other act required for the drainage of the drainage district.
- Making, maintaining, altering or discontinuing all such works of any kind or description and erecting such buildings and machinery within the drainage district as may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities;
- Erecting and maintaining fences on the boundaries of any drain and providing, constructing and maintaining bridges over any drain;
- Erecting, constructing and maintaining dams, tanks and other means of storing and conserving water as may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

Hydro-Electric Districts

Application to create a hydro-electric district

An application may be made to the Minister by an electricity entity that holds a special licence under Section 115 (2) of the *Water Management Act 1999* requesting a hydro-electric district.

Definition

The hydro-electric district may be defined as:

- The whole or part of a catchment area of a certain watercourse or lake; or
- A specified area of land

Purpose

A hydro-electric district may be established to undertake and manage works for the same purposes as a Riverworks district or do any act, matter or thing for the following reasons:

- Measuring the flow or levels of water in, or the quantity of water taken by any person from, any watercourse or lake in the district;
- Conserving and regulating water in watercourses and lakes and purifying and protecting that water from pollution;
- Any purpose referred to in, or incidental to, a special licence relating to the hydro-electric district.

The above mentioned purposes must be consistent with the objectives of the *Water Management Act 1999*.

Special Licences

A body corporate may apply to the Minister to grant a special licence. Special licences may be granted where a body corporate:

- Intends to use water for the purpose of the generation of an annual average of at least 400 gigawatt hours of electricity or for purposes reasonably incidental to that purpose; and
- Has demonstrated its capacity to do so.

Riverworks Districts

The Role of Riverworks Districts

A riverworks district is a water district that may be established to undertaken and manage works or do any act, matter or thing for any or all of the following purposes:

- a) Removing, cutting and trimming vegetation and other matter in or on the bed and banks of watercourses and lakes, overhanging them or likely to fall into them and cause environmental harm or pose a risk to public safety or property;
- b) Undertaking works in channels so as to stabilise streambeds and streambanks and mitigating against the adverse effects of flooding;
- c) Protecting the banks of watercourses and lakes by the use of vegetation, riparian fencing and appropriate river engineering techniques;
- d) Removing obstructions where appropriate technical advice has identified that those obstructions are contributing to flooding or streambank damage;
- e) Changing the course of watercourses;
- f) Controlling or regulating the flow of water in watercourses;
- g) Raising or lowering the level of lakes;
- h) Planting trees and other vegetation for the purpose of slowing down water running into watercourses and lakes and of protecting banks of watercourses and lakes;
- i) Protecting areas of important natural values, such as native vegetation, threatened species, sites of geo-conservation significance, significant habitat and sites of historic, cultural or Aboriginal significance;
- j) The maintenance, repair, control and management of watercourses and lakes, or of any works specified in this section or of the places where they are, or have been, carried out;
- k) Any other similar activity which may assist in giving effect to the objectives of this Act or in carrying out a water management plan.