

Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment (DPIPWE)

Water Operations Branch

Megan Terry and Toni Furlonge

Megan Dams

Toni Listmap, DataPortal, 19-20 summer
summary

What is a dam?

Temporary or permanent barrier or structure that stores, holds back or impedes the flow of water. This is not limited to but can include:

- Structure to store water for irrigation and/or stock water
- Pipe in a creek for a stock crossing
- Effluent holding pond
- A hole excavated in a watercourse
- A levee

Dam works



Dam works means any works for the construction, erection, enlargement, modification, repair or removal of a dam, or for the conversion of land to a dam or any work on any dam which may significantly increase the dam's safety risk.

The requirement for a dam permit

- There are 2 types of permits - Division 4 and Division 3 permits
- Dam permits under Division 4 are lower risk dams and are dealt with by a simplified permitting process
- Dam permits under Division 3 are higher risk dams and require a permit
- All dams require a Consequence Category Assessment to be undertaken

Division 4 (Lower Risk Dams)

- Not on a watercourse
- Wall height less than 10m
- Do not involve clearing of more than 1ha of vegetation
- Present a low risk to people, infrastructure or the environment in the case of failure
- On land not subject to any covenants, encumbrances nor owned by a person other than the applicant



Division 3 (Higher Risk Dams)

- Are on a watercourse
- Have a maximum wall height of greater than 10m
- Involve clearing greater than 1ha of native vegetation
- Present a medium or high risk to people, infrastructure or the environment in the case of failure
- On land subject to covenants, encumbrances or owned by someone who is not the applicant



How to go about getting a Dam Permit

- Have a look at our website to determine for yourself which permit you require or
- Contact a consultant to clarify which type of permit you will require.
- You need to ensure that you complete the correct application otherwise you could be subject to an infringement which can include fines.

The process for Division 4 Dams

- Download the Notice of Intention to Undertake Dam Works Under a Division 4 Permit
- You may be able to complete this form on your own or engage a consultant
- A consultant will need to complete a Consequence Category Assessment for you.
- Once the Department has received all the appropriate paperwork a Permit can be issued within 2 weeks and you have 2 years to build the dam.

The process Division 3 Dams

- Engage a consultant to undertake the application process for you.
- Once all documentation has been accepted by DPIPWVE there is a statutory time frame of 12 weeks to make a decision.
- Division 3 permits are issued for a period of 2 years.
- A time frame extension can be issued for a Division 3 permit for another 2 years. However the application for extension ideally needs to be submitted 12 weeks prior to the expiry date.
- There is a lot of information about the process on our website at <https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/water/dams/dam-works-permit-guidelines>

Cost of a Dam Permit

- Division 3 Permit cost as at May 2020 \$575.31 + \$81.54/hour over 7 hours + advertising \$323.14 + consultant fees
- Division 4 Permit cost as at May 2020 \$98.15 + consultant fees

Effluent Ponds

- New effluent ponds must be referred to DPIPWVE by Council under their Plumbing Permit.
- Exiting or upgrading effluent ponds should go to a consultant to apply for the appropriate Permit.

Dam construction

- You are responsible for constructing the dam in accordance with the relevant Permit, please consult the Dam Works Codes on our website at <https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/water/dams>
- Ensure that you are aware of your obligations under the Permit including any obligations under the Water Management Act 1999 or the Water Management (Safety of Dams) Regulations 2015
- Ensure you have a suitably qualified dam builder who will follow the Permit obtained and understands the relevant Dam Works Code.
- Once the dam is completed a Notice of Completion of Dam Works, including a Works as Executed Report with relevant fees must be submitted within 30 days of the dam being built.

Is your existing dam Registered?

- Find out if your existing dam is registered
- Use TheList to find your Dam ID
- If your dam is not registered and you need to register it or would like to get it registered then contact a consultant to take you through the existing dams registration process



Dam Safety

Dam monitoring check

- Increase in erosion on the dam wall or spillway;
- Opening and closing the outlet valve to ensure it is operational;
- Unusual leakage along the dam wall including the bottom of the dam wall;
- Turbid water downstream of the dam wall;
- Blockages in the spillway;
- Cracking or slumping in the crest or anywhere on the dam wall;
- Trees growing on the embankment; and
- Animal burrows in the embankment.







Dam Takeaways

- If you want to build a dam engage a consultant to ensure you apply for the correct permit. A list of consultants can be found on our website <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/water/water-management-forms>
- Make sure you understand your rights and obligations of your Permit and engage an experienced dam contractor.
- Remember your dam is an important asset. As a dam owner you are responsible for its correct construction and ongoing monitoring and maintenance.



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