

Automatic Mutual Recognition for Well Drillers



Ref: DEW-D0017606

This fact sheet outlines your requirements as an interstate well driller undertaking authorised works in South Australia:

Principal Place of Residence or Work:	Authorised method to undertake drilling in SA:
South Australia	You must hold an SA Well Driller's Licence.
Queensland	You must hold an SA Well Driller's Licence. You can apply for an interstate conversion to an SA licence .
New South Wales	You can use the Automatic Mutual Recognition process to work only on Class 1 wells in SA under your NSW licence (see the requirements for NSW drillers outlined at the end of this fact sheet).
Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia, or Northern Territory	You can use the Automatic Mutual Recognition process to work in SA under your interstate licence.

Requirement to hold a current Well Driller's Licence to work on authorised activities (requiring a Well Permit)

Most works on wells (including drilling, plugging, backfilling or sealing a well; and repairing, replacing or altering the casing, lining or screen of a well) require a Well Permit. Works are required to be undertaken by a licensed well driller who holds an SA Well Driller's Licence or is the holder of an interstate driller's licence who has registered to work in South Australia by completing the [Consumer and Business Services online notification form](#).

The Well Permit conditions specify which class of driller's licence is required, using the national class system as defined under the National Uniform Drillers Licensing System. Drillers can only use drilling methods endorsed on their driller's licence.

Well Driller's Licences – prescribed conditions

Pursuant to section 115(3) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 a Well Driller's Licence is subject to the conditions prescribed by the Landscape South Australia (Water Management) Regulations 2020 and to such further conditions specified on the Well Driller's Licence.

The following are prescribed conditions that apply to all licensed drillers who work in SA:

- (a) the licensee must keep such records as the Chief Executive directs in such manner and for such period as the Chief Executive directs;
- (b) the licensee must, at the direction of the Chief Executive or an authorised officer, produce records referred to in paragraph (a) to the Chief Executive or authorised officer for inspection or copying;
- (c) the licensee must not, in pursuance of the licence, commence an activity that requires a permit or water resource works approval under the Act unless the licensee has sighted the permit or approval;
- (d) the licensee must, at the direction of the Chief Executive or an authorised officer, take samples of water or other material from a well being drilled by the licensee and must submit the samples to the Chief Executive or authorised officer for inspection and analysis;

(e) the licensee must comply with directions given by the Chief Executive in relation to drilling, plugging, backfilling or sealing a well or to the repair, replacement or alteration of the casing, lining or screen of a well if those directions are given to the licensee by the Chief Executive or published in the Gazette;

(f) the licensee must comply with the terms of any condition, permit or approval under the Act that relates to, or authorises, the work that the licensee is performing.

Prescribed condition (f) requires that well drillers must comply with the conditions on the Well Permit for the works that are being undertaken.

Further requirements

All works on wells in SA must be undertaken in accordance with:

- the [General Specification for Well Drilling Operations Affecting Water in South Australia](#); and
- the mandatory requirements of the [Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia \(4th Edition\)](#)

The well driller must submit a [Well Completion Report](#) to the Department within 30 days of completion of each activity authorised by a Well Permit. The form can be submitted either by email to groundwater@sa.gov.au or by hard copy as per the instructions on the form.

Works on class 2 or class 3 wells may only be undertaken by the holder of a national class 2 or class 3 driller's licence who must notify the Departments Drilling Inspector at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of works.

Requirements for QLD drillers

The Queensland Government has not introduced legislation to join the Automatic Mutual Recognition Scheme. Queensland well drillers who wish to work in SA will therefore require an interstate conversion of their Queensland well driller's licence. A form to apply for an interstate conversion of a Queensland licence can be found [here](#).

Requirements for NSW drillers

As NSW driller's licences are not currently issued under the National Uniform Driller's Licensing System, NSW drillers are only permitted to work on class 1 wells in SA, unless they hold a national class 2 or 3 driller's licence in SA or another State or Territory. A form to apply for an interstate conversion of a NSW licence can be found [here](#).

Legislation

- [Landscape South Australia Act 2019](#)
- [Landscape South Australia \(Water Management\) Regulations 2020](#)

Contact the Drilling Inspector for further information

Telephone: (08) 8463 6841 or 0428 828 569

Email: DEWDrillingInspector@sa.gov.au

Address: Drilling Inspector
Water Licensing Branch
Department for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water/water-licences-and-permits/well-drilling>