

TIME TO DESILT DAMS ON KANGAROO ISLAND

While the dry weather continues, now is the ideal time for primary producers and landholders across Kangaroo Island to clean-out or desilt dams before the season breaks and conditions become too wet and muddy for maintenance works.

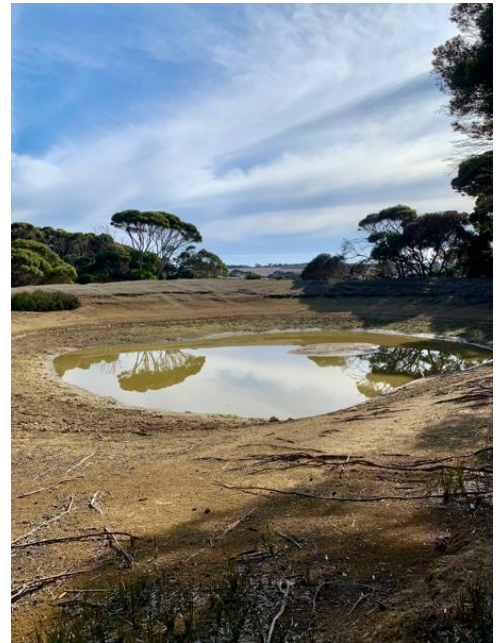
Dams must not be enlarged during the desilting process (i.e. you can't dig deeper than the silt layer) unless you seek and receive approval for a Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Permit or Development Approval. During the process of desilting dams, you can only excavate the washed in loose silt and are not permitted to dump silt into watercourses.

Although you do not need a permit to desilt a dam a set of provisions listed in the Board's Water Control Policy must be followed:

SECTION 2.3.2.19 OF THE WATER CONTROL POLICY

A WAA permit is not required for de-silting of an existing dam, wall or other structure that collects or diverts water where the activity meets all of the following provisions:

- a) appropriate measures are taken to mitigate adverse water quality impacts arising from maintenance activities
- b) the removal of silt includes only unconsolidated material deposited since construction of the structure, or since the structure was previously de-silted
- c) the maintenance activity does not increase the capacity, wall height, width or length of the structure beyond its original dimensions
- d) the structure is not on a watercourse with a stream order of three or higher
- e) the excavated material is not placed:
 - i. within the 1-in-20 year average flood recurrence interval flood distance, where a flood study is available; or
 - ii. within a distance of 20 metres from the banks of the nearest watercourse or lake, where a flood study is not available, and
- f) the excavated material is not disposed of in a manner or at a location that will:
 - i. adversely affect native vegetation
 - ii. impede the flow of surface water
 - iii. re-enter any water resource
 - iv. facilitate the spread of pest plants or pathogenic material.



HOW ARE DAMS MONITORED?

It is important for landholders to be aware that dams are regularly monitored by satellite imagery to detect enlargement of dams that have not been approved, which is an offence under the *Landscape Act* that carries penalties.

WHERE CAN I GET ADVICE ABOUT DESILTING DAMS?

For information on dam construction and desilting requirements, please contact the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board on (08) 8553 2476. We are here to help you.