

# Report card for the Draft Rules for Groundwater Water Supply Works

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## Bega River Area Regulated, Unregulated & Alluvial Water Sources 2023

Table 1 Draft rules for groundwater water supply works

Type	Current rules	Proposed rules
<p><b>Rules to minimise interference between bores</b></p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) must not be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 m of a bore that is located on another landholding and takes water from the same water source</li> <li>• 50 m from a property boundary (unless negotiated in writing with neighbour)</li> <li>• 500 m from a bore nominating a local or major water utility access licence</li> <li>• 100 m from a government monitoring bore.</li> </ul> <p>These distance restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the bore is used solely for basic landholder rights</li> <li>• the bore is a replacement bore</li> <li>• the bore is used for monitoring, environmental management and remedial works services</li> <li>• the location of the bore at a lesser distance will have no more than minimal detrimental effect on existing extraction.</li> </ul>	<p>Water supply works (bores) must not be constructed within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 m from a bore that is located on another landholding and takes water from the same water source</li> <li>• 100 m from a property boundary (unless negotiated in writing with neighbour)</li> <li>• 500 m from a bore nominating a local or major water utility access licence</li> <li>• 100 m from a government monitoring bore.</li> </ul> <p>These distance restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the bore is used solely for basic landholder rights</li> <li>• the bore is a replacement bore</li> <li>• the bore is used for monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services</li> <li>• the location of the bore at a lesser distance will have no more than minimal detrimental effect on existing extraction.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Rules for bores located near contamination sources</b></p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) must not be granted or amended within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 m from a plume of a contamination source listed in the plan</li> <li>• at a specified distance greater than 500 m if necessary to protect the environment or public health or safety</li> <li>• 250 m and 500 m from a plume associated with a contamination source identified within the plan unless no drawdown of water will occur within 250 m of that plume.</li> </ul> <p>These distances restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the location of the bore is adequate to protect the water source, the environment and public health and safety</li> <li>• the bore is used for the purpose of monitoring, environmental management or remedial works.</li> </ul>	<p>Water supply works (bores) must not be constructed within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 m of a contamination source identified within the plan</li> <li>• 250 m from the edge of a plume of a contamination source listed in the plan</li> <li>• 250 m and 500 m from the edge of a plume associated with a contamination source identified within the plan, unless no drawdown of water will occur within 250 m of that plume</li> <li>• 250 m of an onsite sewage disposal system unless the water supply work is:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— constructed with cement grout in the borehole annulus to a minimum depth of 20 m from the ground surface, and</li> <li>— located at a sufficient distance from the on-site sewage disposal system to prevent migration of septic contamination in the aquifer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>These distances restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the location of the bore is adequate to protect the water source, the environment and public health and safety</li> <li>• the bore is used for the purpose of monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services.</li> </ul>
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### Rules for bores located near sensitive environmental areas

Water supply works (bores) must not be granted or amended within:

- 40 m of the top of the high bank of a river
- 200 m of any high-priority, groundwater-dependent ecosystem
- greater than 200m of any high priority groundwater dependent ecosystem identified in the plan if the work is likely to cause drawdown at the perimeter of the groundwater dependent ecosystem
- 100 m of any high-priority, groundwater-dependent ecosystem for bores used for basic landholder rights.

These distances restrictions do not apply if:

- the bore is a replacement groundwater work
- the minister is satisfied that there will be no drawdown at the perimeter of any groundwater-dependent ecosystem
- if the bore is a replacement bore that is part of a bore network used by a water utility for town water supply
- the location of the water supply work at a lesser distance would result in no greater impact on the water source and their groundwater dependent ecosystems
- the bore is used for the purpose of monitoring, environmental management or remedial works.

Water supply works (bores) must not be constructed within:

- 40 m of the top of the high bank of a river
- 200 m of any high-priority, groundwater-dependent ecosystem
- 200 m of a wetland
- 500 m of a Karst environment
- 200 m of a spring

These distances restrictions do not apply if the bore is:

- used solely for basic landholder rights
- a replacement groundwater work
- used for the purpose of monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services.
- in the case of wetlands, karsts and springs, located within the restricted distance and is likely to cause no more than minimal harm to the wetland, karst or spring concerned.

<p><b>Rules for bores located near potential acid sulfate soils</b></p>	<p>No rules in current plan.</p>	<p>New bores cannot be constructed in an area classed as having a high probability of the occurrence of acid sulfate soils if there is significant risk of acidification of the water sources. See the Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map published on the Departments website for more information.</p> <p>This does not apply if it can be shown that there is not likely to be a significant risk of acidification of the water sources as a result of the construction and location of the water supply work.</p>
<p><b>Rules for bores located near groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites</b></p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) must not be granted or amended within</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 m of groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites</li> <li>• 100 m of groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites for bores used for basic landholder rights.</li> </ul> <p>This location distance restriction does not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the bore is a replacement bore</li> <li>• the bore is used for monitoring, environmental management or remedial works</li> <li>• if the bore is a replacement bore that is part of a bore network used by a water utility for town water supply</li> <li>• the location of the bore at a lesser distance will have no more than minimal harm to any groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites</li> <li>• the water supply work is sealed off to the nearest impervious layer above the slotted intervals of the work within an impermeable seal constructed between the casing and the bore hole.</li> </ul>	<p>Water supply works (bores) must not be constructed within 200 m of groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites.</p> <p>This location distance restriction does not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the bore is used solely for a basic landholder right</li> <li>• the bore is a replacement bore</li> <li>• the bore is used for monitoring, environmental remediation activities or emergency services</li> <li>• the location of the bore at a lesser distance will have no more than minimal harm to any groundwater-dependent, culturally significant sites.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Rules for bores used solely for basic landholder rights</b></p>	<p>Specified in other parts of this table.</p>	<p>Water supply works (bores) used solely for basic landholder rights must not be constructed if the bore is located within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 m of a government monitoring bore</li> <li>• 40 m from the top of the high bank of a river</li> <li>• 100 m of any other high-priority, groundwater-dependent ecosystem</li> <li>• 100 m of a groundwater-dependent, culturally significant area</li> <li>• 200 m of a wetland</li> <li>• 500 m of a Karst environment</li> <li>• 200 m of a spring</li> </ul> <p>These location distance restrictions do not apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the bore is a replacement bore</li> <li>• a lesser distance would result in no more than minimal harm to any high-priority, groundwater-dependent ecosystem</li> <li>• a lesser distance would result in no more than minimal harm to any groundwater-dependent, culturally significant area.</li> </ul>
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### Replacement groundwater works

A replacement work must extract from the same water source and from the same depth as the existing water supply work, or from a different depth if a hydrogeological study determines it will result in no greater impact on a water source or its dependent ecosystems.

A replacement water supply work (bore) must be located:

- within 20 m of the existing work, unless a hydrogeological study determines that a distance further than 20 m will have no greater impact on a water source or its dependant ecosystems
- no closer to the river than the bore being replaced if the existing bore is within 40 m of the top of the high bank of the river.

The replacement bore must not have a greater internal diameter or excavation footprint than the existing bore, unless the existing bore's internal diameter is:

- no longer manufactured, in which case it may be no greater than 110 % of the current internal diameter

A replacement bore must extract from the same water source and from the same depth as the existing water supply work.

A replacement water supply work (bore) must be located:

- within 20 m of the existing bore
- no closer to the river than the bore being replaced if the existing bore is within 40 m of the top of the high bank of the river.

The replacement bore must not have a greater internal diameter or excavation footprint than the existing bore, unless the existing bore's internal diameter is:

- no longer manufactured, in which case it may be no greater than 120 % of the current internal diameter
- less than 100 mm, in which case the internal diameter must be no more than 100 mm.

A replacement bore may be permitted to a different depth within the water source, or greater than 20 m from the existing bore if it can be determined it will not adversely impact:

- a water source
- a high priority groundwater dependent ecosystem
- public health and safety
- a groundwater-dependent culturally significant area
- take of water by another user with an existing water supply work.

## Public exhibition

The Department of Planning and Environment seeks feedback from the public on the suitability of the proposed rules for this water source.

The draft Water Sharing Plan for the Bega River Area Regulated, Unregulated & Alluvial Water Sources 2023 and supporting fact sheets are available from the department's [Public Exhibition website](#).