



DEPARTMENT OF
THE ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE,
ENERGY AND WATER

What is a Water Access Entitlement?

Water Resources Act 2007

FACTSHEET

Issued: 10 June 2009

A water access entitlement (WAE) is a right to the amount of surface water or groundwater stated in the entitlement. It is similar to what was called an allocation under the *Water Resources Act 1998* (the repealed Act).

What amount of water will a WAE be for?

A WAE will be for an amount stated as the lesser of:

- (a) a percentage of the total amount of surface water or groundwater available for taking from time to time in the water management area stated in the entitlement; and
- (b) a stated maximum volume.

In this way it is possible that the volume of water in a WAE will change if the amount of water available in a water management area changes. This may occur due to climate change or other environmental factors, and will ensure that over-allocation of water does not occur.

Stated maximum volumes of water issued will also be for a reasonable amount for the particular use.

What other details are on a WAE?

A WAE will include the name of the holder, the amount of groundwater or surface water that may be taken, the water management area to which the amount relates and other conditions where necessary.

If I have A WAE, do I also need a licence to take water?

Yes, if you want to take the water and use it. A WAE only provides a right of a certain amount of water, it does not allow for water to be taken from any particular location. A licence to take water, which is based on a WAE, provides the location from which water can be taken and used. If you have a WAE and are not currently taking the water, you do not need to have a licence to take water.

Can I trade my WAE?

It is proposed that WAEs will be able to be traded. Some WAEs may have a condition limiting their use to a particular location, but these will relate either to instances where the WAE was not purchased, or where the WAE was granted in relation to stock and domestic use at a specific location.

How do I apply for a WAE?

To apply for a WAE, you should complete a WAE application form (available on our website) and send it to the Environment Protection Authority as per the details listed on the form. A fee will be charged for most WAEs, but the EPA will discuss payment with you. Applications must include the applicant's name, the amount of water sought and whether it is groundwater or surface water, the intended use of the water, the water management area to which the amount relates and the place where it is intended that water will be accessed.

Water Resources

For more information call Canberra Connect
on 13 22 81 or visit www.environment.act.gov.au