

MINIMUM CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER BORES IN AUSTRALIA



Edition 2

Revised September, 2003

FOREWORD

Groundwater has played a vital role in the development of many areas of Australia. The extensive use made of groundwater resources stems from a number of factors. The resource extends over large areas, making distribution costs more economic than from surface supplies. It is generally well-filtered, is mostly accessible at reasonably shallow depths, and the scale of development required can be tailored closely to meet individual water demands.

Access to the resource is usually by bores or excavated wells. However, bores must be constructed to an acceptable standard using appropriate materials in order for this access to be achieved efficiently, cost-effectively and reliably without danger to the resource from pollution or overuse. It is estimated that over \$6.6 billion has been spent on bore construction in Australia. For many individual landholders the cost of constructing a water supply from bores represents a large proportion of their total property investment.

It is important to both the nation as a whole and groundwater users that the very large investment in bore construction be protected by proper construction methods.

All States and Territories have introduced, or are about to introduce the national system of licensing water bore drillers.

In order to underpin the skills levels on which the three classes of drilling licences are based, it is essential that there be a common reference standard for bore construction and that this standard be clearly defined and accepted by water licensing agencies and the drilling industry throughout Australia.

The purpose of this document is to provide such a reference as a technical basis and description of the minimum requirements for constructing water bores in Australia.

This document is a minimum guideline only. It must be recognised that special conditions may require a higher standard to be applied to a particular bore.

This document draws on and is supported by a number of state and industry documents and standards which are referenced in the relevant chapters.

Although the document is focused mainly at drillers and drilling contractors, it will also be of value and use to water licensing agencies, consultants, consulting engineers and clients.

We urge you to become fully acquainted with the requirements set out in here.



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Member, Land and Water Biodiversity Committee



Chair, National Minimum Bore
Specifications Committee

The members of the National Minimum Bore Specifications Committee are:

Australian Drilling Industry Association
Australian Drilling Industry Training Committee
Department of Environment, Western Australia
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, Northern Territory
Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources, New South Wales
Department of Mineral Resources, Tasmania
Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, South Australia
Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
Water Corporation, Western Australia

This book is based on information available in September 2003.

It is available from the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Library, the State Library of Queensland and the National Library, Canberra, through interlibrary loan.

ISBN 1 9209 2009 9

QNRM04027

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Inquiries should be directed to the appropriate authorities listed on pages 7 and 8 of this publication.

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