

Overview of status of water access entitlements across Australia

Jurisdiction	Entitlement (NWI water access entitlement / other)	Water allocation	Statutory basis	Planning instrument	Unbundled and tradeable	Duration	Where recorded
ACT	Water access entitlement	Water allocation	<i>Water Resources Act 2007</i> (ACT)	Territory Plan under the <i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i> (ACT)	Unbundled and tradeable	Perpetual	Register of water access entitlements
	Water allocation	N/A	<i>Water Resource Act 1998</i> (ACT)	Remains in force subject to 2007 Act.	Unbundled and tradeable within the ACT	Perpetual	Register of water access entitlements
NSW	Water access licence	Water allocation	<i>Water Management Act 2000</i> (NSW)	Water sharing plans, consistent with five-year State Water Management Outcomes Plan	Unbundled ^a and tradeable	Perpetual	Water access licence register
	Water licence	No (volumetric or area based)	<i>Water Act 1912</i> (NSW)	No concept of a water plan involved	Not unbundled; not tradeable (new licence issued instead, or else part of sale of land)	Not perpetual (volumetric or area based), but renewable	Not recorded on register, but listed in licensing database
NT	Water licence	N/A	<i>Water Act 1992</i> (amended 2008) (NT)	Declared water control districts with water allocation plan areas and water management zones (plans have 10-year duration)	Not unbundled; tradeable (within a water control district where plan is in place)	Not perpetual (up to 10 years but renewable)	Water licence database
Qld	Water allocation	Seasonal water assignment	<i>Water Act 2000</i> (Qld)	Water resource plan implemented by resource operations plan	Unbundled and tradeable	Perpetual	Water allocations register

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	Interim water allocation	Seasonal water assignment	<i>Water Act 2000</i> (Qld)	Exist in areas where a resource operations plan has not been finalised	Not unbundled, yet can be relocated to other land in limited circumstances.	Not perpetual (stated duration). Converted to tradeable water allocations on completion of a resource operations plan.	Recorded on DERM water accounting and management systems
	Water licence	Seasonal water assignment	<i>Water Act 2000</i> (Qld)	Generally exist in non-water resource plan / resource operations plan areas ^b	Principal entitlement for unsupplemented water in non-water resource plan / resource operations plan areas. They are usually attached to the land title.	Not perpetual (stated duration). Specified licences converted to tradeable water allocations on completion of a resource operations plan.	Recorded on DERM water accounting and management systems
SA	Water access entitlement	Water allocation	<i>Natural Resources Management (Water Resources and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2007</i>	Natural resource management plans implemented through water allocation plan	Unbundled and tradeable (SA River Murray only)	Perpetual	Water information and licensing management application (WILMA)
	Water licence	Water allocation	<i>Natural Resource Management Act 2004</i> (SA)	Natural resource management plans implemented through water allocation plan	Not unbundled, but tradeable	Perpetual	Water information and licensing management application (WILMA)
Tas.	Water licence	Water allocation	<i>Water Management Act 1999</i> (Tas)	Water management plans	Unbundled and tradeable	Perpetual	Water information management system
	Irrigation right	Water allocation	<i>Irrigation Clauses Act 1973</i> (Tas)	Water management plans	Unbundled and tradeable	Perpetual	Relevant irrigation entity's irrigation rights register

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Vic.	Water share	Water allocation	<i>Water Act 1989</i> (Vic)	Sustainable water strategies and management plans	Unbundled and tradeable	Perpetual	Victorian water register
	Water licence (s. 51) (groundwater and surface water)	No (licence provides a maximum amount of water which may be taken, subject to restriction)	<i>Water Act 1989</i> (Vic)	Sustainable water strategies and management plans	Not unbundled, but tradeable in certain circumstances	Not perpetual (maximum 15 years)	Progressively being added to Victorian water register
WA	Water licence	No (volumetric basis and no consumptive pool)	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (WA)	Proclaimed water management areas	Not unbundled, but tradeable within a water resource management unit	Not perpetual (fixed period or an indefinite period)	Water resource licensing system

Note: this table does not address the concept of works (NSW) or water use licences (Victoria).

- a While trusts in NSW do hold a separate water access licence, water allocation decisions by some trusts are still made on a per hectare basis.
- b Specific Water Licences can continue to exist in a water resource plan area for which a resource operations plan has been finalised, including groundwater entitlements and other authorisations such as stock and domestic licences.