

Types of harvestable rights dams

This factsheet provides information about Type 1 and Type 2 harvestable rights dams in coastal-draining catchments and how water from these dams can be used.

Background

The increase in coastal harvestable rights commenced on 13 May 2022. Landholders in the coastal-draining catchments harvestable rights area can capture and store up to 30 per cent of the average annual regional rainfall runoff (rainfall runoff) from their landholding as harvestable rights water.

To balance the water storage needs of landholders with the needs of downstream water users and environments, water in larger harvestable rights dams can only be used for certain purposes. So that these limitations can be monitored and enforced, a new dam classification system applies within the coastal-draining catchments area. All harvestable rights dams will now be either Type 1 or Type 2 dams depending on the combined capacity of such dams constructed on each landholding.

Landholders use the [Maximum harvestable rights dam capacity calculator](http://waternsw.com.au/harvestable-rights) (waternsw.com.au/harvestable-rights) to determine the maximum harvestable right dam capacity (MHRDC) for their landholding. For landholders in the coastal-draining catchments harvestable rights area, the calculator determines:

- a) a combined dam capacity of all harvestable rights dams on a landholding with reference to 10 per cent of rainfall runoff
- b) a combined maximum dam capacity of all harvestable rights dams on a landholding with reference to 30 per cent of rainfall runoff

Types of harvestable rights dams

Type 1 dam

A Type 1 dam is a harvestable rights dam that, alone or in combination with other dams on the landholding, has a **capacity less than or equal to the dam capacity for a landholding with reference to 10 per cent of the rainfall runoff**.

The water captured and stored in Type 1 dams can be used for **any purpose**.

Type 2 dam

A Type 2 dam is a single harvestable rights dam or any harvestable rights dam that, when combined with Type 1 dams on the landholding, has a **capacity greater than the 10 per cent dam capacity**.

volume but less than or equal to the MHRDC with reference to 30 per cent of the rainfall runoff for a landholding.

The water in Type 2 dams can only be used for domestic consumption, stock watering and extensive agriculture. Visit the *Harvestable rights in coastal-draining catchments* – [Frequently asked questions](#) for more information about permitted uses of harvestable rights water from Type 2 dams.

Water can be moved between Type 2 dams but can't be moved to any other dam on a landholding.

Landholders need to submit a [*Coastal harvestable rights notification form*](#) (water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-trade > Basic landholder rights > Harvestable rights > Harvestable rights in coastal-draining catchments > Coastal harvestable rights notification form) for any Type 2 dams constructed or used on their landholding.

Scenario

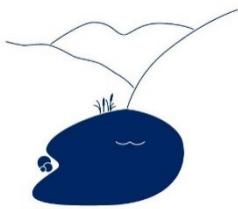
A landholder in the coastal-draining catchments harvestable rights area would like to build harvestable rights dams and use the water for extensive agriculture including irrigating pasture and fodder for livestock, and stock watering.

For the landholding, the harvestable right dam capacity volume with reference to 10 per cent of rainfall runoff is **5 megalitres (ML)**.

Some of the options for the landholder to capture, store and use harvestable rights water are outlined below.

Option 1

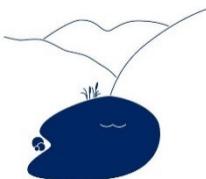
They can build a dam with a capacity less than or equal to 5 ML. The water can be used for **any purpose**. This is a **Type 1 dam**.



= 5 ML
Type 1 dam

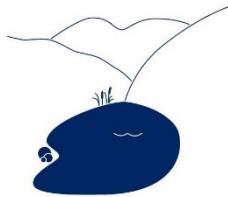
Option 2

They can build multiple dams with a combined capacity less than or equal to 5 ML. The water can be used for **any purpose**. These are **Type 1 dams**. For example:



= 2 ML
Type 1 dam

+



= 3 ML
Type 1 dam

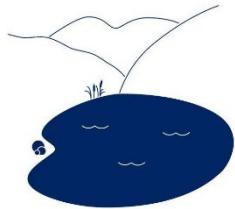
Scenario continued

The landholder decides their water demand is greater than the water they can store in the dams up to the harvestable right dam capacity volume with reference to 10 per cent rainfall runoff (as described in options 1 and 2).

The landholder uses the online calculator to determine the maximum harvestable right dam capacity with reference to 30 per cent rainfall runoff is **15 ML**. Some of the options for the landholder are as follows:

Option 3

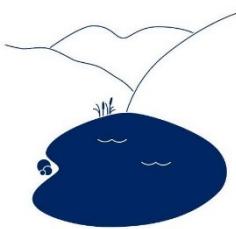
They can build a single dam with a capacity less than or equal to 15 ML. This is a **Type 2 dam** and the water can only be used for **domestic consumption, stock watering and extensive agriculture**.



= 15 ML
Type 2 dam

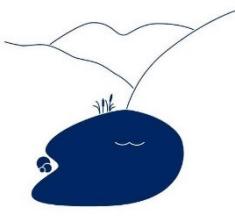
Option 4

If the landholder wants to retain the option of using some harvestable rights water for **any purpose**, they can construct a smaller dam as per option 1 and then build an additional larger dam with a capacity less than or equal to 10 ML (which is the difference between the dam capacity volumes with reference to 30 per cent and 10 per cent of rainfall runoff). The water in the new 10 ML dam is a **Type 2 dam** and can only be used for **domestic consumption, stock watering and extensive agriculture**. For example:



= 5 ML
Type 1 dam
Water use = any purpose

+



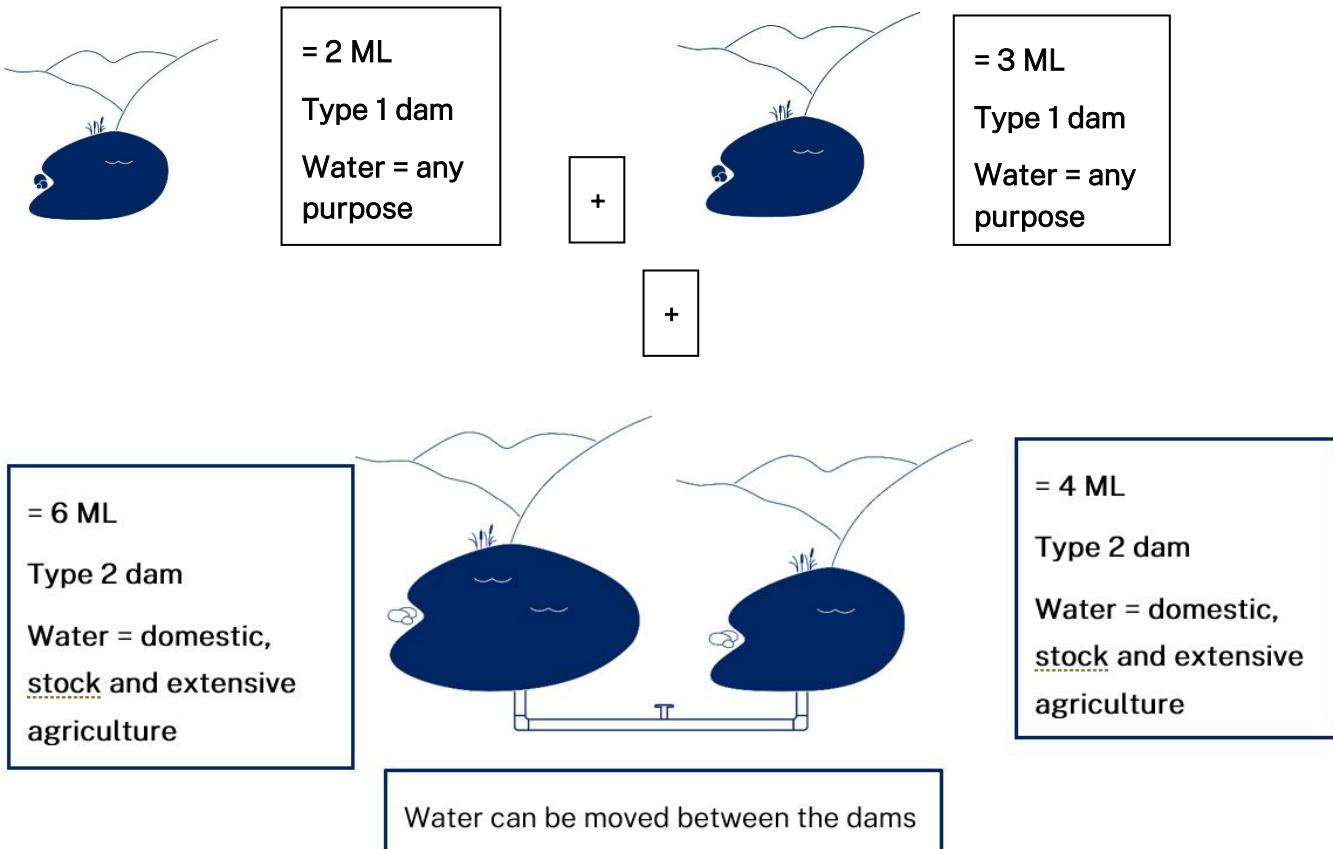
= 10 ML
Type 2 dam
Water use =
domestic, stock &
extensive agriculture

The water **can't be moved** between the two dams.

The landholder needs to **submit a notification form** for the 10 ML Type 2 dam.

Option 5

They can also construct smaller Type 1 dams with a combined capacity less than or equal to 5 ML and smaller Type 2 dams with a combined capacity less than or equal to 10 ML.



The water **can be moved** between each of the Type 2 dams but can't be moved between Type 1 and Type 2 dams, or to any other dam on the landholding.

The landholder needs to **submit a notification form** for both of the Type 2 dams.