

Automatic Mutual Recognition scheme for licensed drillers

Automatic mutual recognition (AMR) is a government scheme that simplifies the process for licensed water bore drillers to work in other states and territories with a single licence. This fact sheet provides information on how AMR works and how it may assist you.

What is automatic mutual recognition

AMR is a scheme introduced in 2021 under the *Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act 1992* that permits individuals licensed for a particular occupation in participating Australian states or territories (all states/territories except Queensland), to work in another state or territory without having to gain an additional licence for that secondary state or territory.

Eligibility to work in NSW under AMR

To be eligible for AMR, drillers must hold a valid water bore driller's licence from their home state and notify their intent to work in NSW under AMR. There are several exemptions that apply, please visit the [AMR website](#).

If a water bore driller holds a licence from their home state and a NSW licence, they are not eligible to work under AMR. They will be required to operate under their NSW water bore driller's licence.

Participating water bore driller's working under AMR are required to maintain a valid licence in their home state. The home state is considered the state or territory in which the driller currently lives or their principal place of work.

Notification of intention to work under AMR

Water bore drillers who hold a licence issued by another state who want to operate in NSW under AMR must notify their intention to work in NSW before they commence work.

Notification can be made by registering via the [NSW AMR website](#), which will then notify WaterNSW.

There are no fees to operate under AMR and there is no requirement to attend a registration office in person. It's the responsibility of the driller to notify what class of licence they believe they are, and it must match their home state. For information on the driller's licence classifications, visit our [website](#).

New South Wales laws

Drillers working under AMR in NSW must comply with all relevant laws, including:

- drillers must ensure a valid water supply work approval is held for the bore before commencing construction
- drillers must comply with the conditions of the approval, including any conditions about where the bore can be located and any distance conditions set out in the relevant water sharing plan. You can review the relevant water sharing plans [here](#).

Drillers must provide details of any bores constructed in NSW. These details are to be provided via the manual Bore Construction Report (BCR), formally known as a Form A, can be found on our [website](#). Please note the Drillers Portal is currently unable to be used by drillers from other states or territories.

Drillers cannot do any type of drilling activities outside the scope of their home state licence.

Frequently asked questions

Can I construct bores in NSW under AMR?

To work under the AMR scheme, you must:

- hold a valid water bore driller's licence issued in a state besides Queensland
- notify your intent to work in NSW and
- provide any information required including in relation to your place of residence or work.

Conditions that may impact your eligibility for AMR can be found on the [AMR website](#).

I live in another state but have a NSW driller's licence, can I work under my NSW driller's licence?

Yes, you can work under your NSW driller's licence in NSW provided the licence is valid. If your home state is outside NSW and you hold a valid NSW driller's licence you cannot work under AMR in NSW.

Are drillers from New Zealand or other countries eligible for AMR?

No, the scheme only applies to drillers licensed in participating Australian states and territories.

Can I still apply for a NSW driller's licence if I am from another country?

You can still apply and pay the fee for a NSW driller's licence, however, you will not be able to work in NSW under the AMR scheme if you are granted a NSW driller's licence.

My licence is suspended or cancelled in my home state, and/or I have disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings against me in relation to bore drilling (or I have been notified of potential proceedings) in other states or territories, can I still operate in NSW under AMR?

No.

Will I receive a certificate of my AMR in NSW?

You will be given an AMR number but you will not be given a certificate as evidence of your AMR status.

Will any of my information be shared with other states?

The Mutual Recognition Act has requirements for states to share information about people working under the AMR scheme, as well as the mutual recognition scheme.

Information that may be shared by WaterNSW includes:

- name and address
- your home state licence including the expiry date, validity and any conditions imposed on the licence

Can I operate in multiple states and territories outside of my home state?

You can operate in more than one jurisdiction under AMR provided you are eligible.