

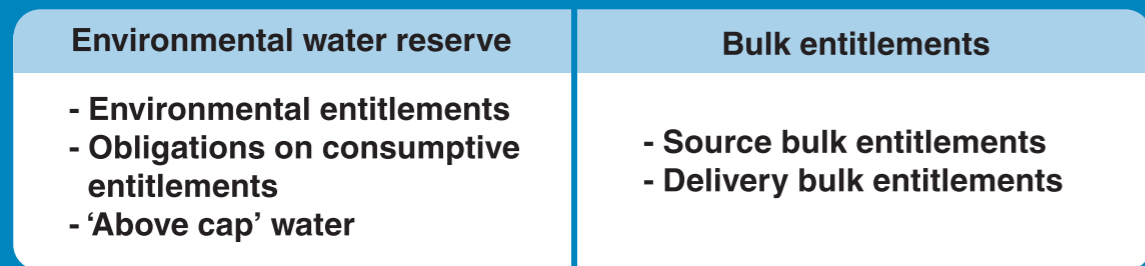
Reference guide #1: Water entitlements

Tier 1 -
Rights held by
Crown



Water entitlements are defined in the *Water Act 1989* and are issued by the Minister for Water. A water entitlement is the amount of water authorised to be stored, taken and used by a person under specific conditions. Associated entitlements set conditions for water delivery or use.

Tier 2 -
Rights to
authorities



Bulk entitlements
Held by water corporations with secure tenure in perpetuity. They provide the right to water for system operations, seasonal allocations and other rights and obligations.

Environmental water reserve (EWR)
The EWR is the legally recognised amount of water set aside to meet environmental needs. The objective of the EWR is to preserve the environmental values and health of water ecosystems.

Source bulk entitlements
provide a share of inflows, storage capacity (if applicable) and releases.

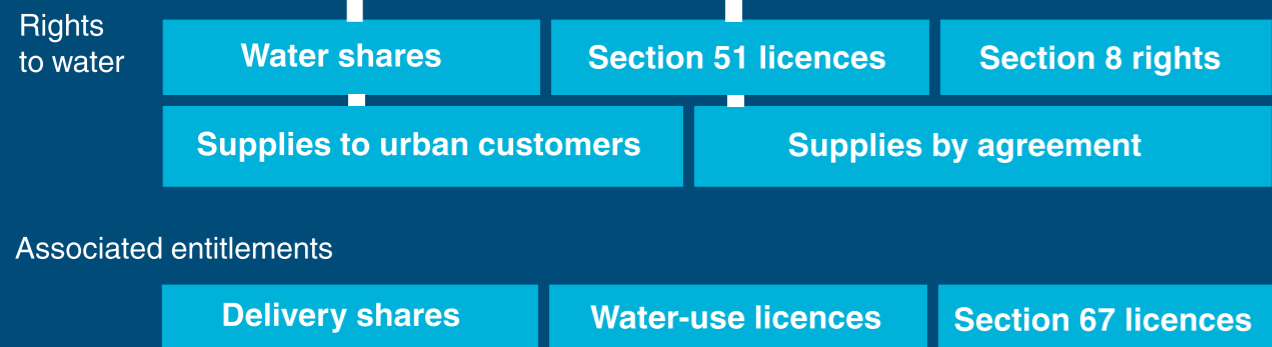
Environmental entitlements are generally identical in nature to bulk entitlements. They provide for a share of the available resource.

Delivery bulk entitlements provide a set volume of water each year, subject to defined restrictions during periods of water shortages.

Obligations on entitlements include the passing flows that water corporations or licensed diverters are obliged to provide out of storage or past a diversion point. The portion of passing flows that is provided to meet environmental needs is considered a part of the EWR.

'Above cap' water includes water that is left over after limits on diversions have been reached and unregulated flows which cannot be kept in storage. Most of the EWR is comprised of 'above cap' water, and this component is most susceptible to climate change.

Tier 3 - Rights
granted to individuals



Water shares have secure tenure held in perpetuity. A share of the available resource in most regulated systems is allocated annually (through seasonal allocations), which can then be ordered to a specified location, at a specified time and rate.

Section 51 licences allow for diversions from unregulated (and some regulated river systems) and extractions of groundwater. Licences are issued for a specified volume, period of time and with a range of conditions.

Section 8 rights provide for an individual to take and use water from a range of surface and groundwater sources for domestic and stock use under certain circumstances without a licence.

Supplies to urban customers must be provided by water corporations throughout their defined districts.

Supplies by agreement are arranged by water corporations to provide water outside of defined districts, and recycled and drainage water in special circumstances.

Delivery shares provide for water to be delivered to land in an irrigation district via a channel. Delivery shares are linked to delivery infrastructure and stay with the property if the water share is traded.

Water-use licences allow an irrigator to use water to irrigate land up to an annual use limit.

Section 67 licences provide for the construction of a groundwater bore or any works on a waterway, such as a private pump or dam, when a Section 51 licence is required.