

Did you know?

About 10% of the rain that falls in the surrounding catchment reaches the Wilson Inlet – 89% of this travels by the Denmark and Hay Rivers.



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Head to **denmark.wa.gov.au**

- Send us an enquiry
- Lodge your application (planning approval or building permit)
- Find policies and guidelines

Contact our Planning team

- info@denmark.wa.gov.au
- (08) 9848 0300
- 953 South Coast Highway
(9am – 4pm, Mon – Fri)



Current at 1 October 2025

DAMS



Why does the Shire have a policy for dams?

Local Planning Policy 37 – Dams & Water Features aims to balance the need to support agriculture with conservation of the environment and the interests of downstream water users. If not constructed appropriately, large dams can be unsightly and unsafe.

The policy identifies when constructing a dam needs Shire approval and the details that are required as part of an application.

Do I need a permit or licence to take water?

You do not need a licence to take water or a permit for the collection of 'run-off' water in a dam on your own property as long as the off-stream dam does not intercept the water table.

For more information about licencing please contact the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation on 1800 508 885 or email licence.enquiry@water.wa.gov.au to confirm your licencing requirements.

Do I need approval to build a dam on my property?

All dams need Shire approval unless they meet each of the following criteria:

- Meet minimum boundary setbacks
- No clearing of riparian vegetation
- Located off-stream and not within a controlled water area (eg. gazetted water catchment, managed surface water area)
- Setback a minimum of:
 - 30m from any effluent disposal system
 - 30m (clay soils) from waterways
 - 100m (sands, peats, etc) from waterways
- Minimum lot size:
 - Rural Zone: 10ha
 - Special Rural Zone: 2ha
 - Special Residential: 4,000m²
 - Residential: 4,000m²
- Maximum wall height:
 - Rural Zone: >3m
 - Special Rural Zone: 2m
 - Special Residential: 1m
 - Residential: 1m
- Maximum surface area:
 - Rural Zone: 5000m²
 - Special Rural Zone: 100m²
 - Special Residential: 50m²
 - Residential: 25m²

Need more information?

For further details see [Local Planning Policy 37 – Dams & Water Features](#)

If you are not sure whether you need approval or not, our friendly staff can assist.

Speak to a qualified engineer if you have questions about the structural integrity and use of dam walls, spillways and batters – your dam is your responsibility.

