

NSW Water Laws Made Easy

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Do you take water from a river, creek or bore? Are you able to take that water under a basic landholder right? Do you know if you need any licences or approvals to take and use that water on your property? Where do you go to find out about any licences and approvals that may be needed? Can you excavate in or around creeks and rivers on your property? If you are based in NSW and have asked any of these questions, then NRAR have got a new resource that can help you find the answers.

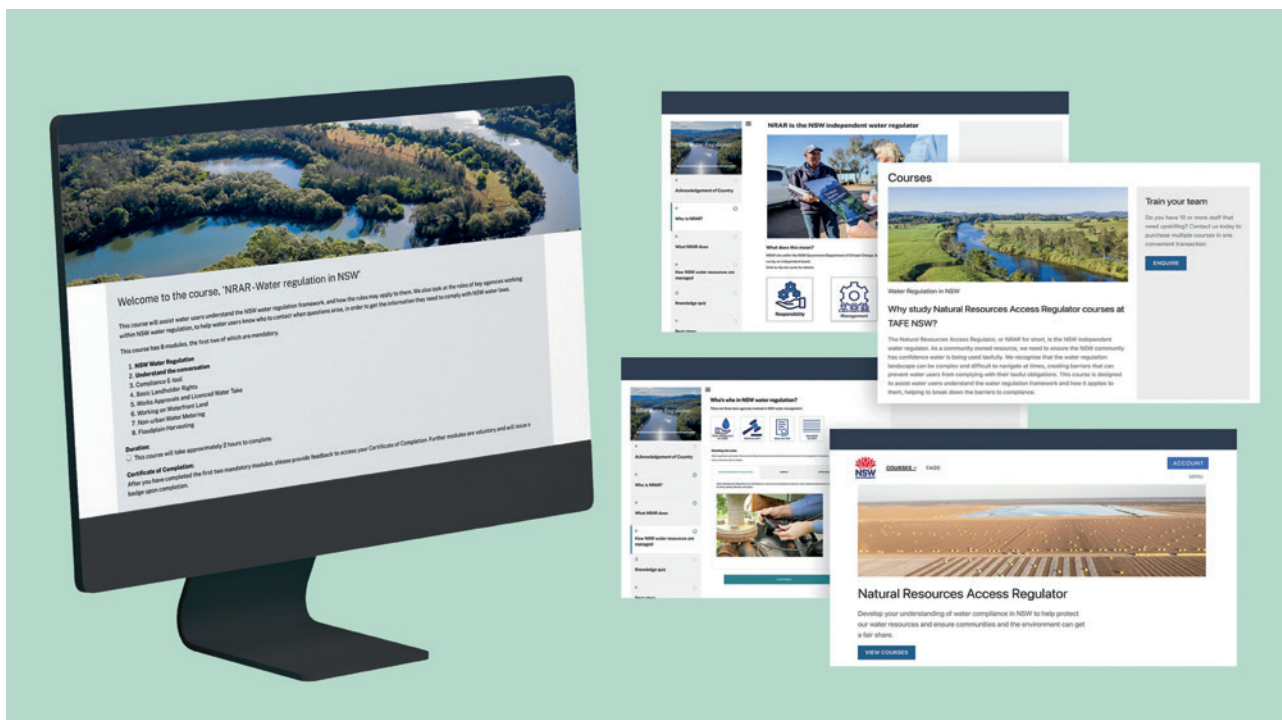


Photo credit: Salty Dingo 2025

The Natural Resources Access Regulator, or NRAR for short, is the NSW independent water regulator. Water is a community-owned resource, and we need to ensure the NSW community has confidence that water is being used lawfully. NRAR regulates water take, the building and use of water management works, how water is used and activities on waterfront land. NRAR also educate and engage with water users to encourage voluntary compliance.

We recognise that the water regulation landscape can be complex and difficult to navigate at times, creating barriers that can prevent water users from complying with their lawful obligations, so NRAR have developed a free resource with TAFE NSW to promote greater collaboration between the regulator and the agricultural industry.

It's a short online learning course designed to assist water users in understanding the water regulation framework and how it applies to them, helping to break down the barriers to compliance.



The online course is broken into modules allowing you to learn at your own pace

Course Details

Cost: Free

Duration: 2 hours

Composition: There are two compulsory modules; a video introduction and a module designed to help course participants to understand what the water conversation is all about, including key terminology like what is the 'Strahler stream order', what water plans are, and what the difference is between regulated and unregulated river systems, plus an understanding of the impacts of non-compliance. The second component of the course is a series of elective modules allowing you to pick and choose the areas of the regulation that are most relevant to you. There is a helpful e-tool decision tree that will guide you to the elective modules that most benefit your water compliance knowledge.

Delivery: Online (self-paced)

Access period: 6 months' access from the day of enrolment

This free online course is designed to empower growers to navigate the NSW water laws more easily. The learning is self-directed and self-paced, which means you choose the topics you want to learn about and do it at your own pace. You can also revisit the course as many times as you want within the 6 month period from enrolment.

The course is targeted at primary producers and rural landholders. This includes small-acreage/hobby farmers, as well as rural industries. However, anyone interested in understanding NSW water laws and regulations is welcome to enrol in the course. There are no prior learning or prerequisite requirements.

Growers will be guided through:

- what rules apply to you and how to follow them
- how water is managed and regulated in NSW
- non-urban water metering
- harvestable rights dams

When everyone follows the water rules, the environment, communities and industries thrive.

Enrol for the free course



To enrol for the free course, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/NRAR-WaterCourse

