

Water use during construction – Frequently Asked Questions

Why is water required during road construction?

Water is required for various activities during road construction:

- Earthworks (eg. compaction of road layers)
- Dust suppression (eg. stockpiles, haul roads, crushing)
- Cleaning/washdown of plant and equipment
- Landscape watering
- Concrete batching
- Concrete curing
- Water for staff amenities

Is water taken from the town water supply?

Yes, potable water is sourced from the town water supply during road construction. For certain works, only potable water is permitted to be used in order to meet RMS quality standards.

Are there any other sources of water that can be used during construction?

Yes, various other water sources are used during construction to minimise the amount of water being taken from the town water supply.

After rainfall, runoff from the construction site is collected in sediment retention dams and ponds. This water can be pumped into water trucks and then re-used for a range of construction purposes, including dust suppression and watering of landscape plantings.

During the bulk earthworks phase of the Ellerton Drive Extension project, water was being sourced directly from the Queanbeyan River in accordance with a Water Supply Work Permit granted by WaterNSW under the *Water Management Act 2000*. This reduced the volume of potable water being sourced from the town water supply.

On the Old Cooma Road Duplication Stage 2 project, water has been sourced from a suitable offsite location at the nearby Holcim Quarry off Old Cooma Road. Water from the quarry pond is pumped into watercarts and then applied to the roadworks for various purposes including earthworks and dust suppression.

Are there other ways to reduce town water consumption during construction?

Yes, there are several products and practices that are used to reduce the demand for town water during construction. These include:

- Polymers and soil binders have been used at various times on haul roads, stockpiles and disturbed areas to stabilise ground surfaces and provide dust suppression, rather than frequently applying water to provide dust mitigation.
- Use of innovative products in landscaping and grassing works, including biopolymers, water absorbents, micro-pore particles, and thermally refined wood fibres which all help to enhance water retention and reduce the volume of water that needs to be applied to grassed areas.
- Recycling of water during concrete curing activities.
- Raising awareness among employees and subcontractors about the importance of reducing water use and implementing water efficient practices.