



Understanding your garden bore

About one in four Perth households water gardens with groundwater accessed from a garden bore. If you use a garden bore, then you're sharing Perth's precious groundwater – with nature and other groundwater users nearby, such as your local council and schools.

What is a garden bore?

Garden bores are small bores that abstract groundwater to irrigate home gardens and lawns. Using bores to irrigate areas larger than 2,000 square meters, or for commercial purposes, requires assessment and the granting of a licence by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

A garden bore is a structure used to draw water from a shallow aquifer up to the surface. It usually includes a bore hole or well, pipe work and a pump and is connected to irrigation systems and an irrigation controller.

Sprinkler restrictions and a winter sprinkler ban determine when you are able to use your garden bore.

There are over 100,000 households with garden bores across the Perth and Peel regions. Collectively they take a lot of groundwater and contribute to the overall impact on the resource.

We all need to do our bit to conserve Perth's precious groundwater.

Do I have a garden bore?

If you live in an established or rental property, you may not be aware of whether or not you have a garden bore.

To check if your irrigation system runs off a garden bore, turn off your scheme water supply at the meter (this is usually located at the front of your property), then turn the irrigation on at the controller. If your irrigation works then you probably have a bore. Power cables running from the irrigation box into the ground may also indicate a mains-powered bore pump.



How does a garden bore work?

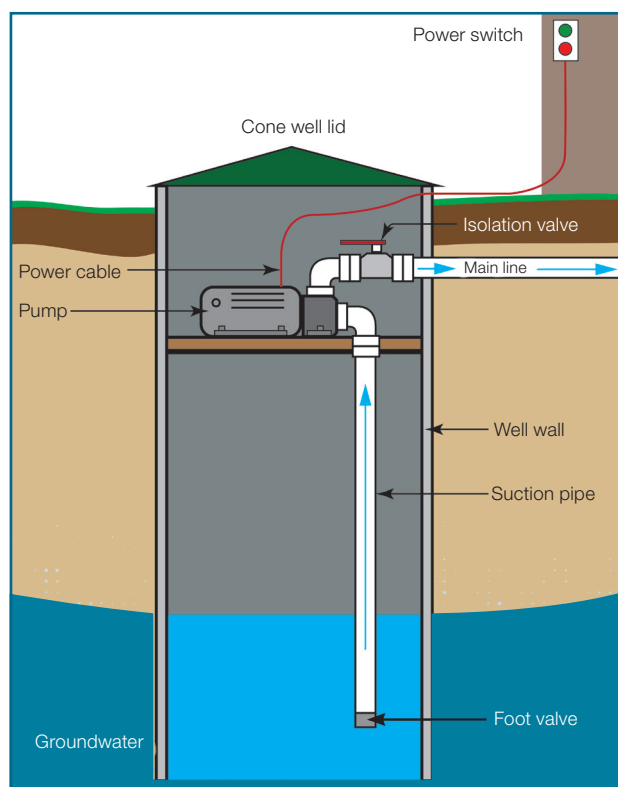
The key components of a garden bore are the bore hole or well, the pipe work and a pump. The pipe provides access to water stored in underground aquifers and the pump draws this water to the surface.

Types of garden bores

Well bore

Older well-style bores usually have a metal cone-like lid and a manual on and off switch.

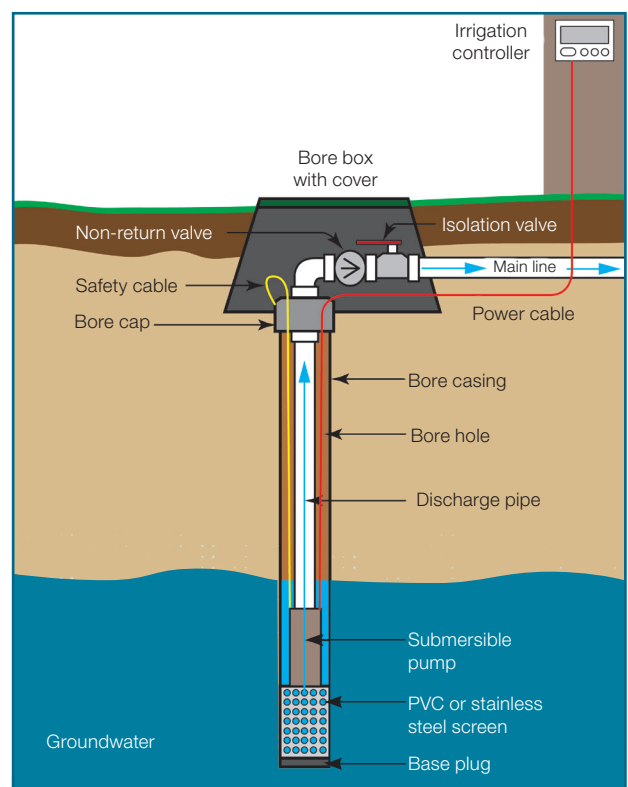
A manual switch can result in overwatering if the operator forgets to turn the switch off.



Submersible pump bore

Newer submersible pump bores are usually located underground in a box with a lid that is flush with the ground.

Submersible bore pumps are more energy efficient than older types of pumps.



Garden bore maintenance

Whether your bore is old or new, regular maintenance will help you use groundwater wisely.

Start by installing a protective cover and ensuring it remains intact. Connecting your garden bore to an automatic irrigation controller can help ensure efficient watering.

A waterwise specialist can help you with bore maintenance or repairs.

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