

Lined Catchment Construction Approval in the Barossa Region

LOCATION: Flaxman Valley
ANNUAL RAINFALL: 700mm
FARM SIZE: 28ha
ENTERPRISES: Vineyard, beef, sheep

In 2026 Leon Deans constructed a 1-ha polyethylene-lined catchment to capture rainfall run-off to flow directly into his existing 10ML dam. Prior to its construction, Leon needed approval from relevant authorities. **This fact sheet outlines Leons approval requirements for constructing a lined catchment in The Barossa Council region.**

Lined catchment construction - approval requirements

A lined catchment is a polyethylene-lined structure designed to capture rainfall run-off that flows into a dam. Because it alters how surface water is collected or diverted across the landscape, regulatory approval is required before construction can begin.

In South Australia, approval may involve one or both of the following processes:

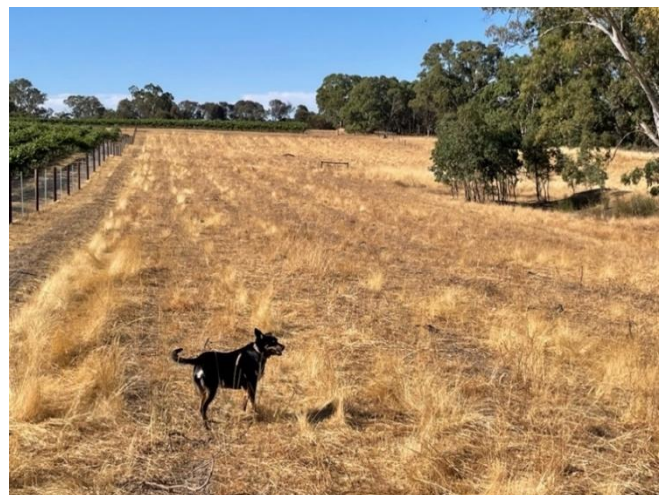
- **Development Approval (DA)** through your local council.
- **Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permit** through your regional SA Landscape Board.

The specific requirements depend on the location, design and potential impacts of the proposed catchment.

Development Approval (DA) - Council

Following discussions with The Barossa Council, including a site inspection of the proposed lined catchment location, the Council determined that Leon did not need to lodge a DA application. However, a DA may be required in some circumstances, and landholders are encouraged to seek early advice from their council before commencing any works.

Council considers a range of factors when determining whether a DA is required, including; whether the proposal involves building works and whether it results in a change in land use.



The 1-ha area designated for Leon Deans lined catchment prior to construction approval.

Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Permit – Landscape Board

[Water Affecting Activities](#) are actions that may impact the health and condition of water resources, other water users, or ecosystems that depend on those resources. Construction of a lined catchment is included in this category, meaning Leon required a WAA permit from the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board (NYLB).

In his [WAA permit application](#), Leon provided:

- A description of the lined catchment and its purpose.
- Details of the proposed location and construction method.
- Environmental risk management strategies associated with the works.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their permit application at least two months before starting construction. The current application fee is \$71.50 (GST exempt).

As part of its assessment, the NYLB may consider the proposal against relevant Water Allocation Plans. For Leon, this included the Barossa Water Allocation Plan.

Leon received written confirmation that his WAA application was approved. Once issued, the permit was valid for 12 months, allowing him to begin construction in accordance with the approved plans.

Case-By-Case Basis

It is important to note that Leon's approval requirements for constructing a lined catchment in the Barossa Council region were based solely on his individual circumstances. Approval requirements are determined according to the specific details of each proposal and may therefore differ from Leon's. Applicants should always consult with their local council and relevant SA Landscape Board to confirm their individual approval requirements before lodging any documentation.

Key steps for lined catchment construction approval:

- Consult with your local council and relevant SA Landscape Board on approval requirements.
- Based on feedback, prepare and lodge a DA application and/or WAA permit.
- After obtaining approval, construction may commence in accordance with the approved plans.

Resources

- Lined catchment construction in the Barossa Ranges - [BIGG fact sheet](#)
- [Water licences and dams – Barossa Council fact sheet](#)
- [Guide to applying for a Water Affecting Activity permit – NYLB publication](#)

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