

Shared fire services

Development Services – information sheet 74

Legislative Base

By-Law 99 **Country Areas Water Supply Act By-laws**

By-Law 6.4.6 **Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act By-Laws**

In areas where flow and water pressure do not meet prescribed standards i.e. (*Australian Standard (AS 2419)*) and the *Building Code of Australia (BCA)* customers may incur significant costs whilst installing tanks and pumps to meet fire protection requirements. In certain circumstances the Water Corporation will permit multiple lots to share a single fire service. However, it should be noted that shared fire service is not intended to be a business opportunity but rather a means to alleviate financial hardship by cost sharing and joint responsibilities for the fire protection equipment.

For example, a group of neighbouring lots have a common fire service installed on one of the lots and then run pipes to the adjoining properties. In these instances participants would need to have a legally binding agreement ensuring that there is an identifiable entity responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the equipment and payment of associated costs. All parties to an arrangement such as this should ensure that their interests in the communal fire protection are shared in perpetuity.

It is unlikely that a shared fire service would be allowed where;

- it has many clients;
- features sophisticated infrastructure or is expansive in scale; or
- operated to make a profit as the service would be not be a fire service but rather a water service and require a licence.

Please contact the Water Corporation on 13 13 95 for more details.

Applications for a shared fire service will be provided with the appropriate sized water service and assessed in the same manner as a standard fire service, with no headworks contributions payable unless it is a commercial arrangement. However, application fees and annual service charges apply.

Note: Written approval is required from the local authority when applicants propose to install their connecting pipes within a road reserve

Further information

Applicants should liaise with the Fire and Emergency Service Authority's (FESA) Built Environment Branch to ascertain any specific fire fighting system design requirements when considering the use of a shared fire service. For further information telephone 9323 9780 or refer to [FESA's Publications/Guidelines](#) requirements.