

# Does your business rely on water from a well?

Do you run a commercial or industrial operation, or a home business that relies on a private groundwater supply, like a farm, orchard, vinyard, nursery, ranch, or golf course?



**Was your business operating before March 1, 2016? If so, did you know you now require an existing use licence for that water use?**

The *Water Sustainability Act* includes a transitional period that allows existing users (those that used groundwater before March 1, 2016) to apply to continue to use that water and retain your rights. This period ends on March 1, 2022.



**How do I apply?**

Apply online from the [BC Government Website](#) or phone FrontCounterBC (877-855-3222) or contact us and we can help you through the process.

**What happens if I don't apply by the March 1, 2022 deadline?**

If you don't apply for your existing use licence before that date, you will forfeit your historic right and seniority to use that groundwater. Continued water use will be unlawful and may be subject to fines and penalties. To make use legal after this date, you will need to apply as a "new user", and temporarily shut down your water use pending licence approval (approvals can take multiple years to process). As a new user, your application has the potential to be refused. If this happens your water use will be permanently shut down.



Contact **Marta Green, P.Geo.**, at 250-545-3672. More info is available on our website at: <https://www.ae.ca/wsa>