



Water Evaluation Platform

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does the Water Evaluation Platform (WEP) do?

The Water Evaluation Platform (WEP) is an online platform designed to support better water planning on farms. It helps users simulate dam and catchment performance, optimise water storage, and assess options to improve water supply reliability. Whether you're planning a new dam, upgrading an existing one, or comparing options for water security, WEP gives you the data to guide your choices.

You can use WEP to:

- Simulate how existing or planned dams perform under different climate and demand scenarios
- Design roaded catchments to reliably meet on-farm or community water needs
- Evaluate the value of sealing leaky dams or installing evaporation covers
- Compare the long-term costs and benefits of different dam and catchment decisions to find the most cost-effective solution.

2. What are the benefits of creating a WEP account, and how do I start simulating with one?

Creating a free WEP account allows you to save simulations, access advanced optimisation features, and revisit or adjust your work later. Once logged in, head to the dashboard, use the guided setup to enter your farm/dam's details, and start your first simulation. Help guides and video tutorials are available within the platform to support you step-by-step.

3. Can I use WEP without creating an account?

You can start running simulations straight away. Visit the platform, choose a simulation tool, and begin exploring how different dam and catchment scenarios perform. To access advanced features and certain areas of the platform will require an account.

4. Who can access the Platform?

The Platform is open to everyone. Whether you're a farmer, agronomist, consultant, or researcher, you can use the tool. No specialist software or background is required.

5. Is there a cost to use WEP?

No, WEP is completely free to use. It has been developed as part of the WaterSmart Dams project, funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the WA Government's Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund, with support from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Grower Group Alliance.

6. Can I access WEP offline or on mobile devices?

The Platform is an online platform and requires an internet connection to function. It is designed to be responsive and works on most modern desktop and mobile browsers, allowing access from smartphones and tablets.

7. Are there any recommended browsers or system requirements?

The Platform works best on current versions of Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Edge. An internet connection is required.



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8. What data sources is the tool drawing from to generate responses?

The Platform uses trusted, real-world datasets and scientifically validated methods to simulate dam and catchment performance. Key data sources include:

- Catchment runoff and dam performance data from 12 long-term monitoring and demonstration sites across the south-west agricultural region of Western Australia
- Daily climate data – including rainfall, temperature, and evaporation – sourced from the Scientific Information for Landowners (SILO) climate database
- A research report *"Options for Farm Water Supply in a Volatile, Drying Climate"* by Ross Kingwell and Anne Bennett, incorporating climate models, agricultural water use data, and detailed economic evaluations of farm water supply options and their costs.

These inputs have been field-tested and are regularly updated to reflect local conditions, user feedback, and on-ground performance across diverse farming systems. The most important source of data is what you provide when describing your catchment, dam morphometry, and water demand.

9. How detailed can the scenarios be?

You can customise scenarios by adjusting dam sizes, catchment surface types, evaporation treatments, and water demand profiles. This flexibility allows you to create tailored models that reflect your farm's specific conditions and water management goals.

10. What kinds of water supply scenarios can I model?

The Platform allows you to simulate a variety of scenarios including different dam sizes, catchment designs, rainfall patterns, evaporation rates, and water demand levels. You can explore the impacts of climate variability, drought periods, and different farm management strategies to improve water security.

11. Can I model future climate impacts on water supply?

Not at the moment. However, you can explore how dam and catchments performed in historical wet and dry years.

12. Does the WEP account for evaporation losses?

Yes, WEP includes detailed simulations of evaporation losses from dam surfaces based on local climate data derived from the SILO product. The platform also allows users to model the effectiveness of evaporation reduction strategies, such as installing covers, to improve water retention and optimise dam performance under varying climate conditions.

13. Where can I access my completed simulation results?

Your results will be available within your account. Navigate to the relevant project section under the 'Settings' > 'Account' to review the outcomes and insights generated. You must have a WEP account to save simulations. If you don't create an account, your simulations will not be stored on the platform.



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14. Can I share my simulation results with others?

Yes, your saved simulations are private and secure when using your Water Evaluation Platform account. You can choose to download images or share specific simulations with other users. To share a simulation, the recipient must also have a Water Evaluation Platform account.

Shared simulations can be accessed by the recipient by navigating to Settings > Account, where they will appear under "Simulations shared with you."

15. Long-running simulation results

For long-running simulations and optimisations, you'll get an email notifying you when the results are ready to view in your account.

16. How will my information be kept, shared, and/or used?

When you create a WEP account, we collect your name, email, and optionally your organisation to enable saving and revisiting your simulations. Your information is stored securely, never shared with other users, and is not used for research without your explicit permission. Simulation data and personal details remain private and will only be made public if you choose to share them. We do not disclose your information except when required by law or to provide support. You can also use WEP anonymously, but an account is needed to save and compare simulations.

The University of Western Australia (UWA) is committed to managing personal information legally and responsibly, and in accordance with its privacy framework www.uwa.edu.au/privacy.

17. What should I do if I've forgotten my password?

If you've forgotten your password, go to Settings > Login > Forgot password. Enter the email address associated with your account and follow the prompts to reset your password.

18. What should I do if I encounter errors or bugs?

If you experience any errors or bugs while using the platform, please report them to cwss@uwa.edu.au. Your feedback helps us identify issues and improve the platform's performance.

