



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



Natural Legal Language
Get better results using plain English with Natural Legal Language Searching on Westlaw.

How to effectively search in Westlaw Australia

Natural Language Searching

Run a search on Water Permit

This will produce results for AND as well as OR between terms



THOMSON REUTERS
WESTLAW Region: Australia

All content | water permit

Content types	Set default	
Overview		7
Cases		10,000
Key Numbers		10
Legislation		5,266
Secondary Sources		10,000
Forms & Precedents		437
News & Current Awareness		3,688
Government & Regulatory Materials		1,768
Practical Law		2,261
All results		33,420

Running a natural legal language search can be effective, however, can produce many results

Plain Language

Enter sentences or descriptive terms for your legal issue and Westlaw will automatically look for word and phrase variations.

To enhance your plain language search:

- Place **quotation marks** around phrase concepts.
- Require/Exclude terms**-use a '+' to **require** a term or phrase in every document in your search results and use a '-' to **exclude** a term or phrase from every document in your search results.

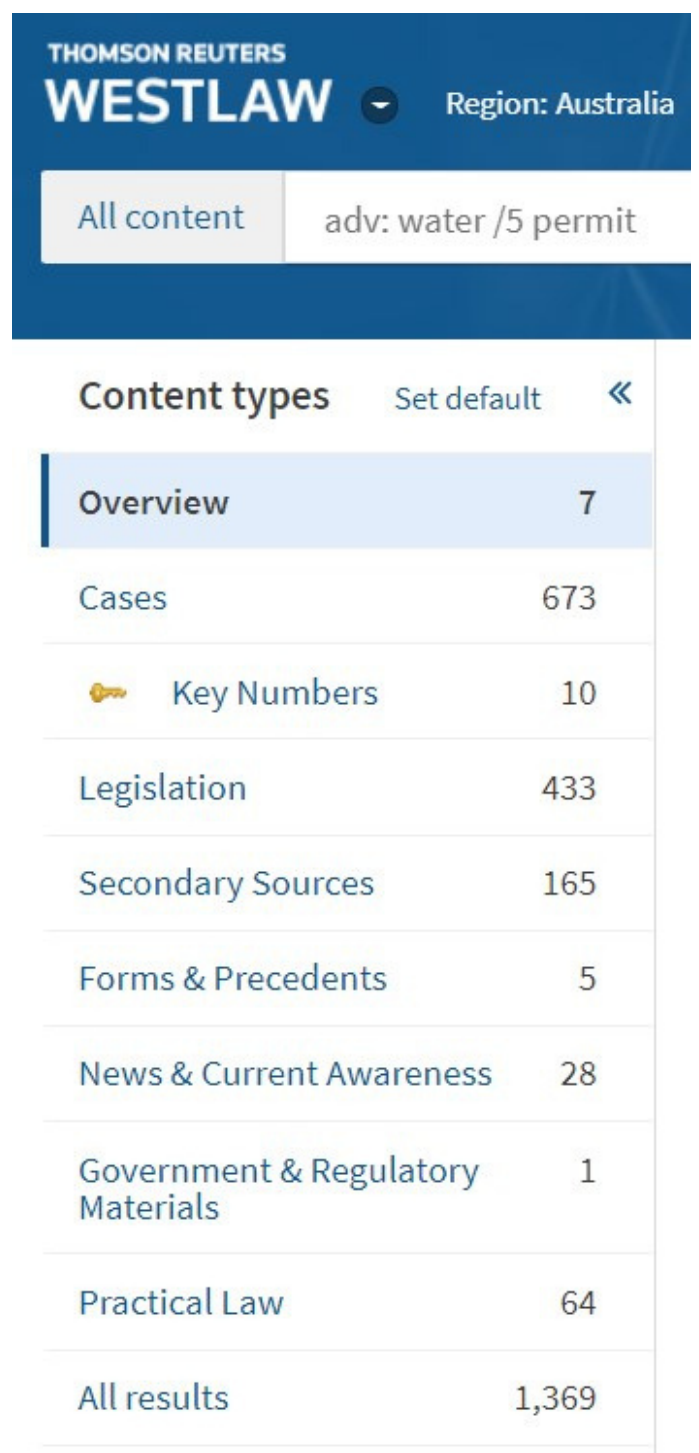
Example:

termination contract + "fixed and term" - "construction"

Boolean Searching

Run a search on Water /5 Permit

This will produce results of the terms water and permit within 5 words of one another



THOMSON REUTERS
WESTLAW Region: Australia

All content | adv: water /5 permit

Content types	Set default	
Overview		7
Cases		673
Key Numbers		10
Legislation		433
Secondary Sources		165
Forms & Precedents		5
News & Current Awareness		28
Government & Regulatory Materials		1
Practical Law		64
All results		1,369

Running a boolean search can be effective, as the results are fewer.

Connectors and Expanders

&	AND
/s	In same sentence
or	OR
+s	Preceding within sentence
/p	In same paragraph
""	Phrase
+p	Preceding within paragraph
%	But not
/n	Within n terms of
!	Root expander
+n	Preceding within n terms of
*	Universal character
#	Prefix to turn off plurals and equivalents

For more help, contact the Law Liaison Team at
law-library@unimelb.edu.au