



NSW non-urban water metering framework

Fact sheet – overview of new requirements

November 2018

A new metering framework for non-urban water take in NSW commences on 1 December 2018. It will improve the standard and coverage of water meters across NSW by ensuring that licensed water users have accurate, tamper-proof meters.

The new metering requirements are prescribed in the Water Management Act 2000 and the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018, and are set out in the *NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy*.

The new metering requirements will take effect in a staged manner over five years. Requirements for new and replacement meters and faulty meters commence on 1 April 2019.

Who is required to have a meter?

The new metering framework applies to licensed water take where the water taken is able to be measured by a meter.

You will need a meter if your water supply work(s) meets any of the metering thresholds described below.

Already required to have a meter or measure

All works already legally required to have a meter or measure water will require a meter.

Infrastructure size

- Surface water: all authorised works (including open channels and closed pipe), except pumps less than 100 mm.
- Groundwater: all authorised works (which includes spear points), except water bores less than 200 mm.

Multiple works

All works linked with the same approval, licence or landholding, will be required to have a meter except those listed below.

Surface water works with:

- up to 2 pumps, each less than 75mm
- up to 3 pumps, each less than 50mm
- up to 4 pumps, each less than 40mm

Groundwater works with:

- up to 2 bores, each less than 160mm
- up to 3 bores, each less than 130mm
- up to 4 bores, each less than 120mm.

At-risk groundwater sources

All works taking licensed water in identified at-risk groundwater sources, regardless of size. These sources are identified in Appendix B of the NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy.

Exceptions

The metering requirements do not apply to:

- works **solely** used to take water under basic landholder rights such as water for stock and domestic use
- water take that is exempt from the requirement for a water access licence or water taken under a floodplain harvesting access licence
- works granted an exemption by the Minister because the take of water cannot be measured using a meter
- surface water works marked as inactive on the water supply work approval.

What standards will apply to your meter?

The objective is for meters to be accurate, tamper-proof and auditable. To be compliant with the regulation, meters must meet the standards outlined below.

New and replacement meters

From 1 April 2019, all new and replacement meters must be pattern-approved and installed and validated by a duly qualified person in accordance with the requirements of Australian Standard 4747. An alternative option is available for open channel meters.

All meters will be required to have tamper-evident seals and data loggers.

Existing meters

Users with works that meet the infrastructure size or multiple works thresholds who wish to keep their existing meters will need to demonstrate, by the roll-out date, that the meter is pattern-approved and validated, or accurate. They will also need to install a data logger and tamper-evident seals, if not already installed.

All other users who are required to meter and who wish to keep their existing meters will need to ensure the meter continues to operate properly. When it no longer operates properly, the meter will need to be replaced with a meter that meets the new meter standards.

Telemetry

Telemetry is required for all surface water works, **except pumps** authorised to be **less than 200 mm**. These works must comply with the data logging and telemetry specifications that will be published on 1 April 2019.

Telemetry is not required for groundwater works.

All water users may voluntarily install telemetry equipment even if it is not required.

Maintenance

Metering equipment must comply with the maintenance specifications that will be published on the Department's website and must be validated by a duly qualified person every five years (for closed pipe) or every 12 months (for open channel).

When will you need your meter installed?

The new metering requirements will be implemented in a staged manner. The staged roll-out takes a risk-based approach, aiming to ensure the largest water users in NSW are metered and telemetered in the first year of the roll-out.

The roll-out will also allow time for the market to adjust to meet demand for both pattern-approved meters and certified meter installers.

The roll-out dates are:

- Stage 1: Surface water users with pumps of 500 mm or larger must comply by 1 December 2019
- Stage 2: Remaining users in northern inland regions must comply by 1 December 2020
- Stage 3: Remaining users in southern inland regions must comply by 1 December 2021
- Stage 4: Remaining users in the coastal regions must comply by 1 December 2023.

Duly qualified persons

A duly qualified person is a person with the qualifications, skills or expertise to carry out work in connection with metering equipment, as prescribed in the regulation.

Water users need to ensure that a duly qualified person:

- installs or re-installs any metering equipment
- validates the metering equipment when required
- carries out maintenance activities that must be carried out by a duly qualified person according to the maintenance specifications.

There are also new offence provisions in the regulation for duly qualified persons who don't comply with the requirements.

More information

More information regarding the NSW non-urban water metering framework, including the regulation and policy, is available on the department's website

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform/metering-framework>.



NSW Department of Industry — Water Reform



[industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform](https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform)



02 9338 6600