

Due to the disallowance of the amendments to the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 that relate to floodplain harvesting, implementation dates for the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy are uncertain. The dates specified in our reports and guidelines may therefore be superseded.



HEALTHY FLOODPLAINS PROJECT

NSW Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy

July 2020



Appendix A - Consultation

The department has carefully considered the feedback received from the consultation sessions. The feedback has shaped the development of the policy. This is evidenced in the [Draft Floodplain Harvesting Monitoring and Auditing Strategy: Consultation outcomes report \(2019\)](#).

Table 3 summarises the development of the policy.

Table 3. Timeline in developing the Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy

Date	Action
2014	The department conducted a pilot study to assess and evaluate possible measurement meters and monitoring systems.
2015	The department consulted stakeholders on the development of a monitoring strategy.
March 2017	The NSW Government released the draft Floodplain Harvesting Monitoring Policy for public consultation. The department received nine formal submissions.
March 2018	The department released <i>Implementing the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy consultation paper</i> for comment, which included a proposal for a staged approach to floodplain monitoring that aimed to improve rigour over time.
November 2018	The department released a draft Floodplain Harvesting Monitoring and Auditing Strategy. 32 formal submissions were received as part of public consultation.
July 2019	The department consulted targeted stakeholder groups about development of the draft Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Strategy (previously the draft Monitoring and Auditing Strategy).
September 2019	The department consulted with stakeholders regarding the peer review report of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy's implementation, including the draft Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Strategy. 14 written submissions were received as part of the peer review process.
December 2019	The department held workshops to ensure the draft Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Strategy (now known as the Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy) could be implemented.
March/April 2020	The department held targeted consultation sessions with peak stakeholder groups and showcased a final version of the draft NSW Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy.

Appendix B—Buffer zones

If an on-farm storage is not fitted with a storage meter, all water that it contains must be transferred to an on-farm storage that has been fitted with a storage meter before the end of a floodplain harvesting event can be reported. When an on-farm storage is used in this manner, it is called a buffer zone.

It will be an offence for a landholder to nominate the end of a floodplain harvesting measurement period before all the water contained in a buffer zone has been transferred to a measured on-farm storage (that is, the buffer zone is empty).

Appendix C—Minimum specifications for sensors

Table 4. Minimum acceptable specifications for storage sensors

Criterion	Minimum specification
Output	Digital (SDI-12/Modbus) directly output from sensor
Range	Appropriate to the storage depth (typically 0–5 m, up to 10 m)
Accuracy	±10 mm
Calibration capability	Has the capacity to record/adjust calibration constants, and can be tested against a reference meter
Supply voltage and power consumption	Able to operate on nominal 12 V DC supply and < 20 mA average current draw
Data acquisition service/data logger and telemetry unit compatibility	Data acquisition service compatibility for relevant floodplain harvesting measurement parameters. Sensor able to respond to requests for serial number, and other diagnostic information
Temperature range	-5 °C to +50 °C operating temperature
Warranty	Minimum 12 months
Performance testing	Sensor has been trialled or is used in harsh environments by a reputable independent agency in Australia
Support	Satisfactory vendor documentation and local support available

Appendix D—Meter failure provisions

Landholders must report the following information to the Minister within 24 hours via the online form called 'S911 self-reporting form' (referred to as the 'faulty meter form' in this policy):

- name
- contact details
- the unique meter or storage meter ID
- location of the meter/respective work
- any relevant approval and/or access licence numbers
- the purposes for which water take from the measured work is used
- a description of the Minister-approved system that will be used to determine quantity of water taken while the meter is faulty
- photo evidence of the faulty meter
- any correspondence sent by the data acquisition service (that is, emails) that relates to the faulty meter.

It will be an offence to harvest water from a floodplain if a landholder:

- has not notified the Minister within 24 hours of becoming aware of a faulty meter
- does not continue to measure their floodplain harvested volume using a Minister-approved redundancy method.

If a landholder satisfies these two conditions, they will be permitted to harvest water for 21 days after lodging the notification. As soon as the floodplain harvesting faulty meter form is lodged, the 21 days starts without prior approval from the Minister (Figure 4).

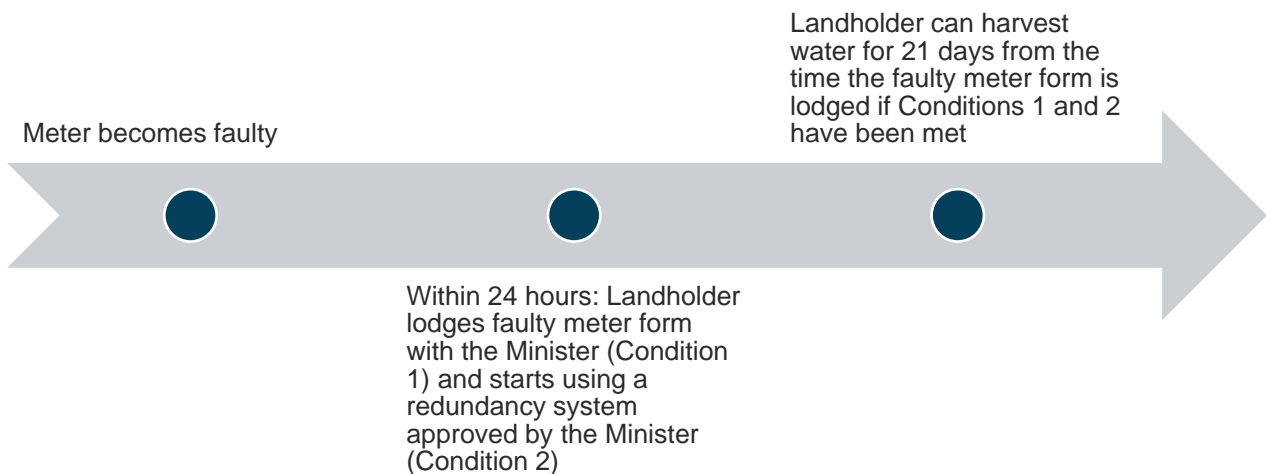


Figure 4. Meter failure provisions

Table 5. gives faulty meter scenarios, and definitions of landholders becoming aware of these scenarios to determine when the 24 hours allowed for reporting the faulty meter begins.

Table 5. Scenarios where landholders must report the faulty meter, structure or telemetry issue

Faulty meter scenario	Definition of a landholder becoming aware
Storage meter is calibrated incorrectly and generating incorrect measurement data	Data acquisition service sends an email to the landholder informing them that the measurement data appears faulty and the meter needs to be checked by a duly qualified person (for example, this may appear as storage volume data going up and down in orders of magnitude and time that do not correlate with normal meter behaviour). Landholder realises that on-ground observations do not match the meter readings (for example, the storage is full but the meter data says it is at half storage volume capacity).
Meter telemetry fails	Data acquisition service sends email to the landholder. Landholder observes that they are no longer receiving data on the data acquisition service dashboard.
Storage sensor or meter fails to generate data	Data acquisition service sends email to the landholder. Landholder observes that they are no longer receiving data on the data acquisition service dashboard.
Storage benchmarks have moved, for example movement due to soils, physical or environmental damage	Landholder observes that benchmark has been damaged or moved.
Storage sensor or meter has a mechanical fault, for example a part not working or damaged by environmental factors such as insect or animal damage	Data acquisition service sends email to the landholder. Landholder observes fault.

Conditions for an extension

If a landholder requires more than 21 days to repair or replace their faulty meter, they must submit an online extension form to the Minister before the end of the 21-day period. Any extensions granted, together with the initial 21 days, is called the authorisation period.

Floodplain harvesting must not occur past the initial 21 days until the extension has been approved by the Minister.

To satisfy the reasonable excuses for an extension to be approved by the Minister, landholders must provide written evidence that they have requested a duly qualified person to repair the faulty meter or install an approved replacement within one business day of notifying the Minister of the faulty meter. The evidence may take the form of:

- an email, or
- order receipt, or
- registered post letter issued by Australia Post,

that they have put a request into a duly qualified person to repair or install the faulty meter within one business day of notifying the Minister of the faulty meter.

The process and timing for an extension is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Extension process

Event	Timing
1. Landholder lodges faulty meter form with the Minister and starts using a redundancy system approved by the Minister if they continue to floodplain harvest.	Within 24 hours of becoming aware of the fault
2. Landholder requests a duly qualified person to repair the faulty meter or install an approved replacement.	Within one business day of notifying the Minister of the faulty meter
3. If the duly qualified person finds that the faulty meter must be replaced or new parts are required, the landholder must submit an order for the new meter or parts.	Within one business day of receiving written advice from the duly qualified person
4. Landholder to repair or replace the faulty meter.	Within 21 days of notifying the Minister of the fault
5. If unable to repair/replace the faulty meter within 21 days, the landholder submits an online extension form to the Minister.	Within 21 days of notifying the Minister of the fault
6. Extension approved by the Minister, if applicable.	Determined by the Minister
7. Floodplain harvesting can take place during the extension.	Determined by the Minister