



NSW non-urban water metering policy

Fact sheet—preparing for the roll-out dates

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.

This fact sheet describes what users who already have a meter installed before 1 April 2019 must do to comply with the new requirements.

Preparing for your roll-out date

The new metering requirements will be rolled out over a five-year period:

- 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 coastal regions must comply by 1 December 2023.

Users will need to allow time to ensure their meters are compliant by their roll-out date. In most cases this will involve engaging a duly qualified person to validate or accuracy-test your existing meter, or install a new meter. The qualifications, skills and experience required of duly qualified persons are set out in clause 236 of the regulation.

Table 1 summarises the steps you need to take in different circumstances to prepare for your roll-out date.

Existing works above the infrastructure or multiple works threshold

By the roll-out date, users with existing meters on works that are above the infrastructure size or multiple works threshold must ensure the meter:

- is pattern-approved and validated by a duly qualified person, or
- meets the accuracy requirements.

These meters must also have a data logger, tamper-evident seals, and telemetry (except for surface water pumps authorised to be less than 200 mm or groundwater works) installed.

Existing works below the infrastructure size or multiple works threshold

Users with existing meters on works that are below the infrastructure size or multiple works thresholds but are required to meter because their work is:

- in an at-risk groundwater source (listed in Schedule 9 of the regulation), or
- already required to have a meter or measure water take must ensure their meter is operating properly.

From 1 April 2019, where an existing meter needs to be replaced or a new meter installed, the user must purchase a pattern-approved meter and have it installed and validated by a duly qualified person.

Water users are encouraged to comply with these requirements before 1 April 2019 where possible.

Keeping an existing meter

Users with works that meet the infrastructure size or multiple works threshold and who wish to keep their existing meters must provide a report to the Minister confirming the meter is pattern-approved and validated, or meets accuracy requirements, by their roll-out date.

For pattern-approved meters: users must arrange for a duly qualified person to validate the meter or must provide evidence that a validation has been done by a duly qualified person no more than five years before the roll-out date.

For meters that are not pattern-approved: users must provide a report to the Minister and supporting evidence to show that either:

1. a) the meter has been validated within the last five years by a duly qualified person, and
 (b) the maximum error of the meter did not exceed +/-2.5% after manufacture as confirmed by a written manufacturer's certificate, or
2. (a) the metering equipment has been checked for accuracy within the last five years by a duly qualified person, and
 (b) the check determined that the maximum permissible error of the metering equipment did not exceed +/-5% in the field.

Table 1. Steps users will need to take to prepare for their roll-out date

Type of work	If you have a meter already before 1 April 2019	If you don't have a meter
Work meets the infrastructure size or multiple works threshold	<p>Required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirm meter is pattern-approved and validated or is accurate and submit report to Minister • install tamper-evident seals and data logger • install telemetry (except for surface water pumps authorised to be less than 200 mm and groundwater works) <p>If meter does not meet requirements above, replace it with a meter that meets the new meter standards.</p>	Required to install a new meter that meets the new meter standards.
<p>Work is below the infrastructure size or multiple works threshold, but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the work is already required to have a meter or measure water take, or • is located in an at-risk groundwater source 	<p>Must ensure the meter is operating properly.</p> <p>If meter is not operating properly, replace it with a meter that meets the new meter standards.</p>	Required to install a new meter that meets the new meter standards.

More information

More information regarding the NSW non-urban water metering framework, including the regulation and policy, is available on the department's website industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform/metering-framework.



NSW Department of Industry

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