

NSW non-urban water metering framework

Industry guide - works requiring a meter

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*.

This fact sheet has been developed as a guide for meter manufacturers, installers and validators, to help the market prepare to meet increased demand. It indicates the number of works estimated to need a new or replacement meter under the framework.

Metering requirements and timing

Under the new framework, users with works that meet one or more of the metering thresholds will be required to have a meter:

- already required to have a meter or measure water take
- infrastructure size
- multiple works
- at-risk groundwater source.

More information on metering thresholds is available in the NSW non-urban water metering framework fact sheet.

Water users can keep their existing meter if it is pattern-approved and validated or confirmed as accurate.



Meters that cannot comply must be replaced with a pattern-approved meter that is installed by a duly qualified person. It is likely that a significant proportion of existing meters will need to be replaced.

The roll-out dates for each stage 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.

How many works will need to be metered at each stage?

The estimated number and sizes of works requiring meters under the new metering framework for surface water and groundwater are in Tables 1 to 3. These figures are indicative, based on best available data.

Table 1. Number of works requiring a meter in Stage 1

Stage 1 – Largest Users		
Work size (mm)	Currently metered	Total works to be metered under new requirements
500–549	118	182
550–599	2	5
600–649	408	538
650–699	248	349
700–749	6	10
750–899	43	73
900–999	31	50
1000–1,200	22	32
>1,200	9	18
Total	887	1257

Table 2. Number of surface water works in each region that will need to be metered in Stages 2–4

Work size (mm)	Stage 2—Northern inland		Stage 3—Southern inland		Stage 4—Coast	
	Currently metered	Total works to be metered under new requirements	Currently metered	Total works to be metered under new requirements	Currently metered	Total works to be metered under new requirements
0–49	6	9	19	33	13	42
50–99	58	156	151	255	155	572
100–149	271	1,147	530	1,306	693	2,280
150–199	149	434	396	718	106	295
200–249	81	162	299	513	32	79
250–299	48	107	306	519	9	23
300–349	70	153	456	727	15	30
350–399	53	86	213	322	0	9
400–449	153	246	180	257	0	5
450–499	19	48	55	73	1	3
Total	908	2,548	2,605	4,723	1,024	3,338

Stage 1 includes only pumps of 500 mm or larger.

For stages 2–4, multiple works on a single licence, work approval or landholding that meet the metering thresholds are included.

Table 3. Number of groundwater works in each region that will need to be metered in Stages 2–4

Work size (mm)	Stage 2—Northern inland		Stage 3—Southern inland		Stage 4—Coast	
	Currently metered	Total works to be metered under new requirements	Currently metered	Total works to be metered under new requirements	Currently metered	Total works to be metered under new requirements
<50	20	57	106	275	1	360
50–99	1	7	13	28	0	1
100–199	137	826	161	536	18	53
200–299	441	1,391	336	673	13	785
300–399	424	982	369	564	4	123
400–499	210	404	189	252	3	31
500–599	150	239	68	104	0	4
600–699	23	53	47	72	0	8
700–799	4	28	14	24	0	6
800–899	5	8	7	15	0	0
900–999	16	88	8	23	1	22
1,000–1,199	40	151	1	8	0	71
>=1,200	202	651	7	32	16	934
Excavations	24	168	13	49	0	259
Total	1,697	5,053	1,339	2,655	56	2,663

Works smaller than 50 mm include spear points, which will require a meter under the new framework.

Many of the works that are larger than 1,200 mm are wells.

The size of groundwater works is based on the outside diameter specified on the drilling certificate (Form A). While the requirement to have a meter is based on the authorised work, the meter installed may be smaller, depending on other aspects of the infrastructure (e.g. pipe or pump size).

NSW Department of Industry



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