Review of non-urban water metering framework

Webinar

Consultation on key issues and options

November 2023

NSW GOVERNMENT

Acknowledgement of Country

Agenda

Introductions and agenda	
1. Purpose of today	
2. Options to address barriers	Short presentation on each option
I. Applying metering only to works that take water	Followed by question and answer
II. Targeting risk more effectively	
III. Revisiting installer requirements	
IV. Data systems and equipment standards	
V. Improving water use reporting	
VI. Overland flow in unregulated systems	
VII. Compliance and enforcement	
3. Public consultation and making submissions	

About the review

1

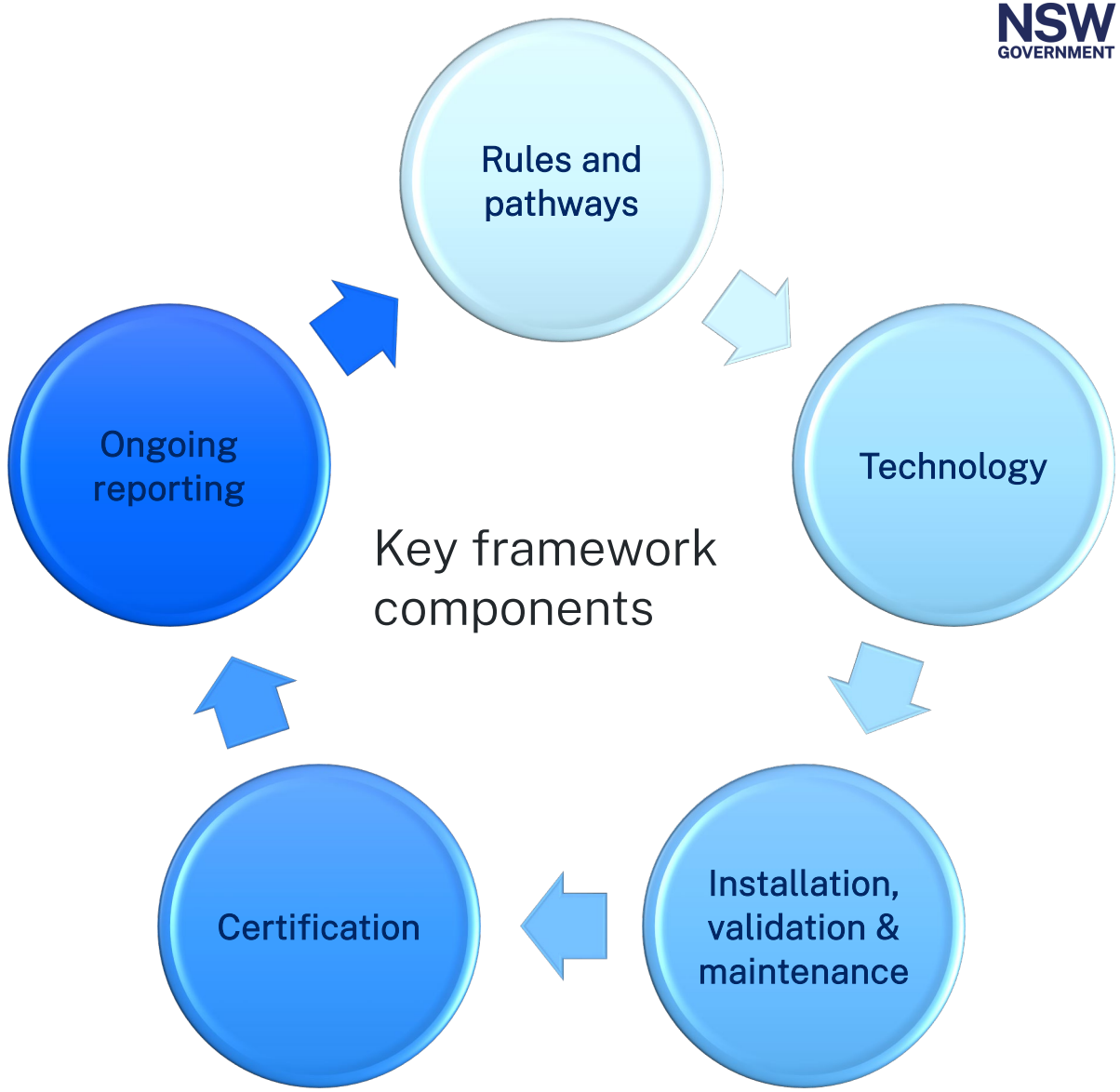
Purpose of the review

The **purpose** of the review is to:

- look at how to accelerate implementation of the reforms to achieve the policy objectives
- identify practical changes to the rules to enable improved compliance

Identify changes that will:

- help the reform be delivered **faster**
- create opportunities to **reduce total costs**
- make the rules **easier** to understand, implement, comply with and enforce
- make the system work **better**



Objectives of the non-urban water metering policy (2018)

To ensure that:

- the vast majority of licensed water take is accurately metered
- meters are accurate, tamper proof and auditable
- undue costs on smaller water users are minimised
- metering requirements are practical and can be implemented effectively.

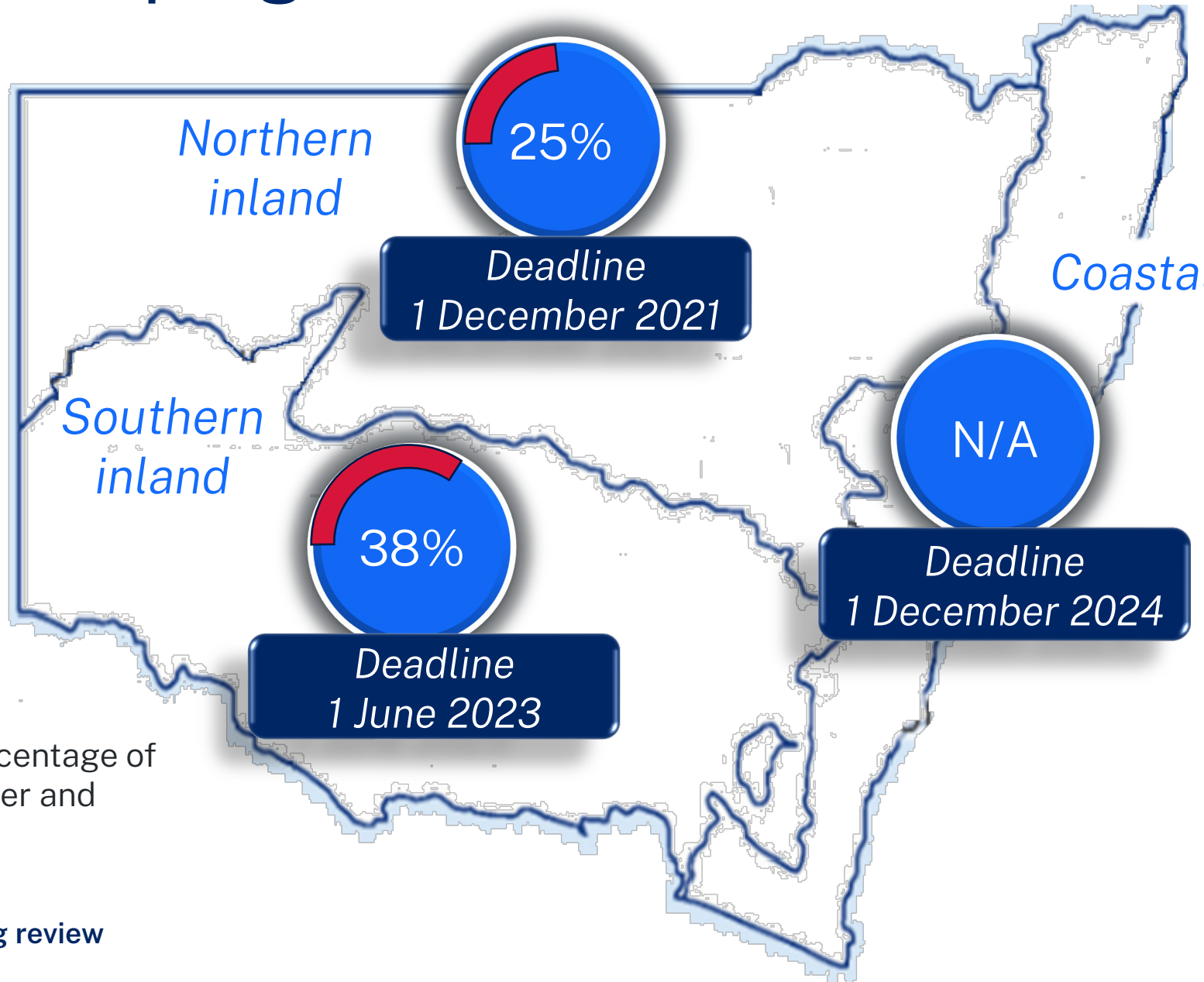
(NSW Non-urban water metering policy, first published 2018, updated 2020)

Current compliance progress

500 mm+ surface water pumps

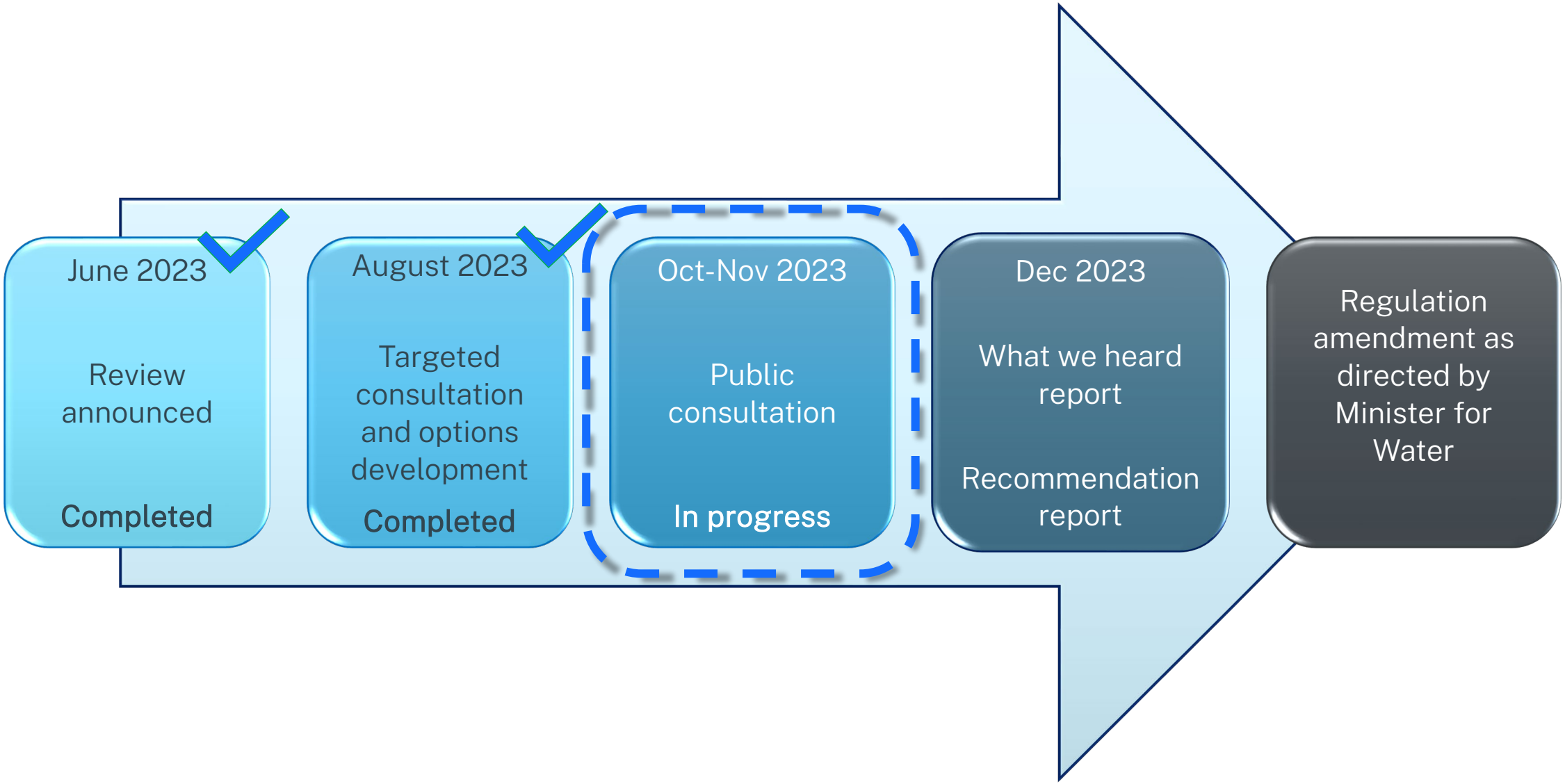
>70%

Deadline 1 December 2020



Compliance rates shown are the percentage of fully compliant works (validated meter and installed data logger) for each stage

Timeline of non-urban metering review



Options to address barriers to implementation

2

Ensure metering requirements only apply to works taking water

Option 1

Water user identifies works that **do take** licensed water and therefore require metering

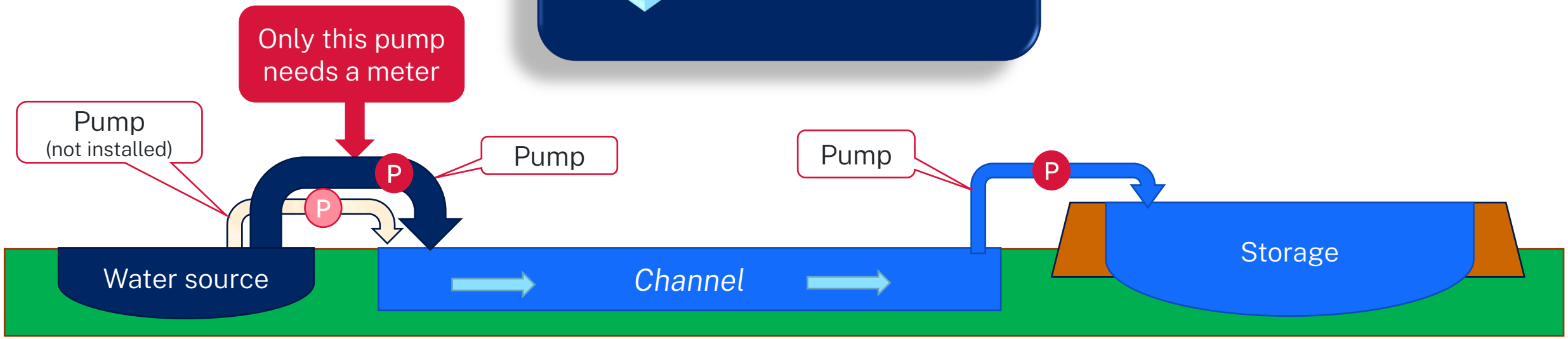
Option 2

Water user identifies works that **do not take** licensed water and therefore do not require metering

Potential outcome:

55%

Reduction in number of works identified as needing a meter



Reviewing metering requirements to target risk more effectively

The current rules may not meet the policy objective of minimising undue costs on smaller water users

Cost of metering for many small users may be disproportionate to the risk to the water source

Possible response

Enable less prescriptive measurement standards for low-risk water users in water sources subject to universal metering requirements

Possible response

Metering requirements defined by volume-based thresholds, with measurement and reporting requirements reflecting risk to a water source

Less prescriptive measurement standards for low-risk water users?

Current rule – no metering for:

<100 mm surface water pump

<200 mm groundwater bore

unless

an existing water sharing plan required metering, or the water source is identified as being 'at risk'

Water users in these areas are unable to access the size-based exemptions, and all works require a meter, regardless of work size

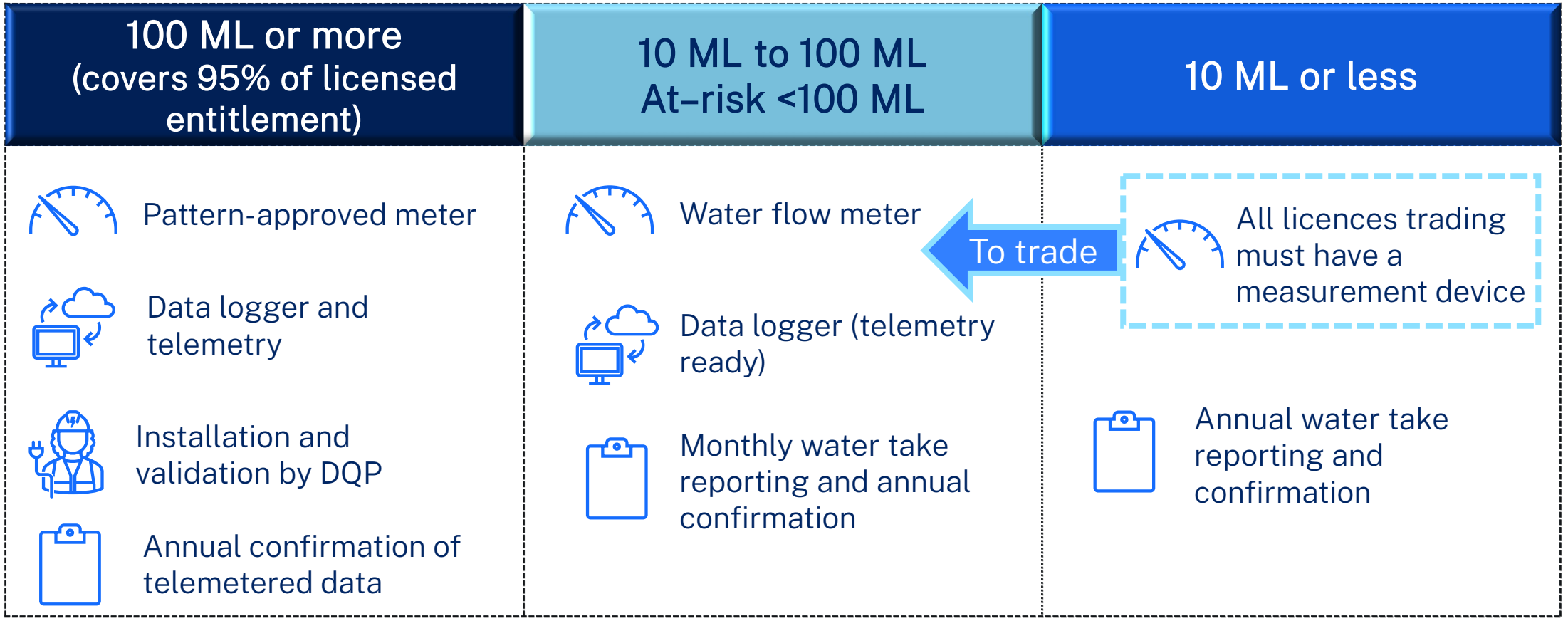
- Includes most regulated river water sharing plans and two unregulated river water sharing plans
- 55 at-risk* water sources

*at-risk = fully or over allocated water sources

Possible response: Enable less prescriptive measurement standards for low-risk water users in water sources subject to universal metering requirements

Volume-based thresholds reflecting risk to a water source?

Possible model for volume-based metering and measurement obligations (indicative)



Questions for you

Should there be flexibility in standards reflecting risk?

Would rules based on volume be easier to understand and comply with?

Should rules be consistent across the state or tailored by catchment?

Are there industry-specific issues that should be considered?

Revisiting installer requirements to accelerate progress

Possible responses

- Government coordinating and better supporting duly qualified person services
- Government installation in targeted areas
- Increase the workforce by expanding definitions for who can be a duly qualified person
- Enabling less prescriptive installation pathways for closed conduit meters
- Review maintenance and five-yearly revalidation requirements

Duly qualified persons are **currently** responsible for installing, maintaining and validating all metering equipment

230	Qualified DQPs in NSW
114	Active DQPs in NSW
86	Active DQPs this year

Questions for you

Who should be permitted to install metering equipment?

Would there be benefit from government involvement in the market?

What are the practical training and support needs for duly qualified persons?

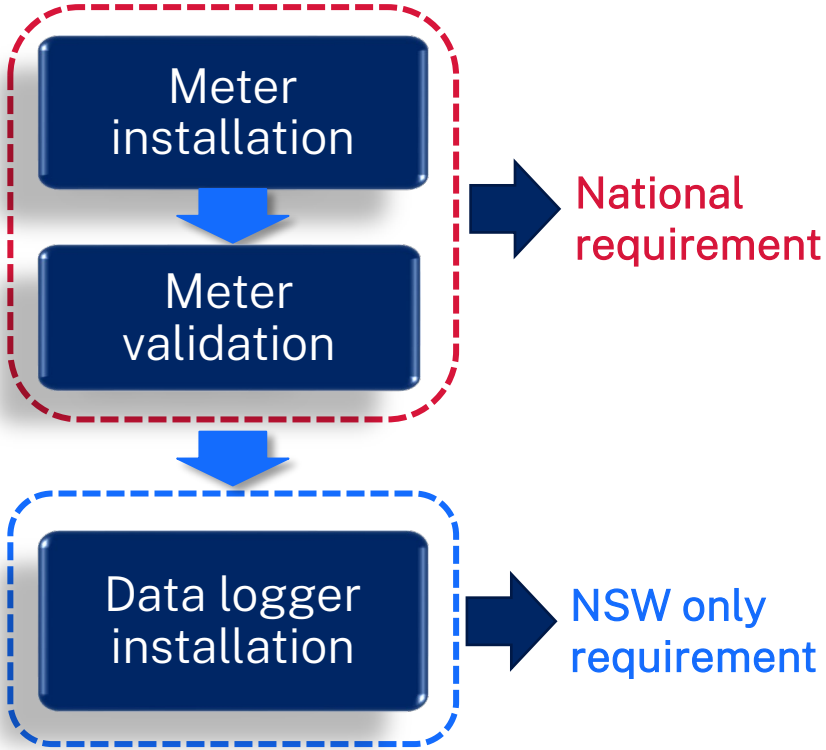
Would it help to expand the duly qualified person workforce?

Fit-for-purpose data systems and equipment standards

Possible responses

- Review the *Data Logging and Telemetry Specifications 2021*
- Decoupling data loggers and telemetry from meter installation requirements
- Government coordinates or owns data logger installation
- Government prescribes data loggers and meters which must be used together
- Ensure DQPs are better trained and supported

Compliance stages



Questions for you

Should meter installation be separated from data loggers and telemetry?

Would government support for rolling out data loggers be helpful?

Should government prescribe which meters and data loggers should be used together?

Would it help to have more frequent metering data?

Improving water use reporting

Possible response: Annual water user attestation of water take

All water users - annually confirm:

- contact details
- works used to take licensed water
- how it was measured and
- maintenance activities




Meter and telemetry

- Annually confirm accuracy of transmitted water take data & how it was measured.

Meter but no telemetry

- Annually confirm accuracy of reported monthly water take data & how it was measured

No meter

- Annually report water take & how it was measured

Ensuring a measurement pathway for take of overland flow in unregulated water sources

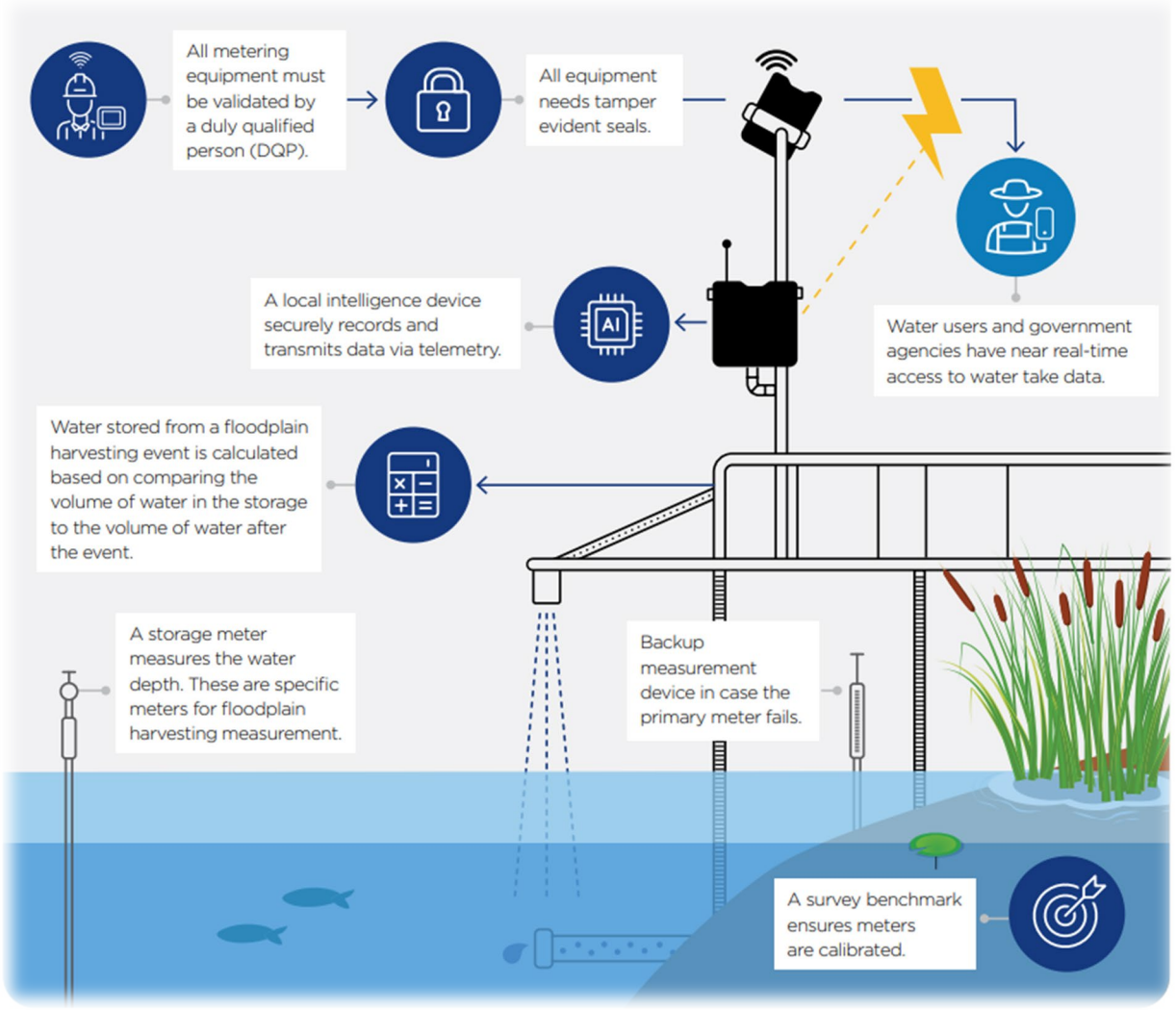
It is not practical to measure overland flow take using non-urban metering equipment

Possible response:

Permit the use of floodplain harvesting measurement methods for overland flow take in unregulated systems

Will this enable appropriate measurement and reporting of overland flow take in unregulated river entitlements?

Schematic of storage measurement device



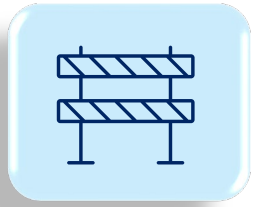
Strengthening compliance and enforcement powers

Possible response: Improve the faulty meter equipment rules to ensure equipment is repaired or replaced in a timely manner.

Should the regulator's enforcement tools be strengthened to help ensure a fair water management system for all water users?

Your views?

What are your biggest concerns about the non-urban metering rules?



What is the one thing you would change about the non-urban metering rules?

What do you think would most effectively address the barriers to implementation and remove bottlenecks?

Consultation and submissions

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How to have your say

Public consultation period runs until 26 November

Feedback on the proposals can be made online

www.water.nsw.gov.au/metering-review

Complete the survey and upload a submission