

Non-urban water metering – conditions for water supply works

In December 2018, the NSW Government introduced a non-urban water metering framework to ensure robust and fair water management across the state. This framework includes the implementation of new metering rules through conditions applied to water supply work approvals. This fact sheet provides information for water users about the new metering rules and conditions.

Metering conditions – overview

This section provides an overview of the conditions for the new metering rules.

Rollout dates

The new water metering rules are being implemented in stages. The type, size and location of your works will determine the stage you fall into and your rollout date that is, the date the rules start applying to you (Table 1).

If you installed or replaced metering equipment on your works after 1 April 2019, the new water metering rules will apply to those works on the date the metering equipment is installed or replaced, which may be before your rollout date.

Table 1. Rollout dates for non-urban water metering rules

Date	Works the new metering rules apply to
1 December 2020	Surface water pumps 500 mm and above for the whole of NSW
1 December 2021	Northern inland NSW NSW Murray–Darling Basin Fractured Rock Groundwater Sources NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock Groundwater Sources
1 December 2022	Southern inland NSW
1 December 2023	Coastal NSW

More information

Find more information on the department’s website at water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nsw-non-urban-water-metering:

- [NSW Metering Guidance Tool](#)
- [What water users need to know](#)
- [Non-urban metering: document library](#) > Fact sheets and guidelines

Conditions

The new metering rules are being implemented through conditions applied to your water supply work approval (or your licence if your water supply work does not require an approval).

To check the conditions on your approval or licence, visit the [NSW Water Register](#) and enter your approval or licence number.

Types of new conditions

There are two types of conditions that will result in the metering rules being applied to your works:

- the ‘mandatory metering equipment condition’: water supply works must have metering equipment unless an exemption applies
- recording and reporting information to WaterNSW about the water taken by your water supply works.

Exemptions

Your works may be exempt from the requirement for metering equipment. You will need to check whether any exemptions apply.

An exemption applies to a work if:

- it is solely used to take water under a:
 - basic landholder right
 - domestic and stock access licence (other than a licence with the subcategory ‘town water supply’), or that category of licence and a basic landholder right, in certain circumstances, visit the [department’s website](#) for more information
 - floodplain harvesting access licence
- it cannot be used to take water because:
 - it is not nominated by an access licence
 - it is ‘inactive’ on the approval
- it is only used in circumstances where the approval holder is exempt from requiring an access licence, visit the [department’s website](#) for more information
- the Minister has granted an exemption for the work because it is not possible for water taken by the work to be measured by metering equipment which meets the metering equipment standards
- it is authorised as a size which is at, or below, the size threshold for a single work or multiple works.

Exemptions based on authorised work size

Exemptions apply to the different authorised work sizes below in Table 2 based on:

- whether the work takes surface water or groundwater, and
- the number of works listed on your approval, situated on the same landholding, or nominated on the same access licence.

The exemptions based on authorised work size do not apply if the work:

- takes water from an at-risk groundwater source (Table 3), or
- was subject to a pre-existing condition requiring metering – existing conditions may come from a water sharing plan rule or from a direction issued by the Natural Resources Access Regulator (Table 4).

Table 2. Authorised size threshold - exemption for works at or below specified size

Number of works	Size of largest surface water pump	Diameter of largest groundwater bore
1	99 mm	199 mm
2	74 mm	159 mm
3	49 mm	129 mm
4	39 mm	119 mm
5 or more	Size-based exemption not available	Size-based exemption not available

Information you are required to record and report about the water you take

If the mandatory metering equipment condition is on your approval, you will also have conditions on your approval which require you to record and report information about the water taken by your water supply works.

The type of information you need to record and the way you need to report this information depends on whether you are required to have metering equipment, and whether your metering equipment includes telemetry.

Less information needs to be recorded and reported for works which have both metering equipment and telemetry. You can choose to voluntarily install metering equipment and telemetry to reduce your recording and reporting requirements.

Metering conditions – descriptions

This section describes the conditions for the new metering rules for rollouts occurring in 2021-2023, as seen on a Statement of Approval.

Condition MR6927-00001 – mandatory metering equipment condition

- A. Under section 101A of the *Water Management Act 2000*, metering equipment must be installed, used and properly maintained in connection with all water supply works, except those works to which an exemption applies as described in clauses 230, 231, 232 or 233 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*.
- B. Metering equipment standards are set out in the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*. An approval holder must comply with the standards set out in the Regulation.

Note. More information on how to comply with this condition is available on the department's website.

Regulation reference

Schedule 8 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* (the Regulation) sets out the metering equipment standards.

What this means for you

All of your water supply works are required to have compliant metering equipment with data logging capability, unless an exemption applies. You can check your if your work is exempt using the online [NSW Metering Guidance Tool](#).

This condition applies from 1 December 2021, 2022 or 2023 depending on the area of NSW where your works are located (refer to Table 1).

New and replacement meters for these works must be:

- pattern-approved, or for an open channel meter, the design certified by a duly qualified person (DQP)
- installed and validated by a DQP in accordance with Australian Standard 4747
- fitted with a data-logger, known as a local intelligence device (LID), and tamper-evident seals
- connected via telemetry to the government's data acquisition service (DAS) **if a surface pump is more than 199 mm.**

If you want to keep your existing meter and it is accurate, there are transitional arrangements to allow you to do this.

For more information, see pages 8 and 9 of the [Non-urban water metering in NSW: What water users need to know](#) booklet in the Non-urban metering document library.

Condition MR7736-00001 – validation certificate

- A. Under clause 238 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018, the approval holder must give a copy of a certificate provided under clause 237(1) and (2) to the Minister within 28 days of receiving the certificate.
- B. This condition does not apply to works to which an exemption from the mandatory metering equipment condition applies as described in clauses 230, 231, 232 or 233 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

Note. More information on how to comply with this condition is available on the Department's website.

Regulation reference

Clause 237 of the Regulation sets out the obligations of a DQP who certifies the design of metering equipment. This includes providing a validation certificate confirming:

- whether the metering equipment complies with the matters required to be checked in accordance with Australian Standard 4747
- the reasons for any non-compliance
- the modifications that are required for compliance or that the equipment cannot be modified to enable compliance.

Clause 238 sets out record keeping requirements relating to metering, including a:

- validation certificate provided under clause 237(1) or (2) by a DQP must be kept for a period of 5 years
- copy of the validation certificate must be provided to WaterNSW (on behalf of the Minister) within 28 days of receiving the certificate.

What this means for you

To demonstrate that all of your water supply works comply with the metering equipment standards (unless an exemption applies), you need to arrange for a DQP to install a new or replacement meter or certify that your existing meter is able to meet the new rules. This condition applies from 1 December 2021, 2022 or 2023 depending on the area of NSW where your works are located (refer to Table 1).

As part of this process, the DQP will submit documentation certifying your new or existing meter through the DQP portal. This documentation must be submitted by the DQP within 7 days of certification.

Once your DQP submits the documentation, you will receive a copy of your validation certificate via email. You need to keep a copy of the validation certificate for a minimum of 5 years.

For more information, see page 10 of the [Non-urban water metering in NSW: What water users need to know](#) booklet in the Non-urban metering document library.

Condition MR7737-00001, MR7737-00002 or MR7737-00003 - recording and reporting requirements for works that are required to have metering equipment installed

- A. The approval holder must comply with the recording and reporting requirements set out in clause 244 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 from 1 December 2021 / 2022 / 2023.
- B. This condition does not apply to works to which an exemption from the mandatory metering equipment condition applies as described in clause 231, 232 or 233 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

Note. Information about this condition, including the approved form and manner for recording and reporting is available on the Department's website.

Regulation reference

Clause 244 of the Regulation sets out recording and reporting requirements which apply to all works that are required to have metering equipment.

What this means for you

You need to record and report information relating to water you take for all water supply works that are required to have metering equipment. This condition applies from 1 December 2021, 2022 or 2023 depending on the area of NSW in which your works are located (refer to Table 1).

You must manually record:

- how you confirmed that you were permitted to take water under any access conditions, such as by reference to flow heights or flow volumes
- if you have used the work to take water under a basic landholder right or a licence exemption.

This information must be:

- recorded within 24 hours each time you take the water
- reported to WaterNSW within 14 days after the end of each month.

Go to [WaterNSW's recording and reporting page](#) to access the reporting forms.

These recording and reporting requirements replace any previous record-keeping or logbook conditions. You need to keep any previous records or logbooks for 5 years.

For more information, see pages 14-15 of the [Non-urban water metering in NSW: What water users need to know](#) booklet in the Non-urban metering document library.

Condition MR7738-00001, MR7738-00002 or MR7738-00003 – additional recording and reporting requirements for works that are required to have metering equipment installed but do not have telemetry installed

- A. The approval holder must comply with the reporting requirements set out in clause 244A of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 from 1 December 2021 / 2022 / 2023.
- B. This condition does not apply:
 - i. if telemetry is installed and used in relation to the work used to take water, and that complies with the data logging and telemetry specifications, or
 - ii. to works to which an exemption from the mandatory metering equipment condition applies as described in clause 231, 232 or 233 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

Note. Information about this condition, including the approved form and manner for reporting is available on the Department's website.

Regulation reference

Clause 244A of the Regulation sets out reporting requirements which apply to works that are required to have metering equipment but:

- are not required to have telemetry capacity to transmit water take data to the DAS, and
- have not voluntarily installed telemetry equipment that complies with the telemetry requirements.

What this means for you

You need to record and report additional information relating to water you take for all water supply works that are required to have metering equipment installed but do not have telemetry. This condition applies from 1 December 2021, 2022 or 2023 depending on the area of NSW in which your works are located (refer to Table 1).

You must manually report to WaterNSW:

- the meter readings at the beginning and end of the month, within 14 days after the end of each month, or
- if you do not intend to take water, or permit water to be taken, during a period of 1 - 6 months, at least 14 days before the beginning of the no-take period.

If you install telemetry equipment, these manual recording and reporting requirements do not apply. You can choose to voluntarily install telemetry equipment, even if you are not required to do so.

Go to [WaterNSW's recording and reporting page](#) to access the reporting forms.

For more information, see pages 14-15 of the of the [Non-urban water metering in NSW: What water users need to know](#) booklet in the Non-urban metering document library.

Condition MR7739-00001, MR7739-00002 or MR7739-00003 – recording and reporting requirements for water supply works without metering equipment

- A. The approval holder must comply with the recording and reporting requirements set out in clause 250 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 from 1 December 2021 / 2022 / 2023.
- B. This condition does not apply:
- i. to works which are subject to the mandatory metering equipment condition under section 101A of the Water Management Act 2000, or
 - ii. if metering equipment that complies with the metering equipment standards in the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 is installed and used in relation to the work, and the approval holder complies with the requirements of clause 244, and the requirements of clause 244A or the telemetry specifications set out in the approved data logging and telemetry specifications, so that data regarding water taken is transmitted in accordance with those specifications.

Note. Information about this condition, including the approved form and manner for recording and reporting is available on the Department's website.

Regulation reference

Clause 250 of the Regulation sets the recording and reporting requirements which apply to works that do not have compliant metering equipment because an exemption applies.

These recording and reporting requirements do not apply to works used solely to take water under a basic landholder right or a floodplain harvesting access licence.

What this means for you

You need to record and report information relating to water you take for all water supply works that do not have metering equipment installed. This condition applies from 1 December 2021, 2022, or 2023 depending on the area in NSW where your works are located (refer to Table 1).

You must record:

- details about the water taken by the work including the date and time, the volume of water taken, and the method used to estimate the volume of water taken
- how you confirmed that you were permitted to take water under any access conditions, such as by reference to flow heights or flow volumes
- if you have used the work to take water under a basic landholder right or a licence exemption
- if you did not take any water during the water year.

This information must be:

- recorded within 24 hours each time you take the water

- reported to WaterNSW within 28 days after the end of each water year.

Go to [WaterNSW's recording and reporting page](#) to access the reporting forms.

These recording and reporting requirements replace any previous record-keeping or logbook conditions. You will need to keep any previous records or logbooks for 5 years.

For more information, see pages 14-15 of the [Non-urban water metering in NSW: What water users need to know](#) booklet in the Non-urban metering document library.

At-risk groundwater sources

Exemptions from the mandatory metering equipment condition in relation to the size of a water supply work do not apply if the work takes water from an at-risk groundwater source (Table 3).

Table 3. At-risk groundwater sources

At-risk groundwater sources

Border Rivers

- Macintyre Alluvial Groundwater Source
- NSW Border Rivers Downstream Keetah Bridge Alluvial Groundwater Source
- NSW Border Rivers Upstream Keetah Bridge Alluvial Groundwater Source

Great Artesian Basin

- Central Groundwater Source
- Eastern Recharge Groundwater Source
- Southern Recharge Groundwater Source
- Surat Groundwater Source
- Warrego Groundwater Source

Gwydir

- Lower Gwydir Groundwater Source

Namoi and Peel

- Currabubula Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Gunnedah–Oxley Basin MDB (Spring Ridge) Management Zone of the Gunnedah–Oxley Basin MDB Groundwater Source
- Lower Namoi Groundwater Source
- Manilla Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Peel Alluvium Water Source
- Quipolly Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Quirindi Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 1, Borambil Creek Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 2, Cox's Creek (Mullaley to Boggabri) Groundwater Source

At-risk groundwater sources

- Upper Namoi Zone 3, Mooki Valley (Breeza to Gunnedah) Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 4, Namoi Valley (Keepit Dam to Gin's Leap) Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 5, Namoi Valley (Gin's Leap to Narrabri) Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 6, Tributaries of the Liverpool Range (South to Pine Ridge Road) Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 7, Yarraman Creek, (East of Lake Goran to Mooki River) Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 8, Mooki Valley (Quirindi – Pine Ridge Road to Breeza) Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 9, Cox's Creek (up-stream Mullaley) Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 10, Warrah Creek Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 11, Maules Creek Groundwater Source
- Upper Namoi Zone 12, Kelvin Valley Groundwater Source

Macquarie

- Bell Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Cudgegong Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Lower Macquarie Zone 1 Groundwater Source
- Lower Macquarie Zone 2 Groundwater Source
- Lower Macquarie Zone 3 Groundwater Source
- Lower Macquarie Zone 4 Groundwater Source
- Lower Macquarie Zone 5 Groundwater Source
- Lower Macquarie Zone 6 Groundwater Source
- Orange Basalt Groundwater Source
- Talbragar Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Upper Macquarie Alluvial Groundwater Source

Lachlan

- Belubula Valley Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Lower Lachlan Groundwater Source
- Orange Basalt Groundwater Source
- Upper Lachlan Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Young Granite Groundwater Source

Murrumbidgee

- Bungendore Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Gundagai Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Kyeamba Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Lower Murrumbidgee Deep Groundwater Source
- Lower Murrumbidgee Shallow Groundwater Source
- Mid Murrumbidgee Zone 3 Alluvial Groundwater Source

At-risk groundwater sources

- Wagga Wagga Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Young Granite Groundwater Source

Murray and Lower Darling

- Billabong Creek Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Lower Darling Alluvial Groundwater Source
- Lower Murray Groundwater Source
- Upper Murray Groundwater Source

Pre-existing metering conditions

Exemptions from the mandatory metering equipment condition in relation to the size of a surface water pump or groundwater bore do not apply if the work was subject to a pre-existing condition requiring metering. Pre-existing conditions requiring metering apply before the rollout date and come from a water sharing plan rule or direction.

The water sources with a pre-existing metering condition from the relevant water sharing plan are listed in Table 4. Some of these metering conditions apply to all water supply works in the water source, while other metering conditions only apply to water supply works used to take water under an access licence.

Table 4. Pre-existing metering conditions

Water sources with a pre-existing metering condition

Border Rivers

- All water supply works used to take water under an access licence in the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source

Great Artesian Basin

- All water supply works used to take water under an access licence in the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources

Gwydir

- All water supply works in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source
- All water supply works used to take water under an access licence in the Lower Gwydir Groundwater Source

Water sources with a pre-existing metering condition

Namoi and Peel

- All water supply works in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources
- All water supply works used to take water under an access licence in the following groundwater sources:
 - Lower Namoi Groundwater Source
 - Upper Namoi Groundwater Sources

Macquarie

- All water supply works in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source
- All water supply works used to take water under an access licence in the Lower Macquarie Zone 1 - 6 Groundwater Sources

Lachlan

- All water supply works in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source
- All water supply works used to take water under an access licence in the Lower Lachlan Groundwater Source

Murrumbidgee

- All water supply works in Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source
- All water supply works used to take water under an access licence in the following groundwater sources:
 - Lower Murrumbidgee Deep Groundwater Source
 - Lower Murrumbidgee Shallow Groundwater Source

Murray and Lower Darling

- All water supply works in the New South Wales Murray Regulated River Water Source or Lower-Darling Regulated River Water Source
- All water supply works used to take water under an access licence in the Lower Murray Groundwater Source

Coastal

- All water supply works in the following water sources:
 - Hunter Regulated River Water Source
 - Murrumbidgee Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources
 - Richmond Regulated Water Source
 - Towamba River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources
 - Tweed River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources