

Draft NSW Metering Framework

Fact sheet

June 2018

In March 2018, the NSW Government released a consultation paper about water take measurement and metering and held a series of meetings seeking the community's views on how a robust metering framework could be implemented in NSW.

- This fact sheet sets out a proposed policy framework for non-urban water meters in NSW. The policy will be implemented through regulations. Community consultation is critical to ensuring the requirements are practical and do not have unintended consequences. As such, we will consult on draft regulations in the third quarter of 2018.
- The NSW Government recognises that costs may be associated with installing meters. Options for supporting licence holders to meet these costs are being developed.

Who will be required to have a meter?

The proposed metering policy will apply to licensed water take where the water taken is able to be measured by a meter. The proposed requirements are:

Threshold

Water supply works will be required to have a meter if:

- surface water: pumps of 100 mm or larger
- groundwater: extraction works of 200 mm or larger.

Multiple pumps or bores

Users with multiple pumps or bores will need to have meters if the capacity to take water is equivalent to the thresholds.

Existing meters

Users with existing meters below the threshold will be required to keep and maintain their meters, and replace their meters if and when they fail.

Review

The policy and thresholds will be reviewed after five years to ensure they are delivering against the objectives and adapt requirements if needed.

- There was strong support from stakeholders for metering the vast majority of licensed water take, while minimising costs for smaller users.
- The thresholds proposed have been designed to meter around 95% of water infrastructure capacity for existing licensed water.
- The threshold is linked to the size of the infrastructure used to take water. Broadly, infrastructure size was considered a clear and effective way of linking the metering requirement to the risks of individual users and their physical ability to take water.
- A single threshold linked to infrastructure size is simple to understand, enforce and comply with.

Meters above the threshold—proposed requirements

- New and replacement meters must be Pattern Approved and meet the Australian Standard 4747.
- Existing meters must be independently verified for accuracy (+/- 5%).
- All meters will be required to have tamper-evident seals and data loggers.
- The objective is to ensure meters over the threshold are telemetered. We will continue to consult with the community on the pathway to achieving this.

Existing meters below the threshold—proposed requirements

- Existing meters below the threshold will be required to be maintained and used.
- When these meters fail, they will be required to be replaced with accurate meters. This will improve the standard and coverage of meters over time.

What type of meters will be required?

- The meters are required to be accurate, auditable, and verifiable.
- Water users requested that transitional arrangements are put in place for existing, accurate meters. The proposed requirements do not require accurate, well performing meters to be replaced.
- Accurate meters are critical to improving water management and compliance outcomes.

When will the metering policy be implemented?

We propose to implement the metering requirements through a staged rollout over five years.

- Stage 1: Surface water users with 500 mm pump or larger must meet the requirements by December 2019
 - Stage 2: Remaining users in northern inland regions—by December 2020
 - Stage 3: Remaining users in southern inland regions—by December 2021
 - Stage 4: Remaining users in the rest of the state—by December 2023
- This approach seeks to ensure that the largest water users in the state have a high standard of metering in place within 12 months.
 - The staged rollout will allow time to train and certify installers.

Who will own the meters?

- The proposed policy is that meters will be privately owned by users.
- Where there are existing government-owned meters, these will be transferred to private ownership.

Many stakeholders, including industry representatives and property owners, expressed support for either private ownership or a mixed-ownership model.

Private ownership of meters will provide:

- greater choice and flexibility for licence holders to invest in the meters and technologies that best suit their business needs
- clarity of compliance responsibilities as all requirements for meter purchase, installation, maintenance, use, repair and replacement will rest with the water user.

NSW Department of Industry



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