

Queensland Non-urban Water Metering Policy for Unsupplemented Water Extractions 2019

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Version History

Version	Date	Comments
1.00	23/07/2014	New policy.
1.01	04/12/2014	Reference added to Queensland Interim Water Meter Standard for Non-Urban Metering.
1.02	06/12/2016	Updated to reflect amendments to and replacement of Water Regulation 2002 by Water Regulation 2016.
1.03	17/07/2019	Department branding updated. Minor updates following amendments to the Queensland Interim Water Meter Standard for Non-Urban Metering.

Approval

Position	Name	Date
Director, Operations Support	Ian Gordon	17/07/2019

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1. Introduction

This policy applies to the taking of non-urban unsupplemented water by a holder of a metered entitlement under the *Water Act 2000* (Water Act) in an area prescribed in the Water Regulation 2016 (the Water Regulation). It does not apply to supplemented water provided by a water service provider. Under a metered entitlement the taking of water must be through works with an attached meter to measure the volume, rate and the time water is taken.

Metering the take of unsupplemented water supports water resource allocation, management and planning. It provides water entitlement holders with greater security and facilitates the operation of water markets and water trading.

The metered entitlement holder is responsible under the Water Act and Water Regulation for the purchase, installation maintenance, validation, revalidation replacement removal and reading of an approved meter that complies with the Queensland Interim Water Meter Standard (the standard).

2. Metered entitlements

The Water Act requires that the holder of a metered entitlement must not take water under the entitlement other than through works that have an approved meter attached. A metered entitlement is an entitlement defined under Schedule 11 of the Water Regulation. The Water Regulation lists the authorisations that are defined as metered entitlements in certain areas of the State, and also specifies any authorisations, such as licences for stock and domestic purposes only, that are exempt in each area.

Metered entitlements may be declared where the Department identifies requirements for metering such as:

- water systems at or approaching a full allocation
- water authorisations with area allocations, volumetric limits or rates of take
- taking of floodwater or overland flow water
- a need to ensure the equitable distribution of water or reduce the risk of environmental damage or water depletion
- water plans or water management protocols requiring metering.

Prior to creation of metered entitlements, the department will consult with relevant stakeholders to ensure local issues are considered. Water entitlement holders will be formally notified of the requirement to install an approved meter.

3. Approved meters

All new and replacement meters installed must be an approved meter as defined under the Water Regulation, and comply with the standard available on the department's website at www.business.qld.gov.au.

Any existing installed water meters that do not comply with this standard will be required to be replaced with a compliant meter by the metered entitlement holder when the next major maintenance is required or no later than the next revalidation date for the non-compliant meter.

4. Purchase and ownership

Under the Water Regulation the water entitlement holder is responsible for the purchase costs of new meters and any ancillary works and the payment of any outstanding purchase costs of meters previously owned by the department which have been transferred to holders.

The progressive transfer of ownership of existing department-owned meters to water entitlement holders was completed in 2014. From the transfer date, the responsibility for undertaking installation, maintenance and validation of meters previously owned by the Department was transferred to the water entitlement holder.

5. Installation

All new and replacement meter installations must comply with the standard. These installations must be validated by a validator and the department must be provided the validation certificate by the water entitlement holder when validation is completed.

An installed meter will not be deemed to be an approved meter until evidence of validation by the validator has been received by the department from the water entitlement holder.

Tamper indication seals must be applied whenever a meter is installed or maintained. If a seal is broken the meter must be re-validated by a validator.

6. Maintenance

Approved meters must continue to function in accordance with the standard at all times.

Maintenance of meters is the responsibility of the water entitlement holder. Maintenance affecting the metrological performance of the meter must be validated by a validator.

This includes but is not limited to:

- meter removal, replacement and recalibration and;
- replacement of internal parts, sensors, transducers or other major components.

The water entitlement holder must arrange for approved meters to be revalidated by a validator in accordance with the Water Regulation (generally once every five years) and provide evidence of the revalidation to the department.

An installed meter will not be deemed to be an approved meter in accordance with the Water Regulation until evidence of satisfactory revalidation by the validator has been received by the department.

7. Reading

Readings of water meters taking unsupplemented water under a water entitlement is to be provided by holders in accordance with water planning requirements and the standard.

Unless otherwise specified by the department, the metered entitlement holder must provide up to two readings within a water year for each meter.

The department may require the water entitlement holder to provide additional readings in a specified format to support the department's management activities.

Where the department identifies a management need, ancillary equipment such as a data logger or telemetry may be required to supplement meter reading arrangements.

Under the standard all meters must have the capability to produce an electronic output and, if directed, be fitted with an electronic data logger or transmitter that will enable remote, telemetric reading of the meter.

8. Costs and charges

The water entitlement holder is responsible for all costs for installation, maintenance, validation, meter replacement, removal and reading of meters.

Where the department incurs costs, such as costs of meter reading, data logger or telemetry, the department may under the Water Regulation and relevant Water Plan recover these costs from the metered entitlement holder.

9. Water use information

Water entitlement holders may obtain water use information held by the department for each of their metered water entitlements. The department's standard fees and charges for provision of this information may apply.

10. Meter removal

The water entitlement holder must notify the department in writing if they intend to permanently remove the meter and must provide a final meter reading at the time of meter removal and any other documentation requested by the department.

11. Audits

The department may, in accordance with the Water Regulation:

- notify the water entitlement holder of the requirement to undertake a validation of the meter
- request information from the entitlement holder about the meter and pumping activities, including validation certificates and records of pumping hours
- inspect and/or disassemble a meter to ascertain it is in working order.

12. Glossary

Approved meter – Definition of approved meter as provided in the Water Regulation 2016.

Validator – Definition of validator as provided in the Water Regulation 2016.

Queensland Interim Water Meter Standard for Non-urban Metering – A guide to meter selection, site, maintenance and validation requirements, as provided on the department's website at www.business.qld.gov.au.

Metered entitlement – An authority under the *Water Act 2000* to take or interfere with water, prescribed under the Water Regulation 2016 to be a metered entitlement.

Supplemented water – Water supplied under an interim resource operations licence, resource operations licence or other authority to operate infrastructure.

Unsupplemented water – Water that is not supplemented water.

Validation – Mandatory inspection and/or testing of the meter and installation, undertaken by an authorised validator to ensure the meter meets the standards defined in the Queensland Interim Water Meter Standard for Non-urban Metering.

Water entitlement – A water allocation, interim water allocation or water licence.

Water plan – A plan approved under the *Water Act 2000*.

Water management protocol – A protocol to achieve Water Plan outcomes under the *Water Act 2000*.

Water service provider – A water service provider registered under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, chapter 2, part 3 as a service provider for a water service.

13. Further information

Further information on water metering is available on the Queensland Government website at www.business.qld.gov.au or by calling 13 QGOV (13 74 68).