

Non-urban metering reform – what it means for you

Fact sheet

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) has created the non-urban metering reform as part of an important step in helping to build community confidence in how the state’s water is managed. This fact sheet will help you understand how the rules are applied and where to find more information. You can also use the NSW Government’s [metering guidance tool](#) to assist you in understanding your requirements.

What is non-urban metering reform?

The non-urban metering reform aims to improve the standard and coverage of water meters across NSW to support metering accuracy, increase compliance and support sustainable water use.

The regulation includes consistent metering standards and measures to strengthen oversight to ensure that 95% of licensed water take in NSW is accurately metered by the end of 2026, if not sooner.

Do the rules apply to you?

All water users across NSW with water use approvals are required to have metering equipment, unless an exemption applies, in order to comply with the non-urban metering rules.

The NSW Government has prioritised a water entitlement approach in structuring the metering requirements and you may be exempt from installing metering equipment through a size-based exemption. The water entitlement approach and size-based exemptions are defined further in this fact sheet.

To understand how the metering rules apply to you, simply complete the following steps:

3 steps to understand your metering requirements



With your **work approval number**, use the [NSW Water Register](#) to check the authorised size of each of your works. This will be listed under the title ‘Description’. Once you have found the authorised size of your work(s), you will be able to identify whether you are exempt from the non-urban metering rules.




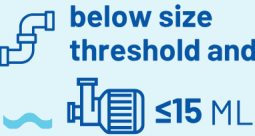




If you do not have a size-based exemption, check the **water access licence number/s** associated with your approval (all licence numbers will be listed under your approval when searched on the [NSW Water Register](#))



Use the graphic below to determine what your metering requirements are.

Non-urban metering regulation summary

CATEGORY		Installed to AS4747 standard	Pattern-approved meter	DQP validation	LID & telemetry	Compliance date
SIZE	Surface water  ≥500 mm	✓	✓	✓	✓	Must comply now
ENTITLEMENT	All nominated works  ≥100 ML*	✓	✓	✓	✓	INLAND Must comply now COASTAL WATER USERS 1 December 2026
ENTITLEMENT	All nominated works  >15 to <100 ML*	✗	✓ Mandatory record report	Optional	Optional	Need to comply by 1 December 2027 or by renewal of work approval, whichever is later.
*EXEMPT for the above entitlements with:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater bores less than 200mm or • Surface water pumps less than 100mm or • Multiple sized-based thresholds[^]. 			[^] For more information on multiple sized-based thresholds exemption, please view the 'exemption' section of this webpage.	
ENTITLEMENT SIZE	All nominated works  below size threshold and ≤15 ML	✗	✗ Mandatory record report	✗	✗	N/A
NOT NOMINATED	Works not nominated by licensed water entitlements 	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A
NO TAKE	Unintended works  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decommissioned • Inactive • Not constructed 	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A

Disclaimer: 'All nominated works' refers to all licences linked to the work approval. To find the cumulative entitlement for all licences linked to the approval, you will need to add the entitlement value of each licence together.

Understanding the water entitlement approach

Water entitlement refers to the volume of water that you are legally allowed to take under your water licence. The non-urban metering regulation is structured around water entitlements rather than the physical size of infrastructure (e.g. pump diameter), in most instances. This ensures that compliance and regulations are tied to the actual legal allocation of water rather than the potential capacity of water.

You can find out your entitlement on [the NSW Water Register](#).

Exemptions

Under the non-urban metering regulation, you may be exempt from installing metering equipment. The current exemptions are:

- multiple works that fall below cumulative size thresholds.
- works that take water solely for basic landholder rights.
- works that are not nominated by water access licences.
- works that have been made inactive.
- works that are unintended or surrendered - works not taking licensed water
- single surface water pumps less than 100mm in diameter and single groundwater bores with external casing less than 200mm in diameter, and multiple works that fall below cumulative size thresholds
- works associated with entitlements that only take a low volume of water: in the order of up to 15ML per year of cumulative share component (or equivalent).

You can find details of your work approval such as your authorised size on [the NSW Water Register](#).

DQP and verified tradespersons

Duly qualified persons (DQPs), also known as certified meter installers (CMIs) are trained to install metering equipment and ensure it's working properly. To assist with compliance, NSW DCCEEW has now expanded the definition of DQPs to include individuals with relevant skills such as plumbers, electricians, or other similar trades once they have completed a short induction program.

Visit the [Irrigation Australia website](#) to find a meter installer near you.

Recording and reporting

You may have ongoing recording and reporting requirements. Find more information and resources on our [recording and reporting webpage](#), such as your requirements, our new megalitre calculator and videos to help you to record and report correctly.

To help you stay on top of your monthly or annual reporting requirements, you can now sign-up to our [complimentary SMS reminder service](#).

Need help?

Schedule a [one-on-one meeting](#) with our team to discuss your metering requirements.

If you need more information, please contact our Customer Service Centre on [1300 662 077](tel:1300662077), Monday to Friday between 8am-5pm or email Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au

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