

South Australia's 2023-24 Non-Urban Water Metering and Water Take Report



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

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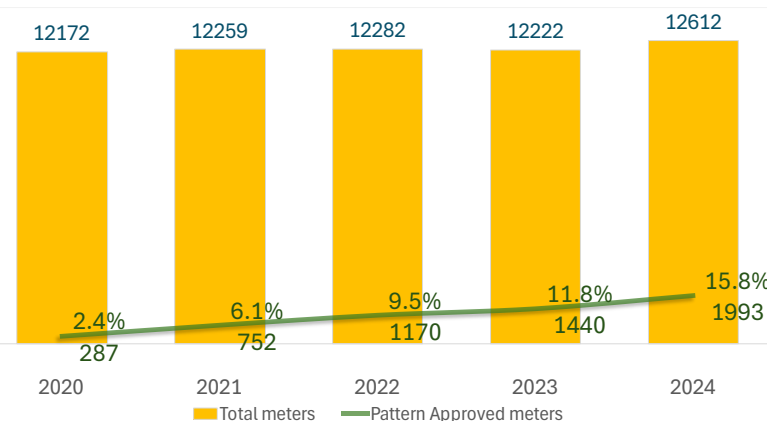
SUMMARY

This report fulfils a commitment by the South Australian Government to annually to report on licensed water take and metering, as required under chapter 15 of the Metrological Assurance Framework 2.

On 1 July 2019, South Australia introduced a requirement that all new and replacement meters must be pattern approved. Meters installed prior are grandfathered and can continue to operate until the meter is replaced.

This report provides data on the volume of metered and unmetered water take and proportion of pattern approved vs non-pattern approved meters 2023- 2024 (Table 1). This report applies to non-urban licensed water take in all prescribed water resources areas across South Australia.

South Australian licensed water users have installed nearly 2,000 pattern approved meters, comprising 15.8% of the non-urban meter fleet, since the introduction of the new metering rules in 2019.



WHAT ARE PATTERN APPROVED METERS?

Meters that comply with the technical requirements of *Australian Standard: Meters for Non-Urban Water Supply (AS4747)* are pattern approved meters.

Meter installed after the 30th of June 2019 must be pattern approved.

All meters must be installed, commissioned and maintained in accordance with the [South Australian Licensed Water Use Meter Specification \(2019\)](#).

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	Metered and unmetered licensed water use 2022-24 (all prescribed water resources areas)	Water Use (Gigalitres)	% of total volume	Number of meters	% of total meters
1	Metered licensed water use taken through non-pattern approved meters (grandfathered)	886.9	76.9%	10,619	84.2%
2	Metered licensed water use through pattern approved meters	180.4	15.7% (+5.1%)	1,993	15.8% (+4%)
3	Unmetered licensed water use	85.8	7.4%	0	
	TOTALS	1153.1	100%	12,612	100%

Note: Percentage annual increase in water use volumes and meter numbers shown in red.

REPORT NOTES

- This report meets the reporting requirements outlined in Chapter 15 of the [Metrological Assurance Framework 2](#), as well as commitment 3.7 of the Murray-Darling Basin Compliance Compact.
- The data provided is accurate as of February 2025 however, variations may occur when new information results in adjustments to usage volumes or the number of meters.
- 'Metered licensed water use' in row 1 and 2 is water confirmed to be metered via either a grandfathered meter that complies with the South Australian Licensed Water Use Meter Specification pre 2019 (row 1) or a pattern approved meter that complies with the National Metering Standards and the South Australian Licensed Water Use Meter Specification post 2019 (row 2).
- 'Unmetered licensed water use' in row 3 includes all water use deemed to be taken through licensed water sources. This includes low risk extractions that are exempt from metering as outlined in meter implementation plans – predominantly licensed stock and domestic use, small low-risk dams in the Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges Prescribed Water Resource Areas (PWRAs), diverters from the Lower Angas and Bremer rivers in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA (who on-supply water for environmental purposes) and other low risk extractions (e.g. inactive infrastructure, roof runoff). It also includes a small number of unmetered extractions in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area and the Little Para prescribed watercourse that are in the process of meter rollout.
- Unmetered forestry and environmental water uses are not included in this report as they are unable to be metered (i.e. no off-takes or structures but water is accounted for in water budgets).

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NOTES REGARDING UPDATES IN 2023-24

- In 2023-24, the total volume and proportions of metered take increased significantly in most regions due to extended drought conditions during the peak irrigation period, which likely increased irrigation needs. The decrease in the 2023-24 Lower Angas Bremer Allocation (LABA) modelled unmetered water take from 7.4 gigalitres (gL) in 2023 to 2.0 gL in 2024 supports the assumption that extended and widespread drought conditions have influenced water use behaviours across South Australia.
- The increase in unmetered water take reported for 2023-24 is largely due to the inclusion of unmetered licensed water usage (12gL) in SA's Central Adelaide Prescribed Well Area (CAPWA). The increase in unmetered water take is offset by the decrease in LABA modelled unmetered water take.