

South Australia's 2024-25 Non-Urban Water Metering and Water Take Report



Government
of South Australia

Department for
Environment and Water

Summary

This report fulfils the South Australian Government's commitment to provide an annual update on licensed water take and metering, as required under section 15 of the Metrological Assurance Framework 2.

This report applies to non-urban licensed water take across all prescribed water resource areas in South Australia.

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

This report (outlined in Table 1) presents data on:

- Volumes and proportion of licensed water use that is metered and unmetered.
- The number and proportion of pattern approved vs non-pattern approved meters in 2024-2025.

South Australian licensed water users installed 264 meters in 2024-25 to reach a total of 2,257 pattern approved meters, representing 19.1% of South Australia's non-urban meter fleet. The graph below represents the steady increase in the installation of pattern approved meters since 2019. In 2024-25, pattern approved meters accounted for 24% of South Australia's non-urban water take.

In 2024-25, the total volume and proportions of metered take increased in most regions due to continuing spring and summer drought conditions in South Australia's central and eastern agricultural districts (lowest 10% of all years since 1900, source [BOM 2024](#)).

Count of Pattern Approved Meters
2020 - 2025

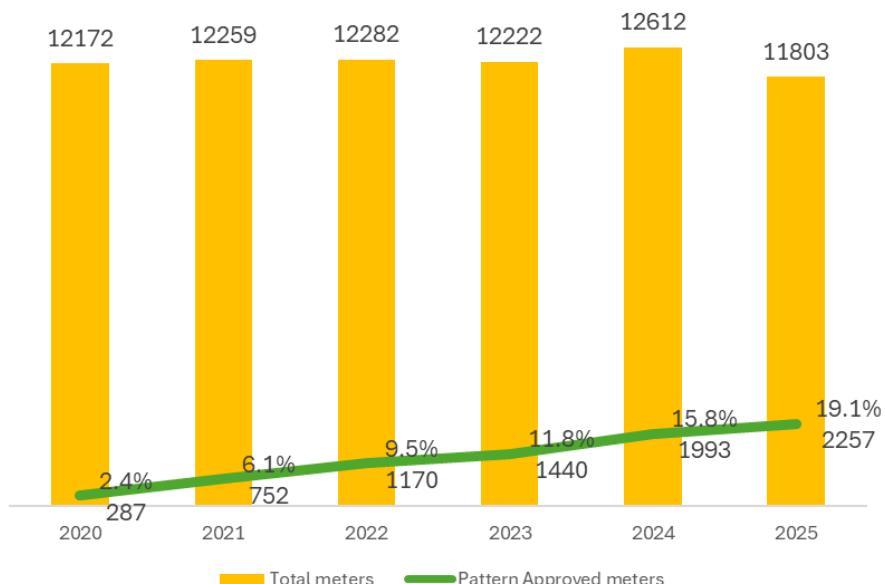


Table 1: Licensed water use that is metered via pattern approved and grandfathered meters

Metered and unmetered licensed water use 2024-25 (all prescribed water resources areas)	Water use (gigalitres)	Percentage of total water use	Number of meters	Percentage of total meters
1 Metered licensed water use taken through non-pattern approved meters (grandfathered)	860.6	69.4%	9,546	80.9%
2 Metered licensed water use taken through pattern approved meters	298.3	24.0% (+8.3%)	2,257	19.1% (+3.3%)
3 Unmetered licensed water use	82.1	6.6%	-	-
TOTALS	1,241	100%	11,803	100%

Note: Percentage annual change in red.

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Report notes

- This report meets the reporting requirements outlined in section 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 at November 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).
- There has been a small reduction in the number of reported meters in 2024-25 report (compared to previous reports). This relates to an administrative reconciliation of meters and works during the transition to the new *mywater* water register (rather than a tangible reduction).

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