

Meter Implementation Plan for the Northern and Central Adelaide Prescribed Wells Areas

The South Australian Government is committed to securing sustainable water supplies now and into the future. Licensing and measuring water use across the Adelaide Plains helps secure sustainable water resources for the community, industry and the environment.

Metering water use

In South Australia, the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and the *Landscape South Australia (Water Management) Regulations 2020* provide the legal basis for the requirement to measure water taken from prescribed water resources.

The [South Australian Licensed Water Use Metering Policy](#) (the Policy) sets out the rules related to metering. This Policy requires that all licensed water use must be metered. Clause 1.7 of the Policy enables flexibility where there are on-ground implementation issues that need to be accommodated. These 'flexibility provisions' are outlined in Meter Implementation Plans for each prescribed area/region.

Accordingly, this Meter Implementation Plan has been developed under clause 1.7 of the Policy for the Adelaide Plains, which comprises the Central and Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Areas.

In the Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area, the taking of underground water for any purpose including stock and/or domestic use requires authorisation and therefore metering. In the Central Adelaide Prescribed Wells Area, the taking of underground water for stock and/or domestic purposes does not require authorisation.

Unless flexibility is granted (see *Am I eligible for metering flexibility*), water licence holders are required to:

- Install and maintain meters to all individual wells (or offtakes) endorsed on their licence (or engage a meter installer to do so);
- Ensure meters comply with the [SA Licensed Water Use Meter Specification](#);
- Provide meter readings to the Department; and,
- Notify the Department before making changes to metering configurations.

Where water is taken as part of a managed aquifer recharge and recovery scheme, both the water injected and the water extracted must be separately metered in order to determine annual recharge allocations.

Meter readings

As a condition of holding a licence, it is a requirement to record and submit meter readings to the Department.

Generally, for the Adelaide Plains, this requirement is annual, however in some instances the Department may require more regular meter readings.

Meter readings can be submitted online using [mywater](#). If it is your first time using mywater you will need to [sign up](#). You must have your water licence or water resource works approval number in order to lodge your meter read in mywater – which will need to be entered into mywater as follows:

- For water licenses - WL-XXXXXX or
- For works approvals -WKA-XXXXXX

The XXXXXX represents the licence/works number.

Alternatively, you can submit a meter reading using the contact details at the bottom of this document.

Am I eligible for metering flexibility?

There are limited situations where metering is not required. Flexibility is limited to circumstances that are considered low risk to the State's water resources.

An authorisation holder may be considered for exemption from the metering requirement, or alternatively, for that requirement to be temporarily deferred under the following circumstances:

- Where an allocation is held however there is no physical means of accessing the water resource (there is no on-ground infrastructure).
- Where the Minister's Delegate is satisfied that it is impractical to meter a well.

- If an alternative metering configuration will accurately record water take. For example, where water taken from two wells (two wells accessing the same aquifer) may be recorded through one meter, provided there is no capacity to redirect the water prior to the meter.
- It is clearly evident that water is not being taken, for example, where irrigation has ceased on a property, there are no plans for water use in the foreseeable future and if the Minister's Delegate determines there is little or no risk of water take for purposes requiring authorisation.

It is important to note that in instances where the requirement to meter has been exempted, in accordance with the '[Notice of assessment of quantity of water taken when meter readings are not used](#)' the volume of water recorded as taken will be the water allocation volume.

Should there be a change in the circumstances which initially led to an exemption or deferral of the requirement to meter, it becomes the authorisation holder's obligation to contact the Water Licensing Branch (see contact details in the 'More information' box, below).

How do I apply for metering flexibility?

Authorisation holders may enquire about whether they are eligible for metering flexibility and whether applying for it is appropriate. Enquiries and/or applications for flexibility may be made with the Water Licensing Branch through the contact details in the 'More information' box, below.

The Minister's Delegate will assess each application on its merits, including the risks posed to the water resource, and will determine whether metering flexibility should be granted or whether the requirement to meter water take should remain.

More information

Phone: (08) 8372 7561 Option 4

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