

South Australia's 2022-23 Non-Urban Water Metering and Water Take Report



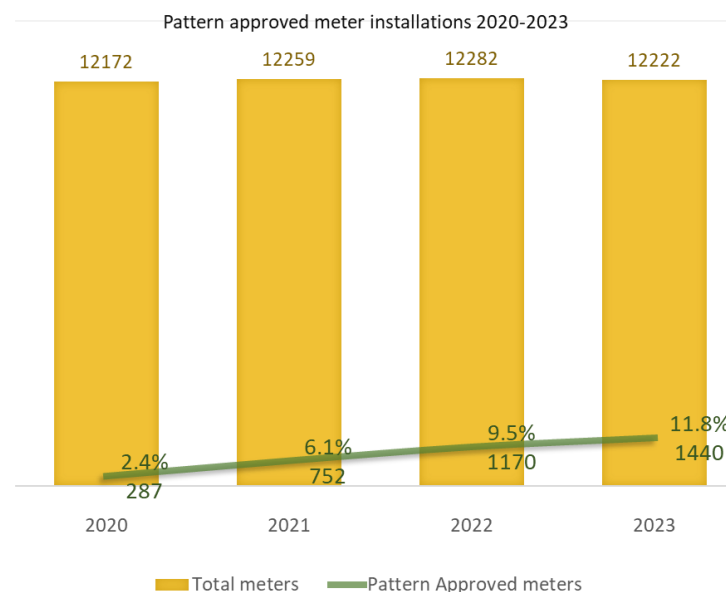
SUMMARY

This report fulfils a commitment by the South Australian Government to annually 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 new rules 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 (Table 1 – 4). This report applies to licensed water taken in all prescribed water resources areas across South Australia.

South Australian licensed water users have installed over 1,400 pattern approved meters, comprising nearly 12% 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 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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Table 1: South Australia's 2022 – 2023 metered and unmetered licensed water use.

	Metered and unmetered licensed water use 2022-23 (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)	946.6	83.4%	10,782	88.2%
2	Metered licensed water use through pattern approved meters	108.8	9.6% (+1.3%)	1,440	11.8% (+2.3%)
3	Unmetered licensed water use	79.2	7.0%	0	
	TOTALS	1,134.6	100%	12,222	100%

Table 2: South Australia's 2021 – 2022 metered and unmetered licensed water use.

	Metered and unmetered licensed water use 2021-22 (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)	1065.1	85.4%	11,112	90.5%
2	Metered licensed water use through pattern approved meters	103.7	8.3% (+3.5)	1,170	9.5% (+3.4%)
3	Unmetered licensed water use	78.1	6.3%	0	
	TOTALS	1,246.9	100%	12,282	100%

Table 3: South Australia's 2020 – 2021 metered and unmetered licensed water use.

	Metered and unmetered licensed water use 2020-21 (all prescribed water resources areas)	Water Use (Gigalitres)	% of total volume	Number of meters	% of meters
1	Metered licensed water use taken through non-pattern approved meters (grandfathered)	1084.9	88.7%	11,507	93.9%
2	Metered licensed water use through pattern approved meters	58.9	4.8% (+3.4%)	752	6.1% (+3.7)
3	Unmetered licensed water use	79.1	6.5%	0	
	TOTALS	1,222.9	100%	12,259	100%

Table 4: South Australia's 2019 – 2020 metered and unmetered licensed water use.

	Metered and unmetered licensed water use 2019-20 (all prescribed water resources areas)	Water Use (Gigalitres)	% of total volume	Number of meters	% of meters
1	Metered licensed water use taken through non-pattern approved meters (grandfathered)	1068.9	91.4%	11855	97.6%
2	Metered licensed water use through pattern approved meters	16.8	1.4%	287	2.4%
3	Unmetered licensed water use	83.2	7.2%	0	
	Totals	1168.9	100%	12142	100%

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

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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 at October 2023 however, variations may occur when new information results in adjustments to usage volumes.
- '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 an 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. In 2022-23, the volume of unmetered take increased marginally due to a data update on unmetered licensed water sources.
- 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).
- In 2022-23, the volume and proportion of metered take decreased significantly due to the unusually high rainfall and flooding during the peak irrigation period, which likely reduced irrigation needs.