

Meter Implementation Plan for the Central Adelaide Prescribed Wells Area

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

Metering water use

The *South Australian Licensed Water Use Metering Policy* sets out the rules associated with metering, in accordance with the *Landscape South Australia (Water Management) Regulations 2020* and the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. This policy requires that all licensed water use is metered as a default position, however DEW recognises the need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate on-ground implementation issues.

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

- Install meters to all individual wells (or offtakes) endorsed on their associated licence (or engage a meter installer to do so) within six months of a licence being issued;
- Ensure all existing and installed meters comply with the relevant South Australian Licensed Water Use Meter Specifications;
- Provide meter readings to the Department annually; and,
- Notify the Department before installing or making changes to your metering configuration.

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 Central Adelaide Prescribed Wells Area this requirement is annual, however in some instances the Department may require more regular meter readings.

Meter readings can be submitted online using the Meter Reading Form:

1. Go to the Departments [Metering Water Use](#) Web page.

2. Click on the link provided - 'submitting a meter reading please go [here](#)'.
3. You will be directed to the website which hosts the online form. Click on the 'Complete Form' button. You will need your water licence number and the full name of one licence holder as it appears on the licence to proceed.

Alternatively, you can phone (08) 8463 6876 during business hours to provide a meter reading to the Department or for assistance with the Meter Reading Form.

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.

There may be instances where a stock and/or domestic allocation does not require a meter to be installed i.e. where it can be determined that water can only be used for stock and or domestic purposes.

However, where a water licence features a stock and or domestic allocation as well as an allocation for an alternate purpose a meter may be required to be installed. License holders will be notified if this is the case.

A water licence holder may request that flexibility be considered. The Minister's Delegate will consider such requests on merit to determine if a meter is required. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Where an allocation is held however there is no physical means of accessing the water resource (there is no on-ground infrastructure).
- Where it is impractical to meter a source.

- Where an alternate metering configuration will accurately record water use. For instance, where it is appropriate to record the water taken from two sources through one meter (provided there is no capacity to redirect the water prior to the meter).
- Where a licence holder is required to install more than one meter for multiple wells or offtakes which are endorsed on a single licence. On application, licence holders may receive an extended period to install meters with the schedule for each meter installation determined based on priority.
- Where irrigation has ceased on a property, there are no plans for water use in the foreseeable future and the Department is satisfied that water is not being taken (in this situation, metering requirements may be "deferred" until water is used in future).*
- Where a meter is unable to be installed within the requirements of 3.1 and 3.3 of the South Australian Licensed Meter Specification, the meter may be installed, subject to delegate approval, with a lesser straight length of pipe fitted upstream and/or downstream of the meter.

It is important to note that in instances where the requirement to meter has been exempted, water usage against the associated allocation will be deemed as full usage.

To apply for flexibility

1. Go to the Department's 'Metering Water Use' Web page.
2. Click on 'online Meter Notification Form'.
3. You will be directed to the website which hosts the online form. Click on the 'Complete Form' button.
4. Under the 'Water meter installation' section select 'Request additional time to install or I have complex meter installation/special circumstances'.

Alternatively, you can phone (08) 8463 6876 during business hours to request flexibility.

Before installing or making changes to your metering configuration

Licence holders are required to notify the Department before installing new infrastructure. Meter details can be submitted by completing a Meter Notification Form online.

Alternatively, you can phone (08) 8463 6876 during business hours to notify of meter details, discuss any metering issues or for assistance with the Meter Notification Form.

More information

Phone: (08) 8463 6876

Email: DEWwaterlicensing@sa.gov.au

Web: www.environment.sa.gov.au

Post: Water Licensing Branch
DEW
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5000

* Whilst it is the responsibility of the licence holder to alert the Department if they wish to recommence taking water, random and targeted audits are conducted by the Department to ensure water is not being used without a meter.