Water Compliance Reporting

DEWNR is responsible for managing South Australia's water resources for the future. This includes monitoring water users who take and use water from prescribed and non-prescribed water sources such as a dam, bore, stream, river or creek to ensure they are meeting their legal obligations.

DEWNR is required to report on any water use compliance breaches as part of the National framework for compliance and enforcement systems for water resource management.

Water Compliance Activities Conducted in 2016-17¹

Tables 1 below summarises the types of compliance actions undertaken in all prescribed water resource areas of South Australia in 2016-17. These actions relate to offences which occurred in the 2016-17 water use year, as well as the number of site visits during that reporting period.

Table 2 details specific, targeted water compliance operations that occurred in 2016-17, listing the number of sites visited in each operation and the number of compliant and non-compliant sites (note: some of this data forms part of Table 1).

¹ This publication contains data that is current up to 20 September 2017.

Section of Natural Resources Management Act 2004	Description	Number of site visits ¹	Advisory letters issued	Final Notice Issued	Administrative sanctions	Criminal investigation in process	Criminal charges and proceedings brought	Civil enforcement actions	Licence suspensions	Compliance breaches reports
s127(1)	Unauthorised taking of water from a prescribed surface water area, watercourse, lake or well	19	3		1					1
s127(6)(b)	Contravening a condition of a water management authorisation or permit	567	8726	543	386					
s115(1)(a)	Penalty for taking water in excess of allocation ²	149	3114		138					1
Natural Resources Management (Financial Provisions) Regulations 2005 R17(1)	Failure to comply with 'Part 3: Meters' of Regulations	1341	387	521						
s215(2)	Interfering with a meter	15			1	1				2
s139 (4) and Natural Resources Management (General) Regulations 2005 R20	Well driller licence holder contravening or failing to comply with a licence condition.			9		1	1			3
s127 (3)	Drilling, plugging, backfilling or sealing a well; repairing, replacing or altering the casing, lining or screen of a well; without a water management authorisation or permit or contrary to an NRM Plan.	63		8		1	1			0
s144 (1)	Obligation to maintain a well.			6						10
s145 (1), (2) and (3)	Requirement for remedial or other works.			14						20

Table 2. Targeted Water Compliance Operations Conducted in 2016-17.Western Mount Lofty Ranges

PWRA

Risk Categories	Compliance Activities	Actioned (Y/N)	No. of Licences (that the activity applies to	Number of Site Visits ²	Instances of Non- Compliance (e.g. where a meter has not been installed or has been interfered with)	Instances of compliance (where a meter has been installed)	Other non-compliance (please comment as to what the non- compliance is)	No. of Self meter reads comple te	No. of Meters read by the Dept	No of meter installations deferred
GW - Cat 3 SW - Cat 3 WC - Cat 3	Meter Installation Compliance Operation	Y	913	248	312	274				327
	Meter Self Read Audit 2016-17	Y	69	19 (OVER THE 3 QUARTER S)				209 (OVER THE 3 QUART ERS)	19 (OVER THE 3 QUARTE RS)	
	Audit of meter compliance in the Sampson Flat region of the Western Mount Lofty Ranges	No. Actioned in 2015/16								
	Licensees who consistently overused water	N - 2016-17 will be the first Water use year for WMLR to be issued penalties for overuse.								
	Identification of illegal dams	N								

	(moved to targeted compliance programs for 2017- 18)					
Education activities	Y	4,429				
Instruments surrendered	N (moved to targeted compliance programs for 2017- 18)					
Expired drain and discharge permits	N (moved to targeted compliance programs for 2017-18					
Audit of stock and domestic sources used for irrigation purposes	N (moved to targeted compliance programs for 2017-18					

Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges

PWRA

	Compliance Activities	Actioned (Y/N)	No. of Licences (that the activity applies to	Number of Site Visits ²	Instances of Non- Compliance (e.g. where a meter has not been installed or has been interfered with)	Instances of compliance (where a meter has been installed)	Other non-compliance (please comment as to what the non- compliance is)	No. of Self meter reads comple ted	No. of Meters read by the Depart ment	No of meter installations deferred
GW Cat 2	Meter Installation Compliance Operation									
WC Cat 2	A compliance operation with a focus on non-compliance with new meter installations in these newly licensed areas.	Y - ongoing		58						
	Meter Self Read Audit 2016-17	Ν								
	Licensees who consistently overused water	Ν								
	Identification of illegal dams	Ν								
	Education activities Activities carried out in the Eastern Mount lofty Ranges, where penalty rates were gazetted for the first time in 2016-17. Notification letters sent to all licensee .Combined with courtesy phone calls made to all ten licensees who overused in 2015-16.	Y	565							
	Instruments surrendered	Y	15							
	Expired drain and discharge permits	Ν								
	Audit of stock and domestic sources used for irrigation purposes	Ν								

Northern Adelaide Plains PWA

Risk Categories	Compliance Activities	Actioned (Y/N)	No. of Licences (that the activity applies to	Number of Site Visits ²	Instances of Non- Compliance (e.g. where a meter has not been installed or has been interfered with)	Instances of compliance (where a meter has been installed)	Other non-compliance (please comment as to what the non- compliance is)	No. of Self meter reads comple ted	No. of Meters read by the Depart ment	No of meter installations deferred
GW Cat 3	Meter Compliance Operation A compliance operation with a focus on licensees with a history of previous non-compliance with meter installations (e.g. interfering with a meter). There was also a focus on licensees who had previous consecutive years of overuse followed by a significant reduction in water usage.	Y	61	65	6 (5 stuck and 1 magnet)	all 65		0	all 65	0
	Meter Self Read Audit 2016-17						Departmental read so N/A			
	Licensees who consistently overused water	У	3							
	Identification of illegal dams						N/A groundwater prescribed only.			
	Education activities									
	Instruments surrendered									
	Expired drain and discharge permits									
	Audit of stock and domestic sources used for irrigation purposes						Not assessed			

Far North PWA

GW Cat 3	Compliance Activities	Actioned (Y/N)	No. of Licences (that the activity applies to	Number of Site Visits ²	Instances of Non- Compliance (e.g. where a meter has not been installed or has been interfered with)	Instances of compliance (where a meter has been installed)	Additional educational activities	No. of Self meter reads comple ted	No. of Meters read by the Depart ment	No of meter installations deferred
	Targeted monitoring - Compliance of wells were assessed during the monitoring of ground water pressure and levels in the Great						Workshops regarding landholder/licence holder rights and obligations related to			
	Artesian Basin. Education activities - three educational workshops and six site visits (6 visits) , 76 advisory letters sent out	Y	76	6			maintaining wells and to discuss the need to implement closed water delivery systems. The workshops also focused on making landholder/licence holders aware of the need to comply with "Obligation of the landholder to maintain a well" "Well Drillers licenses' obligations under sec 144(1) of the NRM Act, - the need to comply with the conditions of their licence and also compliance with sec 145 (1), (2) and (3) in relation to remedial work required if a well is degraded, and the potential non-compliance penalties that can be incurred. Additionally, letters were sent to every well driller licence holder and landholder with a well (76in total) to advise that conditions are enforceable on the licences are now enforceable and currently a compliance focus.			

Padthaway PWA

Risk Categories		Actioned (Y/N)	No. of Licences (that the activity applies to)	Number of Site Visits ²	Instances of Non- Compliance (e.g. where a meter has not been installed or has been interfered with)	Instances of compliance (where a meter has been installed)	Other non-compliance (please comment as to what the non- compliance is)	No. of Self meter reads comple ted	No. of Meters read by the Depart ment	No of meter installations deferred
GW - Cat 3	Meter Inspection Compliance Operation All meters were inspected in this	Y	48 of 99	5		21 new			250	4
	prescribed area to ensure they were operational and compliant with the South Australian Licensed Water Use Meter Specifications.									
	Meter Self Read Audit 2016-17	Y						248 of 250		
	Licensees who consistently overused water	Ν								
	Identification of illegal dams	Ν								
	Education activities	Y	85 letters (I per meter)							
	Instruments surrendered	Y								
	Expired drain and discharge permits	Ν								
	Audit of stock and domestic sources used for irrigation purposes	Ν								

Marne Saunders PWRA

Risk categories	Compliance Activity	Actioned (Y/N)	No. of Sources (that the activity applies to	Number of Site Visits ²	Instances of Non- Compliance (e.g. where a source is unmetered	Instances of compliance (where a meter has been installed)	Other non-compliance (please comment as to what the non- compliance is)	No. of Self meter reads comple ted	No. of Meters read by the Depart ment	No of meter installations deferred
SW- Cat 3	Audit to identify unmetered water sources and determine if meter required.	Y A project will continue in 17/18 to determine metering requiremen ts for the unmetered sources	302		94					
	Licensees who consistently overused water	Ν								
	Identification of illegal dams	Ν								
	Education activities	Ν								
	Instruments surrendered	Ν								
	Expired drain and discharge permits	Ν								
	Audit of stock and domestic sources used for irrigation purposes	Ν								

Mallee PWA

Risk Categories	Compliance Activity	Actioned (Y/N)	No. of Licences (that the activity applies to	Number of Site Visits ²	Instances of Non- Compliance (e.g. where a meter has not been installed or has been interfered with)	Instances of compliance (where a meter has been installed)	Other non-compliance (please comment as to what the non- compliance is)	No. of Self meter reads comple ted	No. of Meters read by the Depart ment	No of meter installations deferred
GW - Cat 3	Self-meter read audit 2016-17	Y	81	81				81	81	
	Unauthorised taking of water	Y	1	1			Noted during site visit water being taken from a water source not endorsed on licence. Worked with licensee successfully to ensure voluntary compliance with licensing requirements.			
	Licensees who consistently overused water	N								
	Identification of illegal dams	N								
	Education activities	N - (moved to targeted compliance programs for 2017- 18)								
	Instruments surrendered	N								
	Expired drain and discharge permits	N								
	Audit of stock and domestic sources used for irrigation purposes	Ν								

Statewide Proposed Targeted Water Compliance Monitoring Operational Plan for 2017-18

Proposed targeted water compliance operations for the 2017-18 water use year (not part of the annual meter reading program) include the following:

- Inspection of the integrity of existing installed meters in the Northern Adelaide Plains
- Inspection of stock and domestic bores to ensure water allocation taken for the purpose of stock and domestic in McLaren Vale
- Follow up of overdue meter installations in the Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRAs
- Audit of unmetered water instruments in the River Murray
- Inspection of all new meter installations in the South East Region
- Education activities in South East Region regarding compliance with meter conditions on water instruments
- Audit of unmetered water instruments in the Marne Saunders PWA
- Education activity with water instrument holders in the Mallee PWA regarding supply arrangements and potential overuse penalties
- Education activity with water instrument holders in the Northern Adelaide Plains regarding water licensing requirements and compliance

Previous years' reports

- Water Compliance Activities (2015-16)
- Water compliance activities (2014-15)
- Water compliance activities (2013-2014)
- <u>Targeted water compliance monitoring (2014)</u>

Acronyms

PWRA	Prescribed Water Resources Area
PWC	Prescribed Water Course
PWA	Prescribed Wells Area

² A compliance site visit is one visit to a water source for the purpose of a monitoring event (a monitoring event is monitoring conducted in addition to scheduled meter readings by authorised officers).