

Non-urban water measurement policy

Information for water entitlement holders

The Queensland Government is introducing a new policy to strengthen non-urban water metering across the state. This is an important step in helping to build community confidence that our non-urban water resources are being managed fairly and sustainably.

Feedback from extensive stakeholder consultation and engagement over the past three years has helped us to shape our policy approach.

We will take a risk-based approach to metering, with the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin (QMDB) our highest priority.

The strengthened policy will support Queensland in the delivery of national commitments for the Murray-Darling Basin.

The following information is to help you understand what the policy may mean for you.

Frequently asked questions

I already have a meter so can I keep using it?

There are transitional arrangements in place for existing meters. If your existing meter can meet the standard at revalidation, then it can remain in service. If it cannot meet the standard it will need to be replaced with a meter that meets the standard.

Will I need to install a meter if I don't already have one?

You will be notified by the department if you are required to install a meter. For QMDB water entitlement holders the [implementation plan](#) includes information about timeframes for requiring new metering. The implementation plan will be updated periodically to include areas outside the QMDB.

If your entitlement is 5ML or less you will not be required to install a meter unless the water plan for your catchment has an alternative threshold.

Entitlements to take water for the following low-risk activities and uses will not require a meter:

- stock and domestic
- public amenities
- educational facilities.

Inactive volumetric entitlements will not need to be metered.

When will I need to install a meter or have my existing meter revalidated?

The timeframes for installing new meters are outlined in the implementation plan which will be updated periodically. You will be notified by the department if you are required to install a meter.

For revalidation of existing meters you will be advised by the department when this needs to occur. The timeframes for revalidation are in schedule 11 in of the [Water Regulation 2016](#).

Where do I go to find a meter installer or validator?

Certified meter installers and authorised meter validators can be found at www.irrigationaustralia.com.au.

Will I need to install telemetry on my meter?

Under the measurement policy, telemetry will be required on all unsupplemented surface water meters in the QMBD. The QMDB-first approach will require devices to be installed by 2025 to meet the Murray-Darling Basin compliance compact commitments.

How do I access the subsidy for telemetry?

The department has received funding from the Australian Government to help offset costs to install telemetry.

Unsupplemented surface water entitlement holders in the QMBD will be eligible for the telemetry subsidy. Information on the telemetry subsidy can be found on the department's web site at: [Telemetry subsidy program Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water \(rdmw.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/telemetry-subsidy-program).

Do I have to use a pattern approved meter?

At present all new and replacement meters on pipes up to and including 600mm in diameter must be pattern approved. A staged approach to requiring pattern approved meters on pipes over 600mm is being taken. For more information see the [implementation plan](#).

Water entitlement holders will be informed of any future decision to change these requirements.

A list of pattern approved meters can be found at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/policy/policy/nwi/nonurban-water-metering-framework>.

When will I need to have my overland flow measurement plan in place?

There is no requirement for measurement plans at this time. The department is still developing standards and guidelines for these.

Further information will be provided to overland flow entitlement holders as this work progresses.

More information

- Call 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
- Search 'strengthened water measurement' on www.rdmw.qld.gov.au
- Search 'water metering' on www.business.qld.gov.au
- Go to <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/policy/policy/nwi/nonurban-water-metering-framework> to find a list of pattern approved meters.
- Contact your local business centre <https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact>
- Email us at: RWFP@rdmw.qld.gov.au



Australian Government

The telemetry subsidy is delivered under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan by the Queensland Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.