

# Meter Implementation Plan for Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges

Measuring water use across the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges will help secure sustainable water resources into the future for the community, industry and the environment.

## Metering licensed sources

Accurately measuring water use from licensed water sources will help secure a sustainable future for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges' water resources.

Unless otherwise specified, licensed water sources will need to be fitted with a water meter to accurately measure water use and ensure the volume of water taken remains within water allocations.

Licensees are required to notify the Department within six months of the date of issue of their water licence of the meter(s) that have been installed, or to request an extension of time to install a water meter.

While the South Australian Licensed Water Use Metering Policy requires that all licensed water use is metered, the Policy also recognises the need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate on-ground implementation issues.

## Flexibility Provisions

Flexibility provisions will automatically be extended to licence holders in the following circumstances.

Dams in High Demand Surface Water Management Zones, meters will not be required for:

- licensed dams 2ML or less in capacity (excluding dams which are high risk)
- surface water dams used solely for stock and domestic purposes
- surface water captured via a roof ('roof run off') into a rainwater tank or other holding tank
- quarries which capture surface water.

Dams in Low Demand Surface Water Management Zones, meters will not be required for:

- licensed dams 5ML or less in capacity (excluding dams which are high risk)
- surface water dams 5ML in capacity or greater with an allocation 70-100% of the dam capacity (excluding dams which are high risk)
- surface water dams used solely for stock and domestic purposes

- surface water captured via a roof ('roof run off') into a rainwater tank or other holding tank
- quarries which capture surface water.

For the purpose of these flexibility provisions, high risk dams are those where the dam capacity is not the limiting factor controlling the volume able to be taken and there is a risk that the licence holder could take significantly more than their licensed allocation.

## Metering to be deferred

The requirement to meter flood diverters in the Lower Angas and Bremer who take watercourse water for flood irrigation (e.g. by the use of sluice gates, large pumps, weirs) has been deferred pending community engagement by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and the Department.

**The South Australian Government is committed to arrangements that reduce the cost of metering while effectively accounting for water use**

## Stock and domestic use

It is acknowledged that in many circumstances water extracted for non-licensed purposes (i.e. stock and/or domestic) is extracted from the same source as water used for purposes requiring a licensed allocation.

The Department does not require stock and domestic water use to be separately metered. Stock and domestic use taken from the same source can be separated from licensed use via several different methods, including but not limited to:

- an agreed volume that is taken for stock and/or domestic purposes
- where the licence holder may have exceeded their allocation an assessment may be carried out to estimate stock and domestic use in a specific year
- through an off-take prior to the meter, provided the Department is satisfied the water can only be used for stock and/or domestic purposes.



## Metering requirements

A six-month grace period is extended to licence holders to install water meters and/or to advise the Department of existing meter installations.

It is recognised that in some instances licensees may be required to install multiple meters and that cost, meter or installer availability may make it difficult to install within the six month timeframe. Licensees may seek an extension of time or submit a phased installation timetable if they have multiple meters to install.

If you need assistance to determine the most efficient metering configuration for your property please contact the Department by completing the online Meter Notification Form.

## To apply for flexibility:

1. Go to the website [www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/water/permits-and-licenses/eastern-mount-lofty-ranges-water-metering](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/water/permits-and-licenses/eastern-mount-lofty-ranges-water-metering)
2. Select 'online Meter Notification Form'.
3. Under the 'Water meter installation' section select 'Request additional time to install or I have complex meter installation/special circumstances'.

## Meter Notification Form

If you are required to install a meter you must notify the Department of the meter details once each meter has been installed. This information can be submitted by completing the Meter Notification Form or by contacting the Department.

Phone 8595 2053 during business hours to request assistance with the Meter Notification Form.

Copies of other related documentation including the South Australian Licensed Water Use Metering Policy and Specification are also available via the website

[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin)

## Measuring water use

The South Australian Government is committed to securing sustainable water supplies for the community, industry and environment. Licensing and measuring water use will help ensure the long-term future of the Mount Lofty Ranges water resources.

Licensing and measuring water use protects landholders' rights to access water and makes it possible to transfer and trade water allocations and water rights.

Measuring water use will also help licensees monitor their use and track their irrigation system's efficiency.

## For further information

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