
Meter Implementation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse

Measuring water use across the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse (PWC) helps secure sustainable water resources into the future for the community, industry and the environment.

The South Australian Government is committed to securing sustainable water supplies for the community, industry and environment. Licensing and measuring water use protects landholders' rights to access water and makes it possible to transfer and trade water allocations and water entitlements.

Measuring water use also helps licence holders monitor their use to meet licence obligations and track their irrigation system's efficiency.

Metering water use

The *South Australian Licensed Water Use Metering Policy 2019* sets out the rules associated with metering, in accordance with the *Natural Resources Management (Financial Provisions) Regulations 2005* and the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. This policy requires that all licensed water use is metered as a default position, however recognises the need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate on-ground implementation issues.

In the majority of cases, the volume of water taken from the River Murray PWC for licensed purposes is recorded through a water meter to accurately measure the volume taken and to ensure water usage remains within allocations.

Accurately measuring water use helps secure a sustainable future for all communities, industries and the environment both within the River Murray catchment boundaries and other communities that depend on and benefit from its resources.

When does flexibility apply?

There are limited situations where automatic flexibility applies. This is where an associated water licence has an allocation less than 5,000 kilolitres, where it can be determined that water can only be used for stock and or domestic purposes. If the water licence features a stock and/or domestic allocation, as well as an allocation for an alternate purpose, automatic flexibility does not apply.

There may be instances however, where the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) requires a licence holder to meter a stock and or domestic water source. Licence holders will be notified by DEW if this is the case.

In addition, flexibility provisions may apply upon request of the instrument holder and at the discretion of the Minister for Environment and Water's Delegate (rather than automatically). Flexibility is limited to circumstances that are considered low risk to the State's water resources.

Requests will be considered on merit by the Minister's Delegate to determine if a meter is required. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Where an allocation is held on a water account however, there is no physical means of access to the water resource (there is no on-ground infrastructure).
- Where it is impractical to meter a source.
- Where an alternative metering configuration will accurately record water use, for instance where it is appropriate to record all water

from two sources through one meter.

- Where irrigation has ceased on a property, there are no plans for water use in the foreseeable future and DEW is satisfied that water is not being taken. In this situation, metering requirements may be "deferred" until water is to be used in future.

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

It is important to note that in instances where the requirement to meter has been exempt, water usage against the associated allocation will be deemed as full usage. Accordingly, allocation trades and carry over will not be granted where metering is exempt.

Wetland and environmental watering

In some instances, water is diverted for wetland and or environmental watering and there is no fixed infrastructure in place. Water taken under these circumstances must be either metered or an alternative method to measure the volume of water taken is to be prearranged with DEW.

Meter details must be provided to DEW or approval is to be obtained from DEW to use an alternate measurement method prior to taking any water.



To apply for flexibility

Put your request in writing and either post to PO Box 240, Berri, SA 5343 or email to:

dew.waterlicensingberri@sa.gov.au.

If you are uncertain whether flexibility may apply to your circumstances or wish to discuss your request prior to writing to DEW, you can phone (08) 8595 2053 during business hours to discuss.

Meter readings

Holders of a water resources works approval are required to record and submit meter readings to DEW, as per a condition of the approval.

Generally for the River Murray PWC this is a quarterly requirement, however in some instances DEW may require more regular meter readings.

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

1. Go to DEW's [Water reporting](#) Web page at:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water/water-licences-and-permits/water-reporting>

2. Click on [meter reading form](#).

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 holder as it appears on this document to proceed.

Alternatively, you can phone (08) 8595 2053 during business hours to provide a meter reading to DEW or for assistance with the Meter Reading Form.

Please note, if you hold a water entitlement or water allocation, you will need to provide a meter reading on the application form to transfer all or part your water allocation or water entitlement to another entity.

Installing or making changes to metering configurations

Holders of a water resources works approval are required to complete a Meter Notification Form whenever changes to metering configurations occur. This includes installing new infrastructure, replacing a meter, or effecting repairs to existing infrastructure. Meter details can be submitted by completing the Meter Notification Form:

1. Go to DEW's [Water reporting](#) Web page at:

<https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/sa-dfw/water-meter-notification-html/>

2. Click on [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) 8595 2053 during business hours to request flexibility or for assistance with the Meter Notification Form.

Useful links

Meter Notification Form: [Click here](#), or type the following URL:
<https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/sa-dfw/water-meter-notification-html/>

Meter Reading Form: [Click here](#), or type the following URL:
<https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/sa-dfw/meter-reading-form/>

How to read your meter fact sheet: [Click here](#), or type the following URL:
http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/permits_and_licences/water/how-to-read-your-meter-fact.pdf

Landscape South Australia Act 2019: [Click here](#), or type the following URL:
<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/LANDSCAPE%20SOUTH%20AUSTRALIA%20ACT%202019/CURRENT/2019.3.3.AUTH.PDF>

Landscape South Australia (Water Management) Regulations 2020: [Click here](#), or type the following URL:
[https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/LANDSCAPE%20SOUTH%20AUSTRALIA%20\(WATER%20MANAGEMENT\)%20REGULATIONS%202020/CURRENT/20.223.AUTH.PDF](https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/LANDSCAPE%20SOUTH%20AUSTRALIA%20(WATER%20MANAGEMENT)%20REGULATIONS%202020/CURRENT/20.223.AUTH.PDF)

South Australia Licensed Water Use Metering Specification: [Click here](#), or type the following URL:
<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water/water-licences-and-permits/metering-water-use> and click on the link within the text.



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