

## 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 2016-17<sup>1</sup>

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).

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<sup>1</sup> This publication contains data that is current up to 20 September 2017.

**Table 1. Summary of compliance actions undertaken in all prescribed water resource areas of South Australia in 2016-17.**

Section of <i>Natural Resources Management Act 2004</i>	Description	Number of site visits <sup>1</sup>	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)	<i>Unauthorised taking of water from a prescribed surface water area, watercourse, lake or well</i>	19	3		1					1
s127(6)(b)	<i>Contravening a condition of a water management authorisation or permit</i>	567	8726	543	386					
s115(1)(a)	<i>Penalty for taking water in excess of allocation<sup>2</sup></i>	149	3114		138					1
Natural Resources Management (Financial Provisions) Regulations 2005 R17(1)	<i>Failure to comply with 'Part 3: Meters' of Regulations</i>	1341	387	521						
s215(2)	<i>Interfering with a meter</i>	15			1	1				2
s139 (4) and Natural Resources Management (General) Regulations 2005 R20	<i>Well driller licence holder contravening or failing to comply with a licence condition.</i>	63		9		1	1			3
s127 (3)	<i>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.</i>			8		1	1			0
s144 (1)	<i>Obligation to maintain a well.</i>			6						10
s145 (1), (2 ) and (3)	<i>Requirement for remedial or other works.</i>			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 <sup>2</sup>	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 complete	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 QUARTERS)				209 (OVER THE 3 QUARTERS)	19 (OVER THE 3 QUARTERS)	
	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)								



## Northern Adelaide Plains PWA

Risk Categories	Compliance Activities	Actioned (Y/N)	No. of Licences (that the activity applies to)	Number of Site Visits <sup>2</sup>	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 completed	No. of Meters read by the Department	No of meter installations deferred
GW Cat 3	Meter Compliance Operation <i>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.</i>	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	y	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		











## 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 PWRA
- 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 \(2013-2014\)](#)
- [Targeted water compliance monitoring \(2014\)](#)

### *Acronyms*

PWRA	<i>Prescribed Water Resources Area</i>
PWC	<i>Prescribed Water Course</i>
PWA	<i>Prescribed Wells Area</i>

<sup>2</sup> 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).