
Meter Implementation Plan for Western Mount Lofty Ranges

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

Metering licensed sources

Certain licensed water sources will need to be fitted with a water meter to accurately measure water use and ensure the volume used remains within water allocations.

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

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.

When does flexibility apply?

Flexibility provisions apply to all water resources in the Western Mount Lofty Ranges. However, in stressed management zones, limited flexibility provisions will apply on application of the licensee.

Currently the Hindmarsh Tiers Sedimentary and Myponga Sedimentary Management Zones are identified as stressed. Should future monitoring of water resources identify new stressed management zones this plan will be reviewed.

If you are in a stressed management zone please contact the Department to discuss your situation. Metered usage of stressed water resources will provide critical data for determining future management of the water resource.

All licensed watercourse extraction points will be required to be metered.

Flexibility provisions

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 licensee could take significantly more than their licensed allocation.

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

Meters are not required for:

- surface water dams used solely for stock and domestic purposes
- surface water dams less than 5ML in capacity (excluding dams which are high risk)
- surface water dams 5ML in capacity or greater with an allocation of 70-100% of the dam capacity (excluding dams which are high risk)
- surface water captured via a roof ('roof run off').

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

Flexibility will also be considered on request of the licensee. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis to determine if a meter is required in the following circumstances:

- water taken from multiple sources may be metered through a single meter (where the water resource is the same e.g. all underground water and there is no capacity to direct water prior to the meter)
- dams that are 5ML in capacity or less that have been assessed to be high risk
- quarries which capture surface water
- extensions of time to install multiple meters
- other individual circumstances.



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Flexibility provisions cont.

In some situations flexibility will need to be considered on a case by case basis against a set of criteria, including but not limited to:

- location of sources within stressed water resources and management zone boundaries
- aquifer connectivity
- localised surface water catchments
- watercourse connectivity
- watercourses across the plains
- location of extraction in relation to wetlands or other environmental assets
- potential impact upon neighbouring users
- distance to junction point from extraction points
- conditions on the water licence.

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.

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 licence allocation.

The Department does not require that stock and domestic water use 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 to stock and domestic use provided the Department is satisfied the water can only be used for stock and/or domestic purposes.

How do I request flexibility?

To make it simpler for you to request flexibility the Department has created an online Meter Notification Form.

To apply for flexibility:

You can phone 8463 6876 during business hours to request flexibility or for assistance with the Meter Notification Form.

Alternatively:

1. Go to the website <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/water-use/water-planning/water-licences-and-permits/western-mount-lofty-ranges-water-licensing-changes/metering-water-use>
2. Click on 'online 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'.

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.

Copies of other related documentation including the South Australian Licensed Water Use Metering Policy and Specification are also available via the Department's website www.environment.sa.gov.au.

Further Information

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