



# NSW non-urban water metering framework

November 2018

# Objectives of framework

- That the vast majority of licensed water take is **accurately metered**
- That meters are **accurate, tamper proof and auditable**
- That undue costs on smaller water users are minimised
- That metering requirements are **practical** and can be **implemented effectively**



# Feedback from consultation

- Timelines for staged roll-out too short to enable meter market to mature and meters to be installed
- Reliability and cost of telemetry, especially for smaller users
- Calls for small entitlement holders or infrequent users to be exempt or subject to lower standards
- Concern about cumulative costs for multiple smaller works
- Concern about practicality of standards for some installations e.g. portable pumps
- Call for coastal users to be subject to different requirements
- Concern that at-risk groundwater sources was defined too broadly
- Request that open channel meters are specifically catered for
- Concern about transfer of state-owned meters to private ownership

# Quick statistics



# Main changes in response to consultation feedback



- New thresholds for telemetry, noting that all works must still be telemetry capable
- Capacity threshold for multiple works – users below threshold will not be required to meter
- Surface water works not in use can be identified as ‘inactive’ on works approval and will not require a meter
- Alternative requirements for open channel meters
- Some aspects of the regulation will commence on 1 April 2019 to enable the market to mature and implementation processes to be systems-ready



## Timelines for staged roll-out

- New and replacement meters and faulty meter requirements to commence on **1 April 2019**
- Staged roll-out dates to remain unchanged
  - 1 December 2019 for surface water pumps 500 mm or larger
  - 1 December 2020 for inland northern regions
  - 1 December 2021 for inland southern regions
  - 1 December 2023 for coastal regions



# Telemetry

- Required for all surface water works, except pumps authorised to be less than 200 mm
- No telemetry for groundwater, due to yearly allocation
- Issue will be revisited as part of the 5 year review
- All new and replacement meters must have data loggers and will need to be telemetry capable (AS4747 requirement)
- Water users can still be directed to have telemetry installed under section 326 of the *Water Management Act 2000*
- Water users without telemetry will need to regularly report take. Consultation in 2019 will address reporting requirements for those users.



# Inactive works and decommissioning

- **Surface water:**

Works marked as 'inactive' on the work approval and demonstrated to be incapable of taking water will not need to have a meter. Works can also be decommissioned.

- **Groundwater:**

Works not in use will need to be decommissioned and removed from work approval. This is required because of contamination risks. It is a current and longstanding work approval condition.





# Open channel meters

- Open channel meters do not need to be pattern-approved if:
  - before new open channels are installed, the design of the installation must be certified by a duly qualified person as compliant with the International or Australian Standard that is applicable to the metering equipment to be used or type of channel where it is to be installed, and
  - the metering equipment is validated at least every 12 months



# Maintenance specifications

- Maintenance specifications are published in the NSW Government Gazette.
- They specify the mandatory requirements for the maintenance of metering equipment for both closed conduit and open channel meters.
- The purpose is to assist meter owners to ensure their metering equipment is being maintained periodically in accordance with the pattern approval certificate and relevant Australian Standards or Technical Specifications.



# Duly qualified persons

- Duly Qualified Persons (DQP) are prescribed in the regulation
- DQPs are persons with the qualifications, skills or experience to carry out particular work in connection with metering equipment
- Activities that need to be carried out by a DQP include meter design, installation, telemetry and some aspects of maintenance
- Meters must be validated by a DQP after installation, every 5 years (closed pipe) or 12 months for open channel, and as required under AS 4747.



# Faulty meters

- New requirements for faulty meters will commence on 1 April 2019
- It will be a new offence if users fail to notify of faulty metering equipment within 24 hours
- Users will be required to fix faulty meters within 28 days or apply for an extension
- There will be additional record-keeping obligations for users with faulty meters
- Users will need to notify once the meter has been repaired



# Next stage - implementation

## Some key areas for 2019

- Monitoring
  - Market response for pattern-approved meters
  - Availability of duly qualified persons to install and validate
- Developing an online tool to assist water users determine whether they need a meter and the relevant requirements
- Consultation
  - Reporting requirements for users with meters and below the telemetry thresholds
  - Reasonable use guidelines for stock and domestic
  - Resolving ownership of government-owned meters



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