

Amendments to the Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004 in relation to Non-Urban Metering

The Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004 has been amended to impose new metering requirements for water allocation dealings and individual daily extraction component dealings

Water Allocation Dealings

The NSW Government has amended the *Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004* (the Order) to introduce new metering requirements for licence holders undertaking some types of dealings, including water allocation dealings.

For a water allocation dealing to be approved, the following metering standards are now required if the cumulative allocations credited to a licence holder's water allocation account in a water year are:

- 15 ML or less – no meter is required, however recording and reporting rules for works taking water without a meter will still otherwise apply,
- More than 15 ML and less than 100 ML – each nominated work must have a pattern-approved meter unless an exemption applies (see below),
- 100 ML or more – each nominated work must have an AS4747 compliant meter with duly qualified person (DQP) validation, telemetry, and a local intelligence device (LID) unless an exemption applies (see below).

These changes follow amendments to the NSW Non-Urban Metering Framework in early 2025, which applied different metering requirements depending on the amount of entitlement for a licence that nominates a water supply work.

A water allocation dealing changes the amount of water in a water allocation account for a licence and therefore, the amount of water that can be extracted under that licence, without changing the amount of licence entitlement.

The amendments to the Order ensure that metering requirements that are consistent with the 2025 changes will apply if a licence holder undertakes a water allocation dealing under sections 71T and 71V of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Individual daily extraction component dealings

The Order has also been amended to prohibit the trade of individual daily extraction components (IDECs) unless both the buyer's and seller's nominated water supply works have AS4747 compliant meters that have been validated by a DQP and are fitted with a LID and telemetry.

IDECs are a tool for specifying a volume of water that can be taken on a daily basis under an individual access licence once commence to pump thresholds have been reached. IDECs can limit the impact of rapid removal of water during peak irrigation periods and protect flows for the environment and downstream water users.

IDECs are currently only in place in the Barwon–Darling Unregulated River Water Source to protect the flow of environmental water into Menindee Lakes. Accurate and telemetered metering is required for these dealings due to the high level of water management needed to protect this environmental water.

Exemptions

These dealing prohibitions do not apply to access licences that do not nominate water supply works.

Exemptions from metering requirements apply to:

- a water supply work that is the subject of an exemption under section 76 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025 (the Regulation) (ministerial exemptions, including where it is not possible for water taken using the work to be measured by metering equipment or the work is not constructed, is decommissioned, doesn't take water from a water source)
- a water supply work that is authorised to be constructed or used for the purpose of taking water, or storing water taken, under a floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence, a floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) access licence or an unregulated river access licence if the water taken is overland flow water taken from a declared floodplain. Floodplain harvesting works have their own metering requirements which require a storage meter or point-of-intake metering on works that capture water in these circumstances
- water allocation dealings only in relation to works in sections 6–10 of Schedule 7 to the Regulation which includes single small pumps, single small bores, certain works if the total

share component is 15 ML or less, multiple surface water pumps and multiple groundwater pumps.

Meter installation

The meter must be installed before the dealing can be approved.