

Non-urban metering rules – update

Programs to support uptake of metering and telemetry equipment

- The NSW and Australian Governments have committed to fund a \$36.1 million suite of metering programs:
 - \$18 million telemetry rebate program, jointly funded by NSW and Australian Governments.
 - \$14.6 million government owned meter capital upgrade program, funded by the NSW Government.
 - \$1 million program First Nations metering traineeship program, funded by the Australian Government
 - \$2.5 million field program, funded by the Australian Government.
- These programs will commence in the 2021-22 financial year.

Learnings from 1 December 2020 rollout date

- Many water users were captured by the rules simply because their approvals details do not reflect what is 'on the ground, e.g. installed works smaller or inactive.
 - Key message to water users is to update details.
- The DQP Portal is a central source of information about the steps water users are taking to become compliant.
 - WaterNSW is upgrading the portal to allow more steps to be recorded and to improve access for water users.
- Only a small proportion of water users were waiting for a DQP or metering equipment.
 - Department regularly surveying suppliers and installers.

Communications and engagement activities for 1 December 2021 rollout

- Licensing records indicate that 3975 approval holders and 8012 works captured by 1 December 2021 rollout date
 - actual number likely to be much lower if water users update their works approvals to reflect 'what is on the ground'.
- Mail out to all affected water users in June – July 2021
- Outbound phone calls to all affected water users in July – August 2021
- Metering roadshow tentatively scheduled for September 2021
- Another mail out to all affected water users in October – November 2021

Scope of metering exemption for ‘domestic and stock’

- Works used solely to take water under a basic landholder right (BLR) are exempt from the metering rules:
 - This exemption captures water taken for domestic and stock under a BLR.
 - This exemption does not capture water taken under a domestic and stock water access licence.
- According to licensing records:
 - There are around 2500 works used solely to take water under a domestic and stock water access licence.
 - Of these 2500 works, around 850 are captured by the metering rules because:
 - they are pumps 100mm or greater in diameter
 - they already have a condition requiring a meter.
- Department working with WaterNSW and IAL to provide guidance on metering for portable pumps.

Availability of DQPs

- Currently 162 CMIs in NSW – 129 of these are in private practice

Extension of compliance dates for existing metering conditions

- Department has extended the timeframes for some water users to comply with existing metering conditions.
- Affects about 4,500 water users in the Hunter, Richmond, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray and Lower Darling Regulated River Water Sources.
- These conditions were imposed shortly before the NSW non-urban metering rules came into force.
- Under the extended deadlines:
 - Water users who have already installed meters will have until the rollout dates for the new metering rules to ensure these meters meet the appropriate standards.
 - Water users who have not already installed meters will have until 1 December 2021 to ensure they have meters that meet the appropriate standards.
- The extension won't affect the existing regional roll-out dates for NSW's non-urban metering rules