

Non-urban metering reform - exemptions

Fact sheet

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (NSW DCCEEW) non-urban metering rules apply to all water users, unless an exemption applies. This fact sheet outlines information on the different exemptions to the non-urban metering regulations.

Exemptions have been established for types of water take that are considered 'low risk'. This includes:

- works that take water solely for basic landholder rights.
- works that are not nominated by water access licences.
- works that are classified as not taking licensed water (e.g. not constructed, not capable of taking water, inactive or decommissioned).
- works that cannot physically comply with the non-urban metering rules under Clause 233.
- single surface water pumps less than 100mm in diameter and single groundwater bores with external casing less than 200mm in diameter, and multiple works that fall below cumulative size thresholds.
- works associated with entitlements that only take a low volume of water: in the order of up to 15 ML per year of cumulative share component (or equivalent).
- multiple sized-based thresholds for pumps and bores - if there is more than one pump or bore on a property, the following size exemptions apply:

Type of work	Number	Maximum diameter permitted
Surface water (pumps)	2 pumps	74mm in diameter each
Surface water (pumps)	3 pumps	49mm in diameter each
Surface water (pumps)	4 pumps	39mm in diameter each
Groundwater (bores)	2 bores	159mm in diameter each
Groundwater (bores)	3 bores	129mm in diameter each
Groundwater (bores)	4 bores	119mm in diameter each

You can find details of your work approval such as your authorised size on the [NSW Public Water Register](#).

For further information on these exemptions, please visit the [NSW DCCEEW website](#).

Works not taking licensed water

Water users in this category are exempt from metering. The work may not be taking licensed water due to several reasons including it has been decommissioned, is inactive, has not been constructed or is not taking from a water source.


Basic landholder rights (BLR)

As the non-urban metering regulations are based on licensed water, holders of a water supply works approval that access water **solely** under BLR are exempt.

What are you required to do?


Water users in this category are not required to physically modify the work to make them incapable of taking licensed water. Approval holders are required to notify WaterNSW of the classification of their work status through the [Customer Portal](#).

Works that have previously been made inactive or do not take water from a water source are also exempt from the non-urban metering rules.

CATEGORY		Installed to AS4747 standard	Pattern-approved meter	DQP validation	LID & telemetry	Compliance date
NO TAKE	Works not taking licensed water 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not constructed• Constructed and only used to take water for basic landholder rights (BLR)• Constructed and not capable of taking water from a water source• Constructed and approval holders declare it is not being used to take water from a water source• Decommissioned	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A

Works not nominated by licensed water entitlement

Water users not nominated by licensed water entitlements have no change. They are not required to meter.

CATEGORY		Installed to AS4747 standard	Pattern-approved meter	DQP validation	LID & telemetry	Compliance date
NOT NOMINATED	Works not nominated by licensed water entitlements 					
		✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A

Need help?

Schedule a [one-on-one meeting](#) with our team to discuss your metering requirements.

If you need more information, please contact our Customer Service Centre on [1300 662 077](tel:1300662077), Monday to Friday between 8am-5pm or email Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au