

Government-owned meter program

Understanding buried meters



In the government-owned meter program there are a number of buried meters. Under the NSW Government's non-urban metering framework, buried meters can be compliant and legal. This fact sheet will assist you in understanding buried meters and their requirements under the non-urban metering framework.

What is a buried meter?

A buried meter refers to a water meter that is buried underground. A meter may be buried for a number of reasons including location or space availability. Buried meters are compliant and legal under the NSW Government's non-urban metering framework.

Government-owned buried meters

Within the government-owned meter program there are a number of buried meters. To ensure the compliance and accuracy of the buried meters, WaterNSW is taking a fleet-based approach. A fleet-based approach refers to excavating and testing a percentage of buried meters that belong to the same family of meters to ensure they are still compliant.

This process will involve WaterNSW contractors excavating a sample to prove they have not deteriorated. Impacted landholders will be advised by WaterNSW of any excavation activity that will be required on their property.

Taking private ownership?

To notify us that you would like to take private ownership of the government-owned meter, complete the online form and we will be in touch to discuss the next steps comms.watnsw.com.au/GOM-optout

Please note: If you have a buried meter and choose to leave the program, the meter will remain buried at transfer, which is still legal and compliant. The meter will remain buried unless you pay to excavate or relocate it, including restoration of the original site.

Buried meters – Accuracy, compliance and maintenance

Accuracy

A number of each type of government-owned buried meters may be dug up for compliance, to meet the National Measurement Institution (NMI) guidelines of between 3% and 10% to validate the fleet-based approach.

Compliance

A buried meter can be compliant under the non-urban metering framework. If required, the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) can request that a buried meter be excavated at any time, although testing can occur while the meter remains buried in certain circumstances. Please note WaterNSW will comply with any NRAR request to excavate a government-owned meter if required.

Maintenance

WaterNSW is taking a fleet-based approach to maintenance including preventative maintenance inspections (PMI). If a buried meter requires maintenance, it may need to be excavated during a PMI visit.

Need more information on government-owned meters?

For more information on government-owned meters, please use our [Government-owned meter factsheet](#) or visit watnsw.com.au/metering

Need help?

More information about metering can be found on our website at watnsw.com.au/metering

If you have any questions, contact our Customer Service team on 1300 662 077 or Customer.Helpdesk@watnsw.com.au