

Important changes to temporary trades

Frequently asked questions

The Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004 has been amended on 15 May 2026 to impose new metering requirements for water allocation dealings (temporary trades).

What does this mean for you?

If you are the buyer and your access licence is linked to one or more work approvals, you need to ensure you have a compliant meter on each nominated work.

All 71 forms have been updated to include declarations under the buyer section that compliant meters are in place for the proposed trade. Non-compliant meters will cause the dealing to be refused.

What does metering compliance have to do with temporary trading?

If the cumulative amount of water credited to the buyer's water allocation account at that point in the water year (from carryover, available water determinations and previous allocation trade in and out of the account) is:

- more than 15 ML but less than 100 ML, **each** nominated work on the linked work approval/s to the buyer's access licence needs to have a **pattern-approved meter**, or
- 100 ML or more, **each** nominated work on the linked work approval/s to the buyer's access licence needs to have an **AS4747 compliant meter** that has been validated by a duly qualified person and is fitted with a **local intelligence device (LID)** and **telemetry**.
- 15 ML or less, then the water allocation dealing can take place **without any metering requirements** for the works on the linked work approval/s to the buyer's access licence. Recording and reporting rules for works taking water without a meter will still otherwise apply.

A meter must be installed (and validated if required) before the dealing can be approved.

There are exemptions. These include:

- a water supply work that is the subject of an exemption under section 76 of the [Water Management \(General\) Regulation 2025](#). Ministerial exemptions, include 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 or 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 meter on works that capture water in these circumstances.
- for **water allocation dealings only**, 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 (being works in sections 6–10 of Schedule 7 to the Water Management General Regulation 2025).

What if I am unsure if my work is exempt?

Before submitting a temporary trade application, please check our [non-urban metering webpage](#) section 'water users without requirements' to understand if you are exempt from metering.

If you are still in doubt, you can [schedule a one-on-one meeting](#) with one of our metering specialists.

Where can I find the cumulative amount of water credited to the water allocation account?

Cumulative amount of water credited to the water allocation account is your carryover **plus** the available water determinations **plus** previous allocation trade in the account for the current water year **minus** previous allocation trade out of the account for the current water year.

Our 24/7 online [Water Accounting System \(iWAS\)](#) allows you to easily access your water account statement to determine your cumulative amount of water credited to the account. iWAS is available to all registered regulated river, unregulated river and groundwater customers in NSW.

Please note: If you still submit your temporary trade application to us without ensuring the declarations for a compliant meter, your application will be refused and fee forfeited.

Need help?

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

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