



# Non-urban water meters in Queensland

## Information for water users in newly declared metered entitlement areas

### INFORMATION SHEET

We're improving the way we measure non-urban water take across Queensland to ensure our water resources are sustainably managed and best support water users and the environment.

If you hold a water entitlement and don't currently use a water meter, you may receive a notice from the department informing you that your area is to become a declared metered entitlement area. As a result, you will be required to install a water meter and have it validated by the date stated in the Meter Notice.

The following information is provided to help water users understand what steps need to be taken to install a meter on water supply works to measure the volume of water taken under their entitlement.

### What is a 'metered entitlement'?

A metered entitlement is a water licence or authorisation which requires an approved meter to be attached to water supply works. Where a new water meter is required, the department will provide you with a meter notice stating:

- › the water entitlement/s to which the notice relates
- › that the water entitlements are to become metered entitlements
- › the due date for the installation and validation of the meter/s (the validation date)
- › that from the validation date, water may only be taken through water supply works under the entitlement/s, which have an approved meter attached
- › the requirements for a water meter to be an 'approved meter'.

Examples of 'water supply works' are a river or creek pump, or an underground water bore.



An example of a water meter dial.

## What type of meter do I need?

In Queensland, the **'Interim water meter standard for non-urban metering'** (the standard) describes the requirements, specifications and information on the types of meters that can be installed to measure the take of surface water and underground water. This standard describes:

- › the types of water meters that can be used
- › the installation and performance requirements for the meters
- › 'fit-for-purpose' requirements for various types of meters

To understand what type of meter you need, you can view the metering standard and supporting information online by using the QR code at the end of this information sheet or contact your local irrigation equipment suppliers who may be able to assist you further.

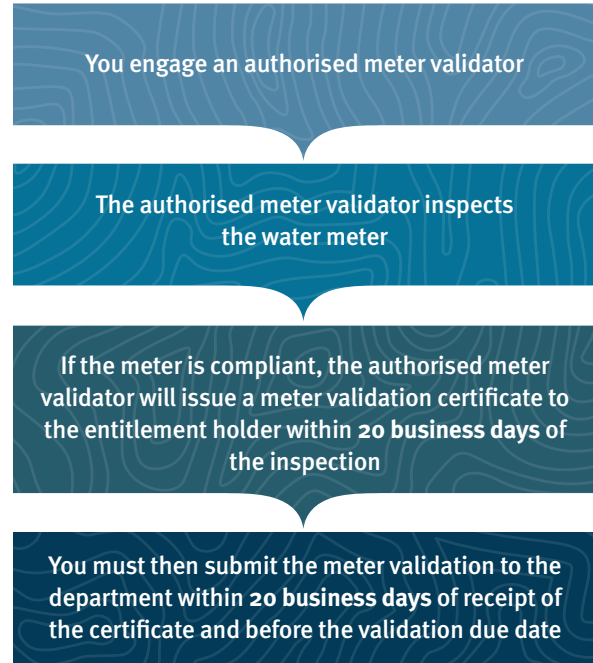
## How do I arrange for a meter be installed?

A Certified Meter Installer (CMI), also known as an authorised meter validator (AMV), can both install and validate a water meter. You are responsible for the cost of the water meter, its installation and validation inspection.

CMIs/AMVs are certified by Irrigation Australia Limited (IAL) and can be found at [www.irrigationaustralia.com.au](http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au) by following these steps:

1. Click on the Find a Certified Person button on the home page.
2. Select the 'Meter Installer and Validator' tab on the Member Directory page.
3. If you choose to install the water meter, yourself, you must have a CMI/AMV conduct a validation inspection of the meter you have installed. If you do not have a CMI/AMV validate your water meter, it will not meet the requirements of an 'approved meter'. In this instance, if you continue to take water under your entitlement through water supply works with this meter attached, it will be an offence under the Water Act 2000 and penalties apply.

Figure 1: Water meter validation inspection process



## What is an 'approved water meter'?

The Water Regulation specifies, a water meter is an 'approved meter' if:

- › The meter has been inspected by a CMI/AMV:
  - a. The CMI/AMV must provide you with, as the owner of the meter, a meter validation certificate within 20 business days after completing the inspection.
  - b. You then submit a copy of the meter validation certificate (form W2F119A-v7) to the department within 20 business days of the certificate being received from the CMI/AMV.
- › A meter validation certificate in the approved form (W2F119A-v7) states the following:
  - a. the metered entitlement holder name
  - b. the name and signature of CMI/AMV who carried out the inspection
  - c. the date of the validation inspection
  - d. confirmation that the meter is compliant with the metering standard.

If the meter does not comply with the standard, the CMI/AMV must give you a notice stating why the meter does not comply, and if potential modifications made to the meter would allow it to comply. As the entitlement holder, you are then required to rectify any issues and arrange for a new validation inspection before the validation due date.



*Open discharge meter with upturned end to keep pipe full of water.*

## When is a water meter not required?

There are circumstances where water meters are not required. These will be stated in the meter notice that you receive.

If you consider that you don't require a water meter, please complete an 'Information Request – metered entitlement' form (W2F165) and submit to the department before the validation date provided in the meter notice. This form can be found at: [www.rdmw.qld.gov.au](http://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au) and search for Form W2F165.

## What are my ongoing metering responsibilities?

From the validation date stated in the meter notice and with your 'approved meter' installed you must:

- › submit regular meter readings for the volume of water taken to the department, within the requested timeframes
- › notify the department within 3 business days, if at any time your meter becomes faulty and
- › have your meter(s) validated every 5 years to ensure it continues to meet the current meter standard.

## What happens if I do not install a meter and have it validated by the required date?

As a metered water entitlement holder, you can only take water under your entitlement through water supply works with an "approved meter" attached. If you continue to take water through water supply works without an "approved meter" attached, it is an offence under the *Water Act 2000* and penalties may apply.

The department undertakes regular property audits of metered entitlements to ensure compliance with these requirements. More information on our role as the regulator is available on the department's website [www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/water/regulatory-role](http://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/water/regulatory-role)





Example of an inline water meter.

## Why are water meters important?

Consistent and standardised water metering, recording and reporting means water users and the community can be confident that water resources are being managed transparently and sustainably for the benefit of rural Queenslanders.

Water meters are accurate, tamper proof and auditable, providing the timely measurement and reporting of water taken, which is essential for effective water resource management and transparency of compliance. Water meters also provide valuable information on the volumes of water taken in a catchment, and assurance that water is being managed sustainably for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Water users who know how much they use, can improve their water use efficiency and take steps to reduce operational costs.

Knowing how much water is being used across the state allows government to make better decisions about water resource management.


More accurate, timely and transparent water metering supports necessary compliance action taken to address misuse, so everyone can be confident that water is being used legitimately and sustainably.

Our metering roll-out program has been informed by careful consideration of community feedback, as well as economic analysis and technical reviews.

### Further information

 Scan the QR code or go to [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au) and search for: 'water meter approval and validation'

 [www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact](http://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact)

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