



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

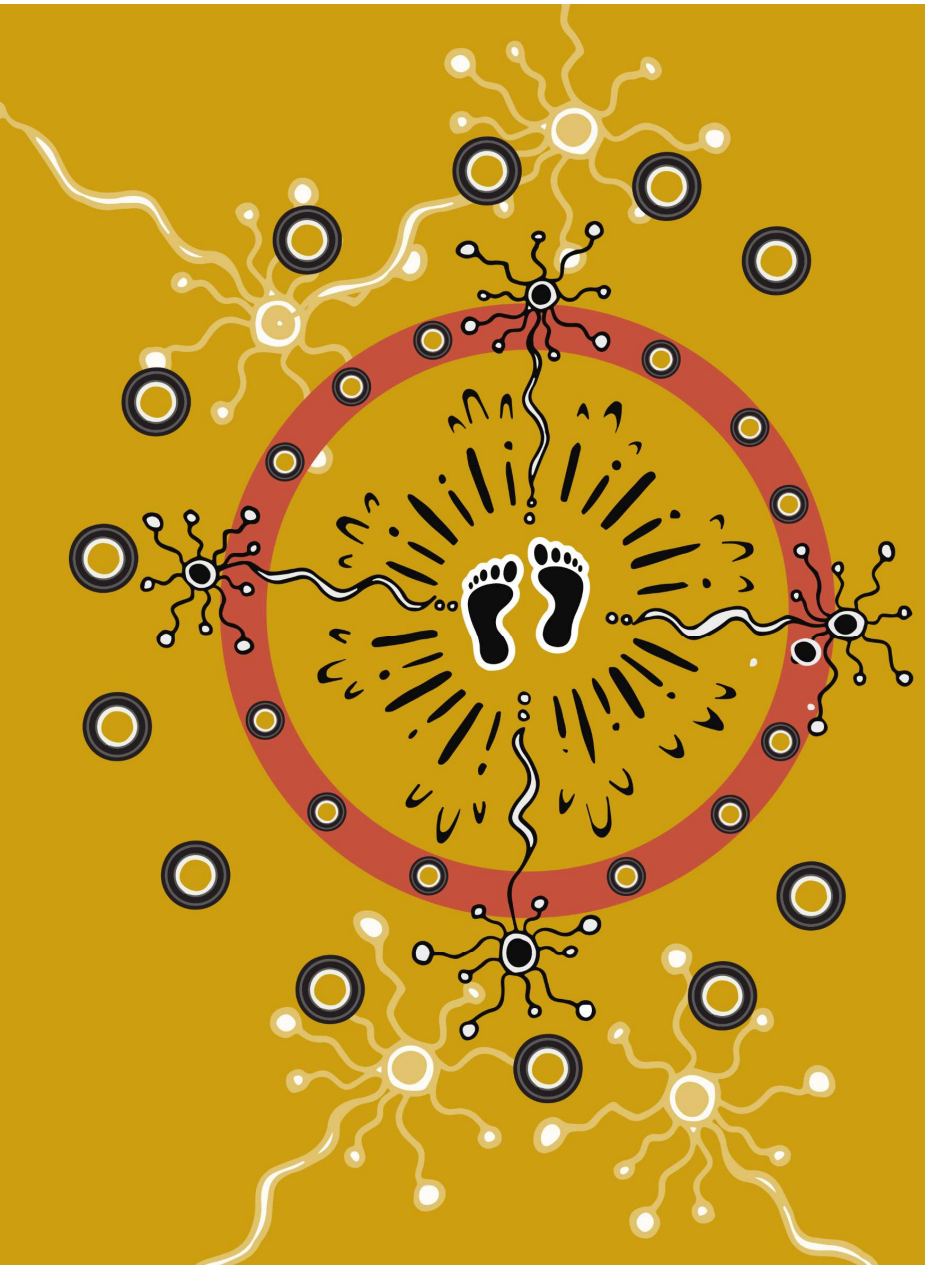


Customer Advisory Group (CAG) afternoon sessions Coastal-Hunter

Water Group

Peter Hansen
Engagement, Water Group

March-April 2026



Acknowledgement of Country



The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and water, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging.

We do this through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency – Boss Lady Creative Designs, created the People and Community symbol.



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



Acknowledgement of local community

I would also like to acknowledge our farmers, graziers, councils and local communities and the support they provide to their communities and the country.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Non-urban metering update

David Andersen

Manager Metering Implementation

Coastal-Hunter CAG meeting

22 April 2026





Understanding requirements



Metering rules depend on:

- total entitlement volume
- the size and number of works

Apply to works taking licensed water under a:

- water supply works approval
- water access licence

From the following water sources:

- regulated river
- unregulated river
- groundwater

Why metering matters – benefits for water users and the system



1. Fair and Transparent Water Sharing to Promotes equitable access to water, protects entitlements, and strengthens trust through transparent and accurate allocation.

2. Consistent Nationally Water Measurement to supports entitlement integrity, trading, and fair pricing (e.g., lower tariffs).

3. Better Data for Decision-Making to improve accurate data resource allocation and monitor irrigation and pump performance.

4. Strong Accountability and Compliance, by encouraging responsible water use, reduces risk of overuse.

5. Confidence for Community and Industry Confidence, by fostering trust and social license to strengthen industry and community confidence in water governance.

Metering requirements matrix

	≥ 100 ML of total entitlement	<100 ML and > 15 ML of total entitlement	≤ 15 ML of total entitlement
Surface water pumps greater than 500mm in diameter	AS4747 compliant meter, LID and telemetry – DQP validation	AS4747 compliant meter, LID and telemetry – DQP validation	AS4747 compliant meter, LID and telemetry – DQP validation
All other water supply works that take water	AS4747 compliant meter, LID and telemetry – DQP validation	Pattern approved meter	Metering optional
Works below the size thresholds or below the multiple work's threshold	Metering optional	Metering optional	Metering optional

Compliance dates	
Must comply now	
<u>Inland</u> Must comply now	<u>Coastal</u> 1 December 2026
1 December 2027 or work approval renewal date (whichever is later)	

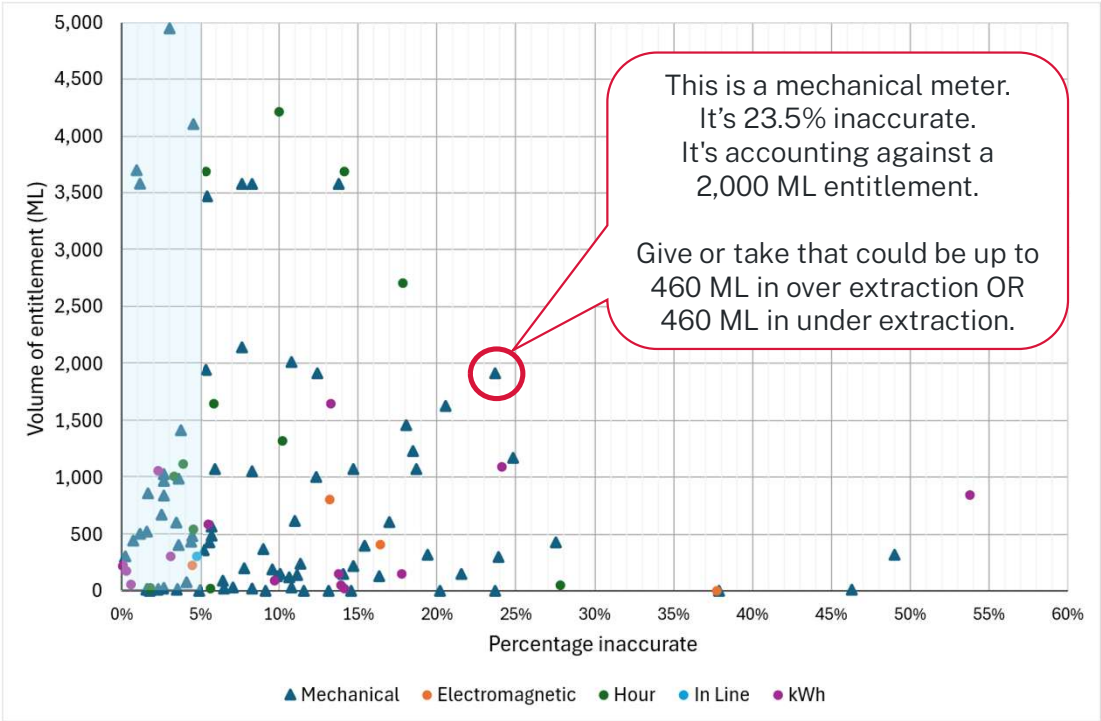
Note:

- There are several other exemptions to metering which a work may satisfy
- That if water is traded, then metering is required

Meter accuracy across coastal NSW

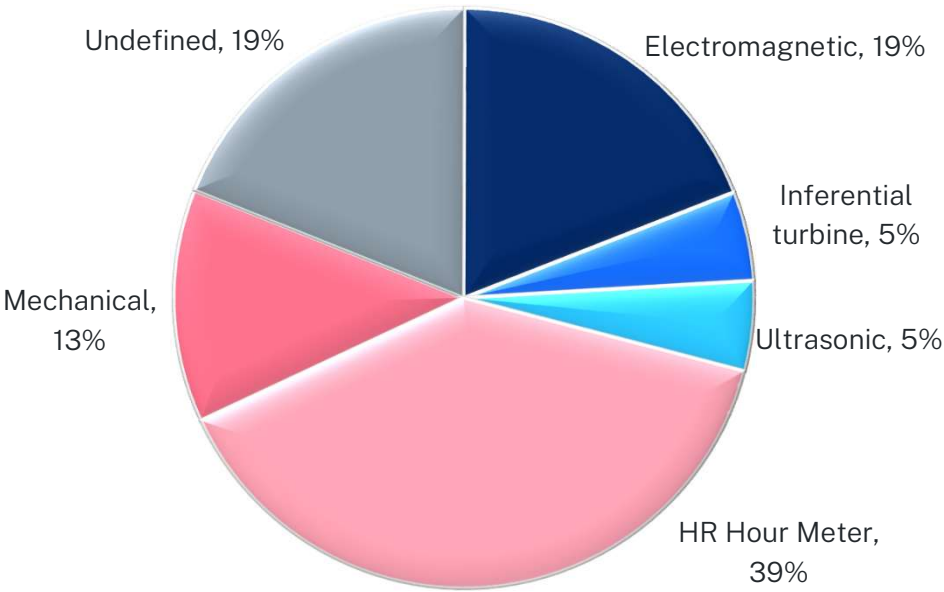


Survey before commencement of metering reform*



*Graph has been limited to 5,000 ML and 50% inaccurate to improve visual

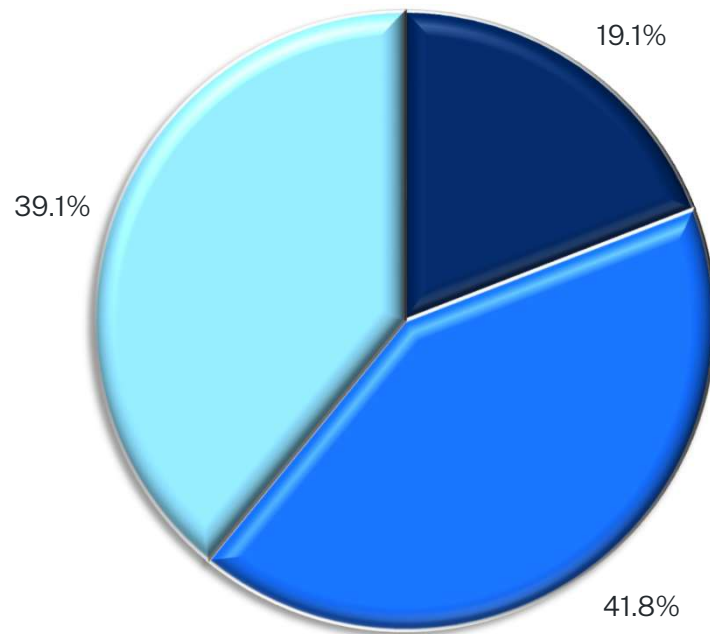
Existing meters in the coastal regions



52% need an upgrade
 19% are unknown
 29% are compliant or could be
 1,423 meters currently

Water user profile across the coastal WSPs

Approvals

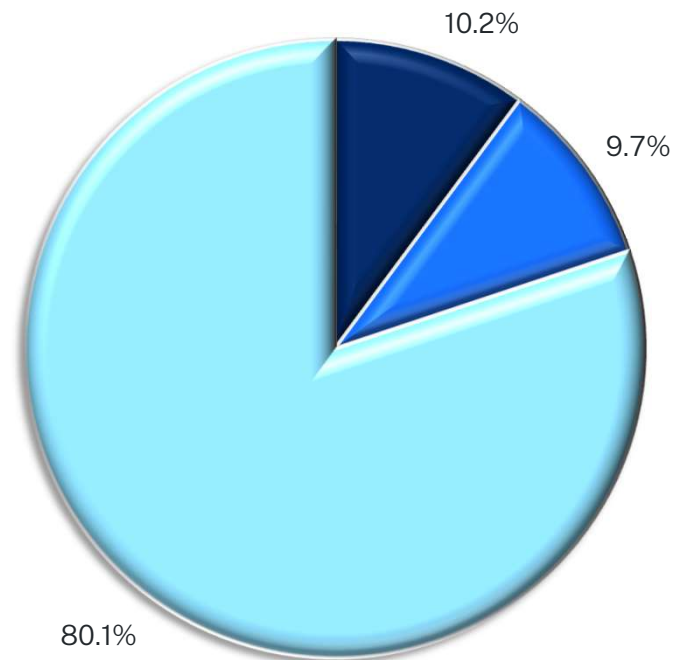


Require a DQP

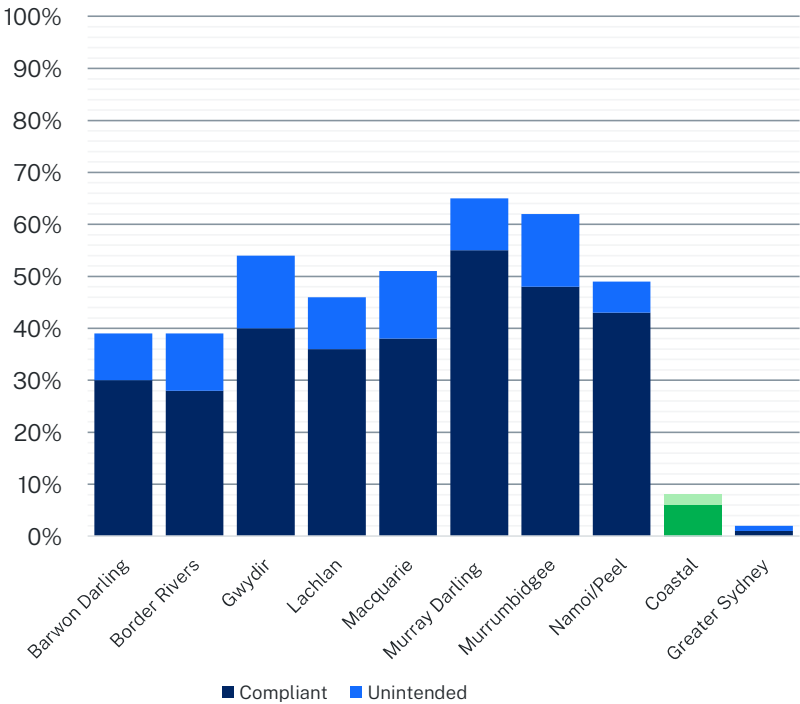
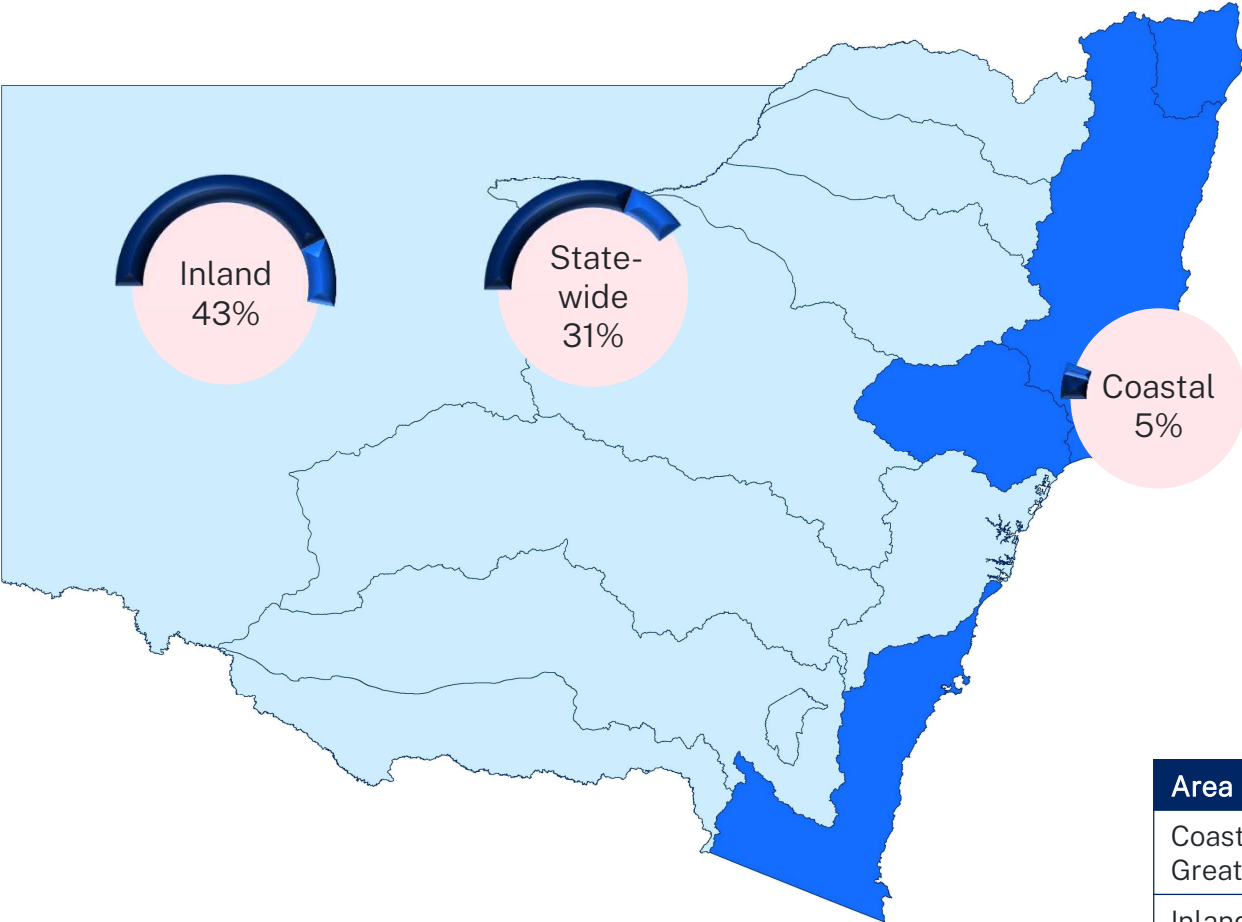
Self-installation

Exempt

Works



Current compliance rate of works



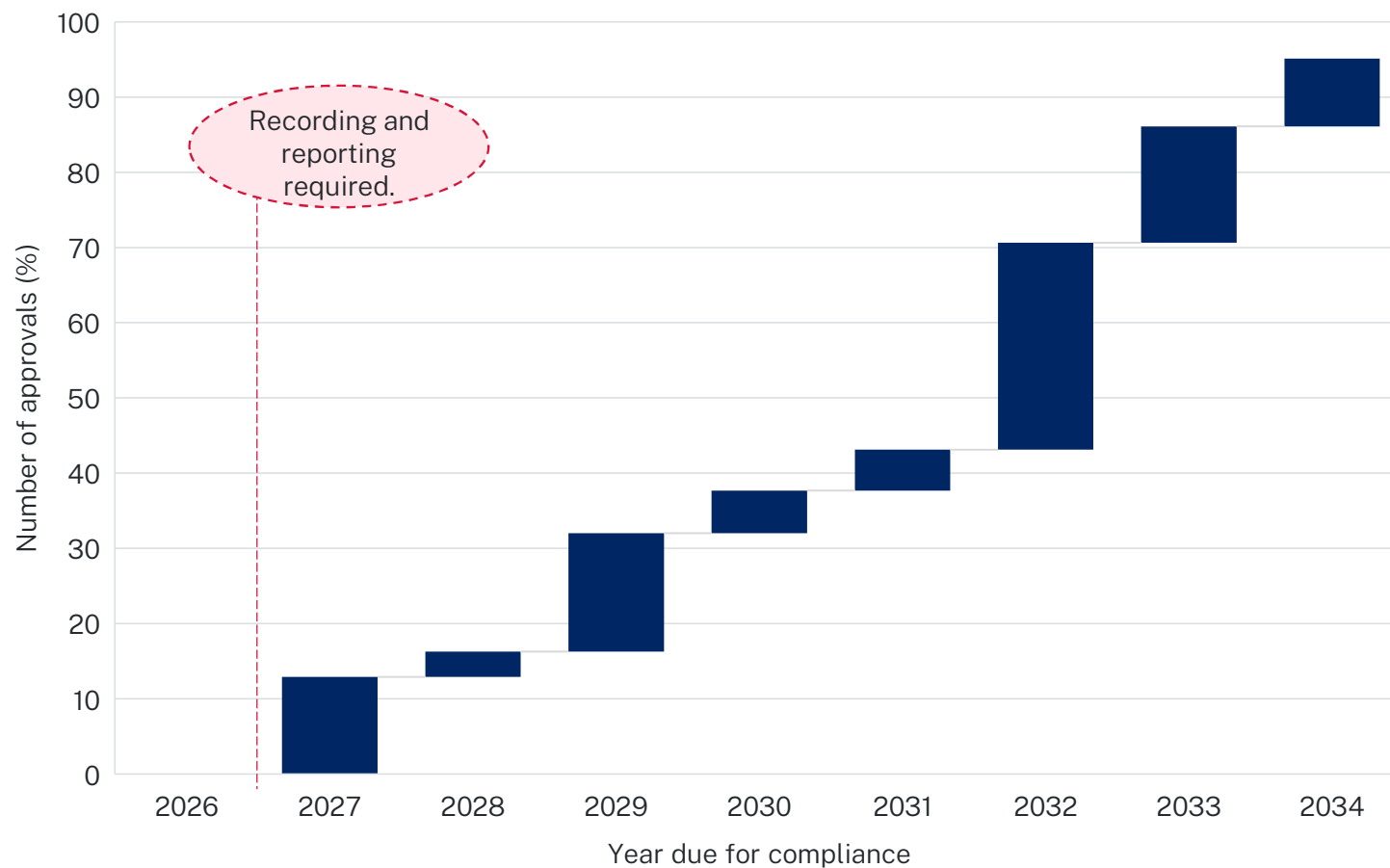
Compliance rate; water users with 100 ML or more entitlement, & exclusion of unmeterable works and inactive works. All data sourced from NRAR
Current as at date 24/02/2026.

Area	Compliance rate	Classification opportunity
Coastal (excl. Greater Sydney)	6%	2%
Inland	43%	10%
Coastal	5%	2%
Statewide	31%	9%

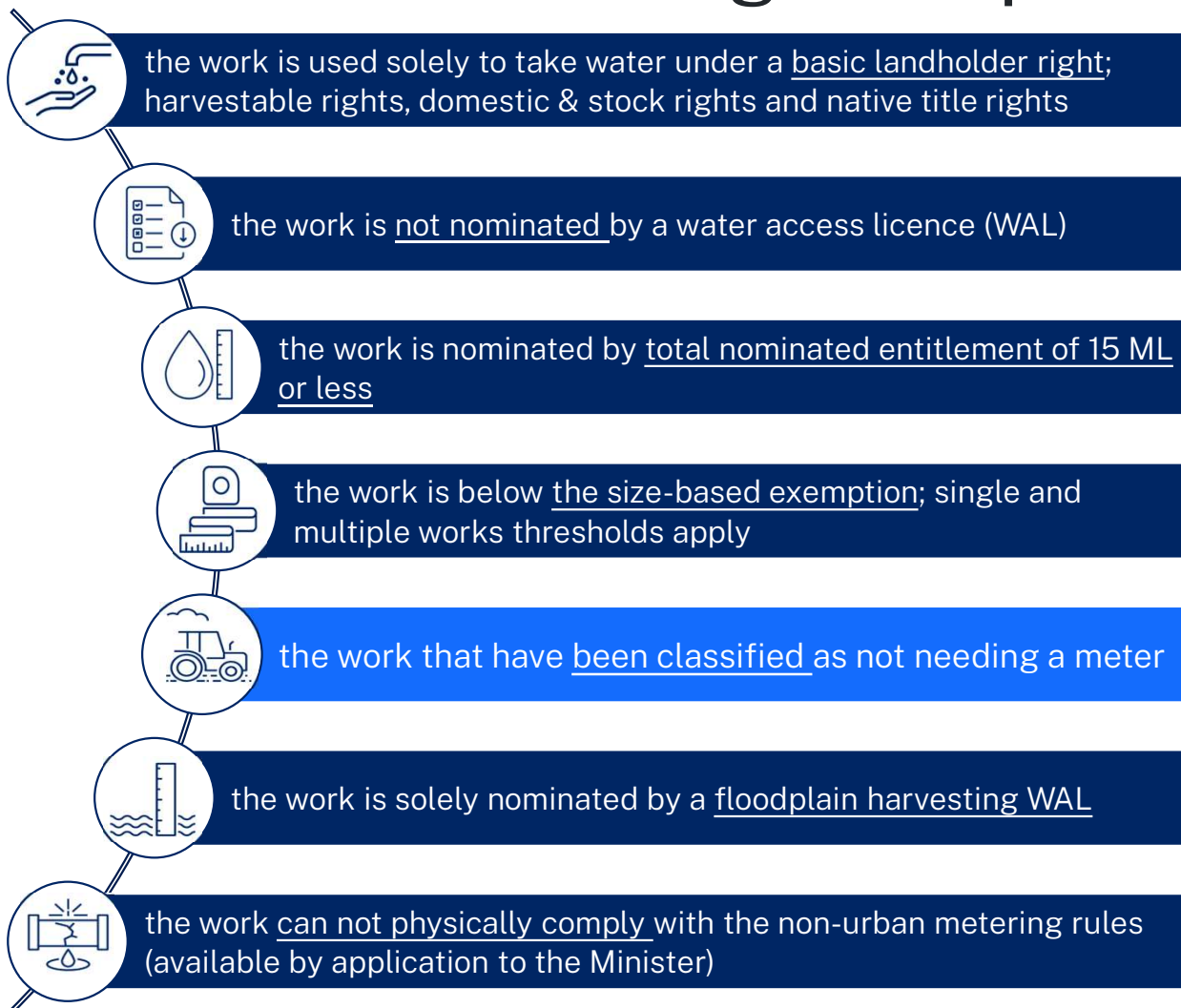
Smaller water user compliance dates in the Coastal area

Despite extension for meter installations. Recording and reporting requirements Water take commences **1 December 2026**.

Having a meter installed assists substantially with reporting and provides water account tariff options.



Non-urban metering exemptions



Type of work	Number	Maximum size
Surface water (pumps)	1 pump	99mm
Surface water (pumps)	2 pumps	74mm
Surface water (pumps)	3 pumps	49mm
Surface water (pumps)	4 pumps	39mm
Groundwater (bores)	1 bore	199mm
Groundwater (bores)	2 bores	159mm
Groundwater (bores)	3 bores	129mm
Groundwater (bores)	4 bores	119mm

Works Classifications

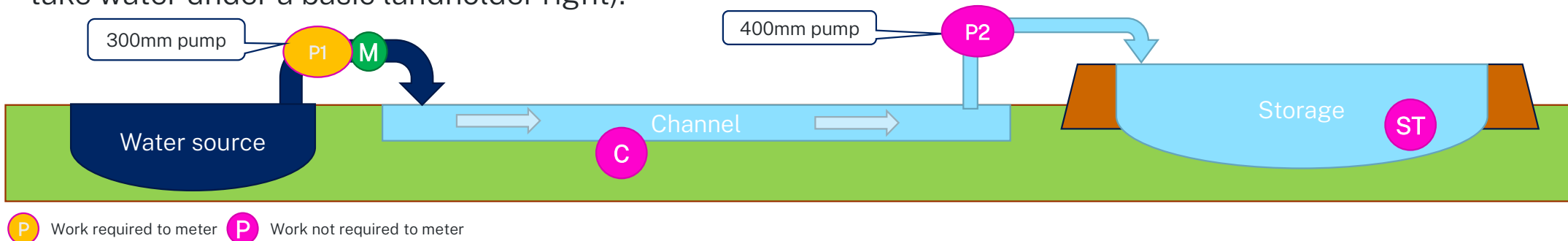
If a work is classified as:

- Constructed, non-taking work
- Constructed, basic landholder rights only
- Constructed, approval holder declared not taking water
- Not constructed
- Decommissioned

Works not classified or classified as constructed are required to be metered

The work is exempt from metering requirements, with no physical modifications required.

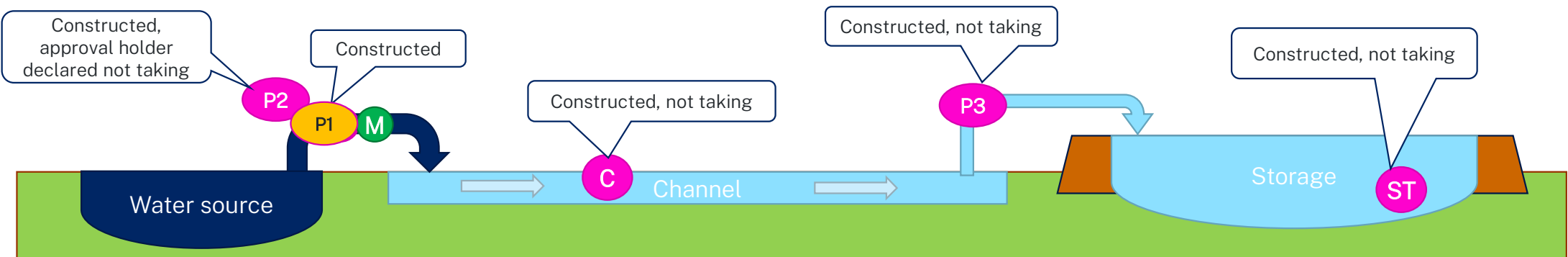
However, they are **conditioned not to take water** (excluding Constructed, BLR only that is permitted to take water under a basic landholder right).



Check your Works Classifications in NSW Water Register



Kind of Approval			Issue Date		Expiry Date	Approval Number		Status		Water Source			
Water Supply Works And Water Use			01-JUL-2016		01-JUL-2026	90CA123456		Current		NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water source			
Work Type	Description	Diameter	Status	No. of works	Location (Lot/DP)	Suffix	Work ID	ESID	Lat/Long	Authorised / Constructed	Takes Water	BL R	Classification
Pump	300mm Axial Flow Pump	N/A	Active	1	Lot 1, DP750789	Whole lot	100023456	1234	-34.0000 145.0012	Constructed	Y	N	Constructed
Pump	300mm Axial Flow Pump	300	Active	1	Lot 1, DP750789	Whole lot	100023457	1234	-34.0012 145.0012	Constructed	Y	N	Constructed, approval holder declared not taking water
Channel		N/A	Active	1	Lot 1, 2, 3 DP750789	Whole lot	100023458	1235	-34.0034 145.0158	Constructed	N	N	Constructed, not taking
Pump	400mm Centrifugal Flow Pump	N/A	Active	1	Lot 2, DP750789	Whole lot	100023459	1234	-34.0085 145.0096	Constructed	N	N	Constructed, not taking
Pump	200mm Centrifugal Flow Pump	200	Active	1	Lot 3, DP750789	Whole lot	100023460	1235	-34.0975 145.0123	Authorised	Y	Y	Not constructed
Storage	Storage - Off river	N/A	Active	1	Lot 1, 2, 3 DP750789	Whole lot	100023461	1364	-34.0000 145.0000	Constructed	N	N	Constructed, not taking



P Work required to meter
 P Work not required to meter
 M Meter installed

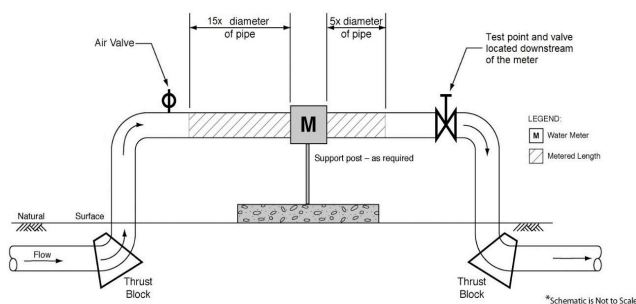
How to approach meter self-installation

Self-installation of meters is permitted if a DQP is not required for your works. There are some key steps:

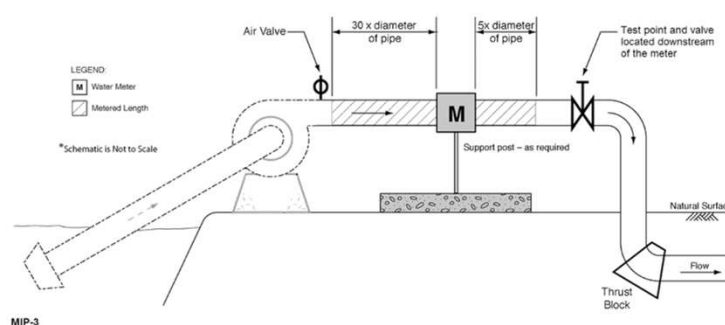
1. Buy a pattern-approved meter from your local agricultural supplier. A list of pattern-approved meters is maintained by the Commonwealth DCCEEW. Visit dcceew.gov.au > search 'pattern approved meters', click on Non-urban water metering framework.
2. Install the meter according to the meter instructions, the work type and extraction method
3. Register your installation with WaterNSW, comms.watarnsw.com.au/meterforms

If a water user would still like to have a DQP install their meter, that is fine, the option to self-install is just that – an option

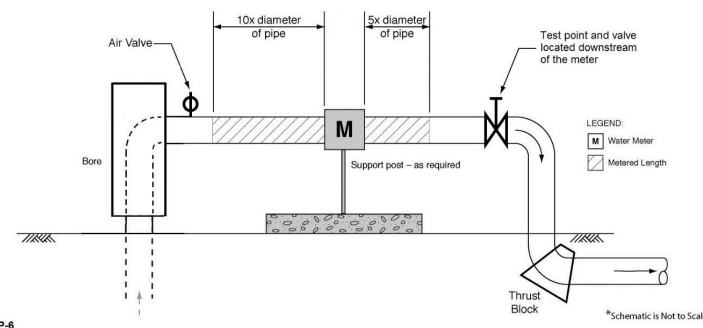
Meter Installation Plan for Two Elbows, in Plane



Meter Installation Plan for Pump causing Spiral Flow



Meter Installation Plan for Underground Bore Pump



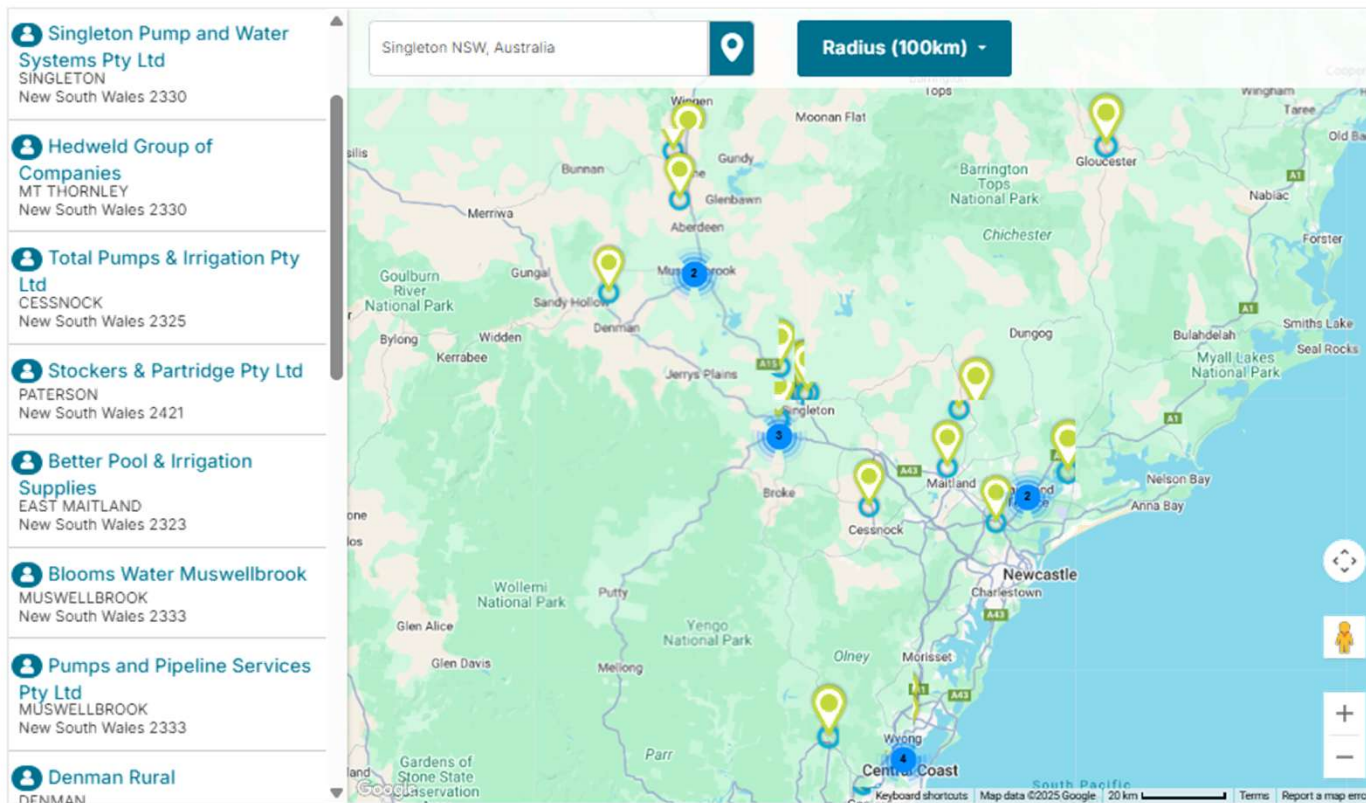
What is a local intelligence device?

A local intelligence device or LID is a combined data logger and telemetry unit

It is used to record and transmit water take data to WaterNSW via a cloud-based platform known as the Data Acquisition Service (DAS)



How to contact a DQP



Find an installer or duly qualified person (DQP) on the Irrigation Australia website

www.irrigationaustralia.com.au/directory
(See Certification Directory)

Joint Campaign efforts DCCEEW/WaterNSW/NRAR Outreach



May 2026: Campaign launches

- Early social media begins (NRAR/DCCEEW) promoting the 3 compliance pathways and the metering guidance tool to users.
- NRAR sends first Coastal NUM information letter sent to approval holders (WaterNSW sends licensing/works communications in parallel)

May–September 2026:

- Media, digital ads, and social media continues.
- Education materials distributed through key industry groups.
- Targeted education sessions and field days.

Outreach Presence at Field Days



Key events

- Hawkesbury Show (24–26 April)
- Tocal Field Days (1–3 May)
- CWA AGM in Forster (5–6 May)
- Primex Field Days in Lismore (21–23 May)
- Mudgee Small Farm Field Days (10–11 July)
- NSW Farmers Conference in Rosehill (21–22 July)
- AgriShow Farm Field Days in Moss Vale (28–29 August)
- South Coast Lifestyle and Farm Expo (11–12 September)
- Murrumbateman Field Days (17–18 October)
- Local Government Water Management Conference, Wollongong (22-24 November)

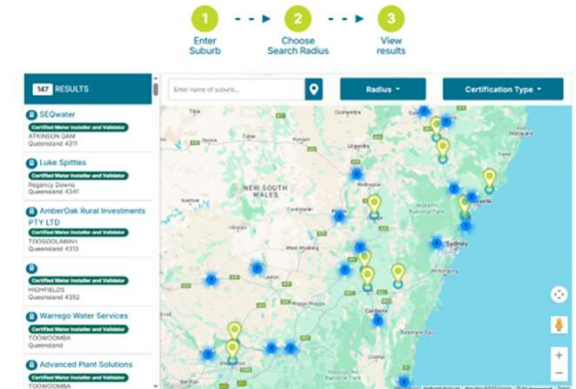
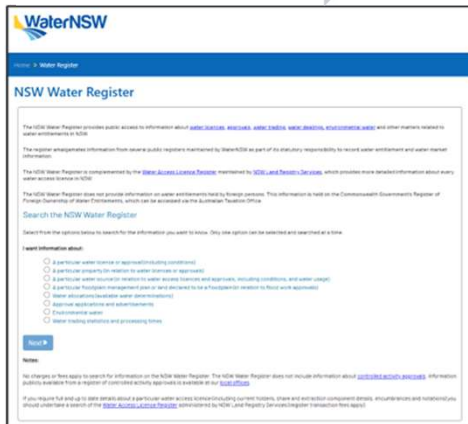
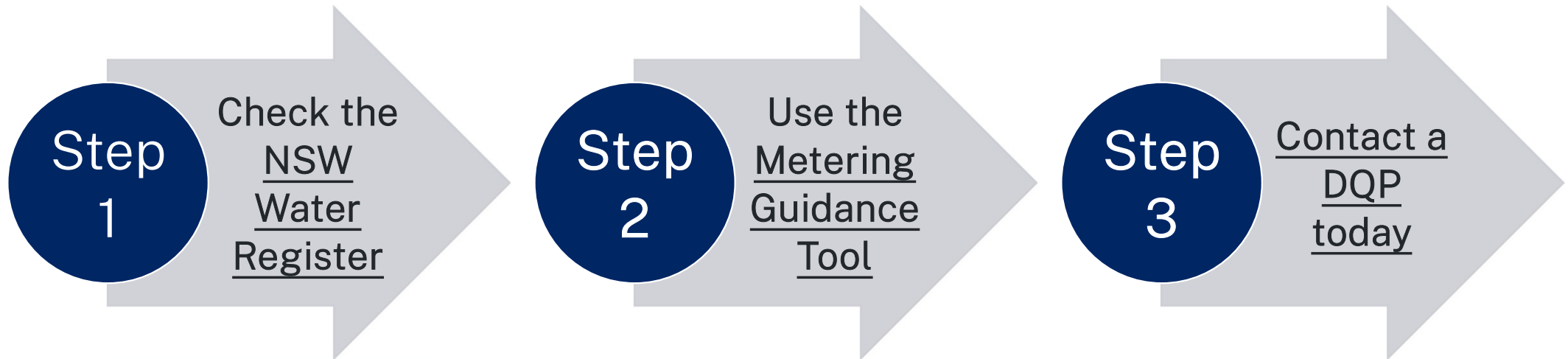
July–October 2026:

- NRAR site visits – educated-focused, checking compliance readiness.
- Advisory meetings with complex users such as councils, mines, and other operators.

October – November 2026:

- NRAR sends a second information letter to approval holders
- Cross-agency aligned media messaging highlighting the deadline.
- NRAR follow-up phone calls to approval holders.

Three key steps to be meter-ready



Questions



For metering and licensing enquiries contact WaterNSW

- 1300 662 077 (Monday to Friday 8am-5pm)
- Customer.Helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au
- Make an online appointment with a metering expert



For more information about metering policy please contact Water Enquiries

- 1300 081 047 (business hours)
- water.enquiries@dcceew.nsw.gov.au

Hunter region regulated river water sharing plan update

Hunter and Paterson regulated plans
22 April 2026

Simon Ward
Water Planner



Photo credit: Jon Spencer/DPE



Contents

- Potential merger of the Hunter and Paterson Regulated River Water Sharing Plans
- Plan replacement process
- Minimum Inflows project
- Stakeholder Input
- Next Steps

1

Potential merger of the Hunter and Paterson Regulated River Water Sharing Plans

Potential merger of Hunter and Paterson Regulated River Water Sharing Plans

The Department is considering new approaches to better manage water sharing plans

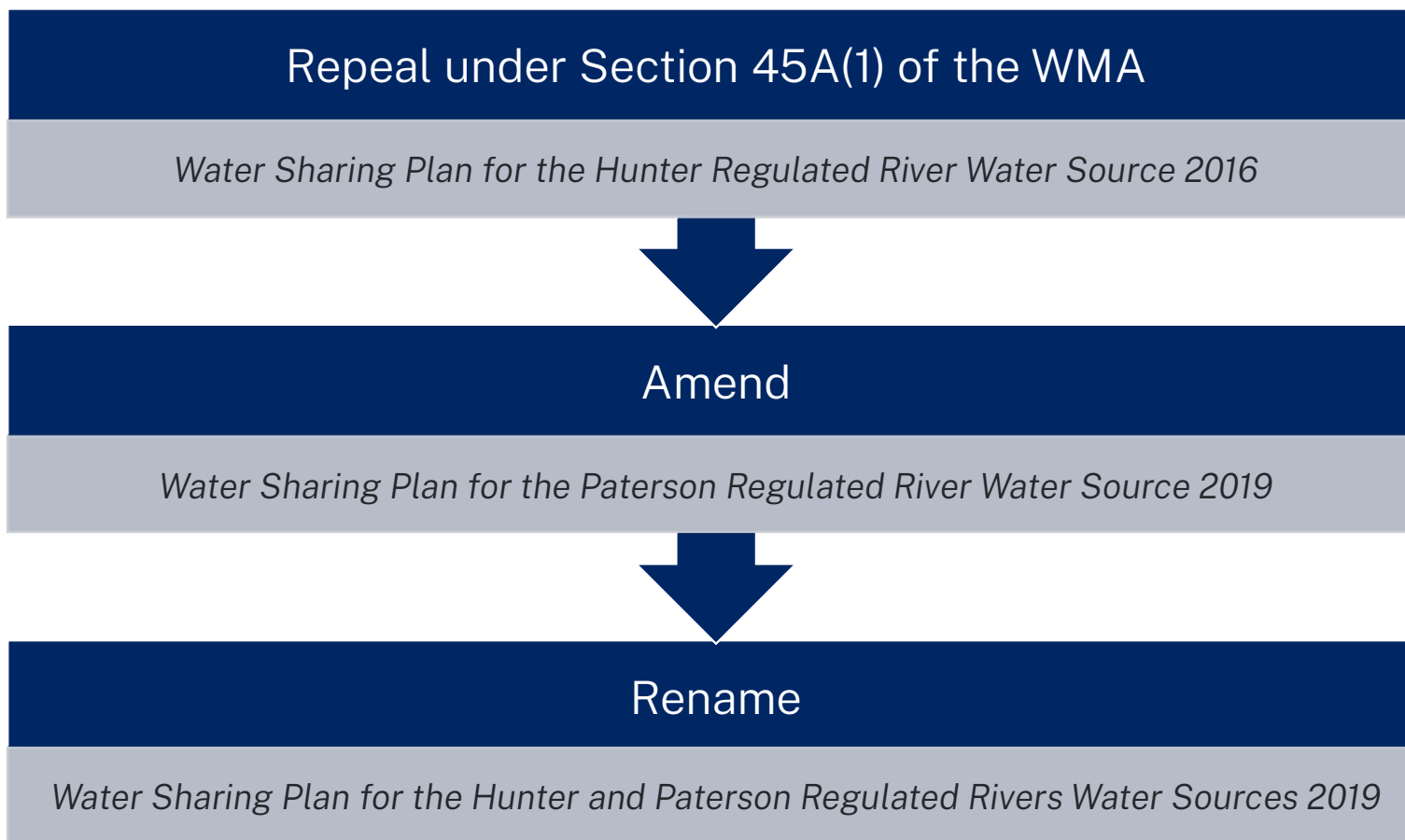
One consideration is to merge water sharing plans

Merging of the Hunter and Paterson regulated plans is being considered

The plan merges would have no impact on current rules

Replacement for both plans would extend to 2029

Potential merger



Implications to the rules

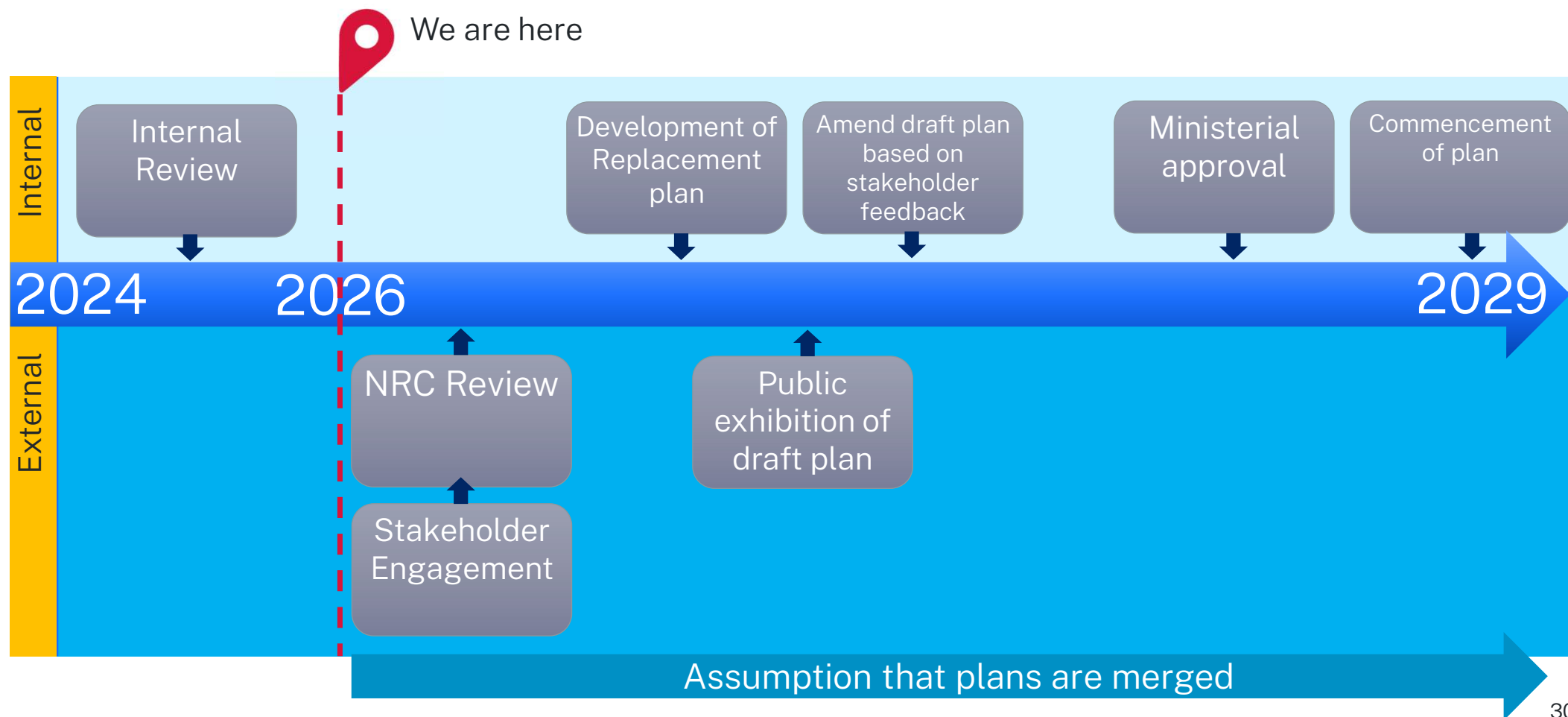


- No significant changes to any current clauses.
- Amendments to the plans will be in name only.
- All current clauses and provisions set out in the plans will remain in place.
- No practical change to rules in the plans.
- Minor editorial changes to accommodate the merge.
- No change to current intent or operation of any rule.

2

Replacement Plan Process

Plan replacement process



Considerations for Plan replacement

- Stakeholder feedback
- NRC Review/Audits
- Environmental water needs
- Water availability and climate change
- Aboriginal water considerations
- Current and future water use
- Socio-economic impacts
- Water access licence rules



3

Minimum inflows project

Minimum inflows project - What is it?

The Minimum inflows project will:

- review the minimum inflow of water into regulated dams
- adjusts the storage reserve to ensure high priority requirements can be met under future climate scenarios

Minimum inflows project - Objectives



Improved capacity to manage water availability under a more variable climate → *more certainty for water users and environment*



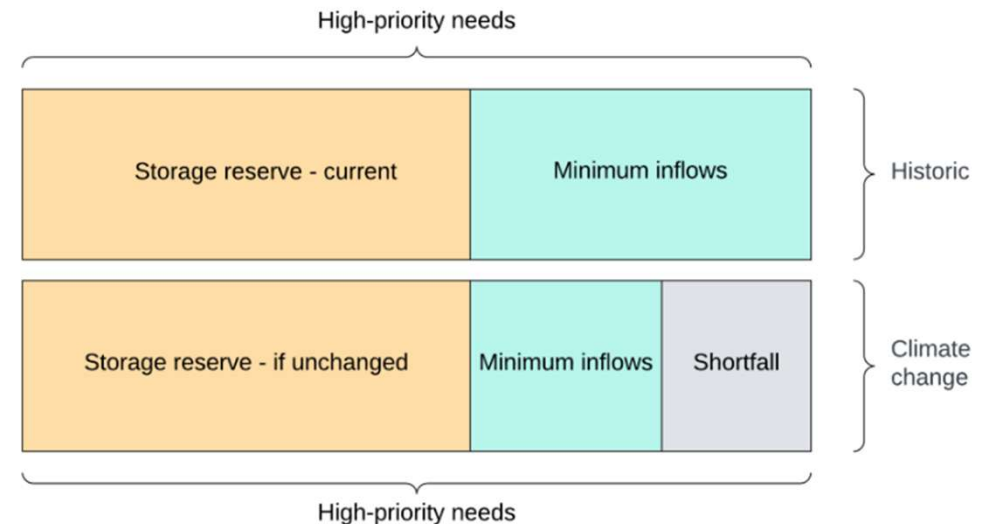
Establishing an agreed likelihood of WSP suspensions → *agreed level of risk for water users and environment*

Minimum inflows project - Why is it important?

Past droughts (Millennium, Tinderbox) saw record low inflows into dams. This triggered:

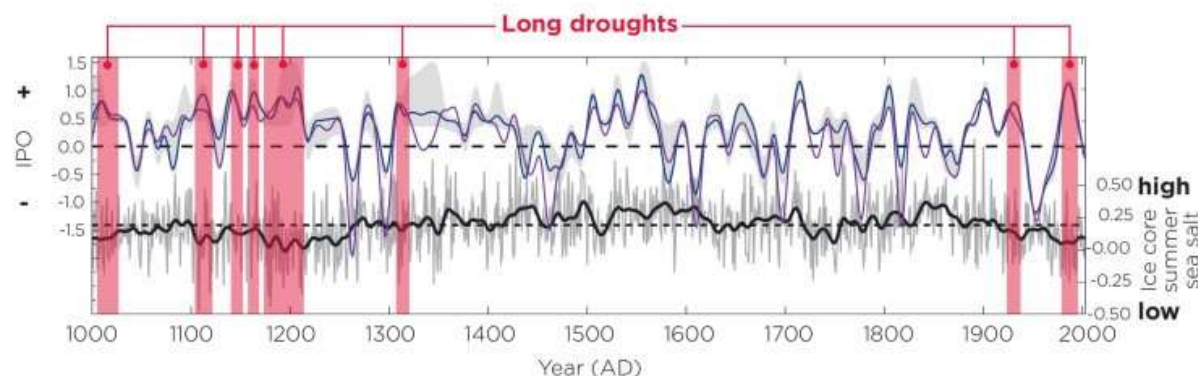
- Emergency drought measures
- Suspension of water sharing plans
- Reduced allocations for high-priority licenses
- Issues delivering water to towns
- Suspension of environmental water to meet critical human needs

Highlighted the need for a review of the current method, particularly with climate change risk



Minimum inflow project - Key features?

- Use of observed historical data: 1890s to 2004 for the Hunter and 1940–2007 for the Paterson
- Excludes the Millenium and Tinderbox droughts and does not consider climate change
- We now have 10,000 years of paleo-stochastic data to better understand long term climate variability and NARClIM 2.0 to help us understand likely climate change impacts
- Picking a single ‘worst drought on record’ like we currently do is not feasible for a 10,000 yr dataset
- New data allows for more nuance in estimating risk and designing WSPs to manage those risks
- Methodology has been peer reviewed and supported by an independent scientific expert panel.



Minimum inflows project - Methodology

An amount of water to store in the dams to meet a particular level of reliability

Impacts and benefits to different licence entitlements/water users

Length and severity of expected shortfalls

Economic impacts

Environmental impacts

High priority needs (e.g., BLR, town water supply, high security, environmental water)

Minimum inflows project - OCSE expert panel

- OCSE review was completed in July 2025
- Endorsement of the method with 13 recommendations across 3 categories
- Key feedback was:



Represents a strong conceptual framework to estimate the impact of climate change and variability on estimates of minimum inflows.



Use of paleo-stochastic data adjusted with climate data is transparent and an improvement compared to using historical data

Minimum inflows project - More information



Further information available on the Departments website: [Minimum Inflows Project | Water](#)

[About us](#) ▾ [Our work](#) ▾ [Have your say](#) [News](#) [Contact us](#)

[Home](#) > [Our work](#) > [Projects and programs](#) > Minimum Inflows Project

Minimum Inflows Project

Reviewing the minimum inflow sequence used in the water allocation process to consider climate change.



4

Stakeholder Input

Stakeholder input on the current water sharing plans

Your Feedback is important:

- What are the main issues facing water users?
- How do current rules function?
- What works well?
- What would you change?
- What can we do better?



Contact water enquiries:
water.enquiries@dcceew.nsw.gov.au

Next steps



- Inform if merger is supported
- NRC will seek feedback soon
- The Department is seeking your feedback
- Informed of any developments, changes or consultation sessions
- Contact us if you have any concerns or queries



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



For more information:

Water website

www.water.dcceew.nsw.gov.au

Water Publications Library

publications.water.nsw.gov.au

Water Hub (Water datasets)

water-hub.seed.nsw.gov.au

Discussion



Peter Hansen
peter.hansen@dcceew.nsw.gov.au

© 2024 State of NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

With the exception of photographs, the State of NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) are pleased to allow this material to be reproduced in whole or in part for educational and non-commercial use, provided the meaning is unchanged and its source, publisher and authorship are acknowledged. Specific permission is required to reproduce photographs.

Learn more about our copyright and disclaimer at dcceew.nsw.gov.au/copyright

