

The Hon Rose Jackson MLC

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing,
Minister for Homelessness
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth



Our ref: MF26/1884

Mr Anthony Muscat
President
Lower Nepean & Hawkesbury Water Users Association Inc
Turf Growers Association of NSW (Turf NSW)
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By email: info@turfnsw.com.au, anthony@greenerlawn.com.au

Dear Mr Muscat

Thank you for your letter 4 August 2026, about the non-urban metering regulations and in particular the telemetry requirements.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the Lower Nepean Hawkesbury Water Users Association and Turf NSW regarding the challenges of operating metering infrastructure in a flood-prone environment.

The NSW Government remains committed to the consistent implementation of non-urban metering reforms across the State. These reforms support the accurate measurement and reporting of water take, providing the information necessary to manage water resources fairly, transparently and sustainably for all water users.

When I became Minister for Water, I had a review undertaken of the non-urban metering policy. That review extended the time for coastal users to become compliant to 1 December 2026, exempted water users with less than 15ML from metering and allowed water users with total entitlements between 15ML to 100ML longer to comply and exempted them from telemetry.

Telemetry is only required on works approvals with total entitlement of more than 100 ML and have works that exceed the exemption threshold (100 mm for surface water pumps). Licence holders with 100 ML or more of entitlement represent in excess of 80% of the water, and approximately 15% of the licences in the Greater Metropolitan Unregulated Water Sharing Plan area. 12% of works will require telemetry and the sites which had a government owned meter will be made compliant by WaterNSW.

The telemetry requirements form part of the statewide non-urban metering framework. WaterNSW and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) have undertaken extensive consultation with affected water users over a number of years regarding these requirements, including the transition to compliant metering arrangements.

In recognition of the challenges in some flood prone areas, the Department and WaterNSW have developed a portable pumping guideline which enable the pump, meter and associated telemetry to be secured to portable skid, trailer or similar device that allows for the simple and safe relocation of the flow metering section prior to flooding events.

I am informed there are pattern approved mechanical meters. WaterNSW will be engaging with individual water users whilst bringing government owned meter sites into compliance. I encourage your members to reach out to WaterNSW if they currently have a government owned meter.

I do not propose to amend the current telemetry requirements as holders of more than 100 ML of entitlement represent large water users, and telemetry is a key tool in effectively managing our water resources. I encourage affected water users to continue working with WaterNSW to ensure metering arrangements are implemented in a manner that is compliant and suited to local operating conditions.

Thank you again for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely



Rose Jackson MLC

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Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth

Thanks for writing - I hope
this responds to some of
your concerns. It is important we
are able to accurately monitor
and meter water use in NSW.
R.

Date: 8.9.26