

# Groundwater meter reading

## Reporting licensed water take without telemetry

### Fact sheet

**The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) is an independent regulator established under the NSW *Natural Resources Access Regulator Act 2017*.**

As the NSW regulator, we ensure water is used lawfully so that all communities and the environment get a fair share.

We are equally committed to making it easy to follow the water management rules as we are to enforcing them when they are broken.

Under the non-urban metering regulations, water users without telemetry must report their water usage monthly.

Reporting allows for accurate accounting of water take, which helps to predict the health of water sources and informs water management decisions and allocations.

Groundwater is a vital resource in NSW, supplying water for towns, industry, irrigation, stock and domestic use and groundwater dependent ecosystems. To better manage this invisible water source, we must know how much is used across the state. Together, we're responsible for maintaining the health of this finite resource.

## Do I need to report and how often?

Under the non-urban metering regulations, water users are required to report their water usage. Reporting is automatic if you have telemetry installed. If you don't have telemetry, you must submit your meter reads before the 14th of every month.

Check how the rules apply to you with [WaterNSW's online recording and reporting tool](#)<sup>1</sup>.

## How do I report my meter reads?

You can report your monthly meter reads to WaterNSW in one of the following ways:

1. [iWAS](#)<sup>2</sup>
2. [Online reporting form](#)<sup>3</sup>
3. [CI 244A reporting without telemetry form \(PDF\)](#)<sup>4</sup>

If using the online form or PDF, you will need to provide your contact information and licence and approval number in addition to your meter reads.

## Why do I need to report?

Recording and reporting requirements are part of a water user's work approval and water access licence (WAL) conditions. Your meter reads, along with other hydrological data, are used to model, manage and predict the health of a water source.

They are also used to set available water determinations (AWDs)<sup>5</sup>, which reflect water availability for a specific water management area or water source and allocate the amount of water available to licence holders for that year.

Without accurate data on water usage, AWDs cannot be set with confidence and risk being lowered in response to non-reporting as opposed to water availability and need.

By reporting your groundwater take each month, you contribute to a better understanding of local groundwater use and help preserve the resource for your community and local industries.

## What happens if I don't report?

If you don't follow the rules, NRAR will know about it. We have state-of-the-art data and technology at our disposal and teams of compliance officers who actively monitor and audit the use of groundwater.

We can respond in several ways to potential breaches including:

- providing information to help you comply
- issuing stop work orders and directions
- issuing cautions and fines
- prosecution in serious cases.

Visit the NRAR website for information about our compliance approach and how we respond when water laws are breached<sup>6</sup>.

## Other reporting requirements

If water is taken under basic landholder rights through a metered work that is also used for irrigation, this water will need to be recorded and reported through the same methods as the licenced water take above.

1 [water.nsw.gov.au/customer-services/metering/recording-and-reporting](https://water.nsw.gov.au/customer-services/metering/recording-and-reporting)

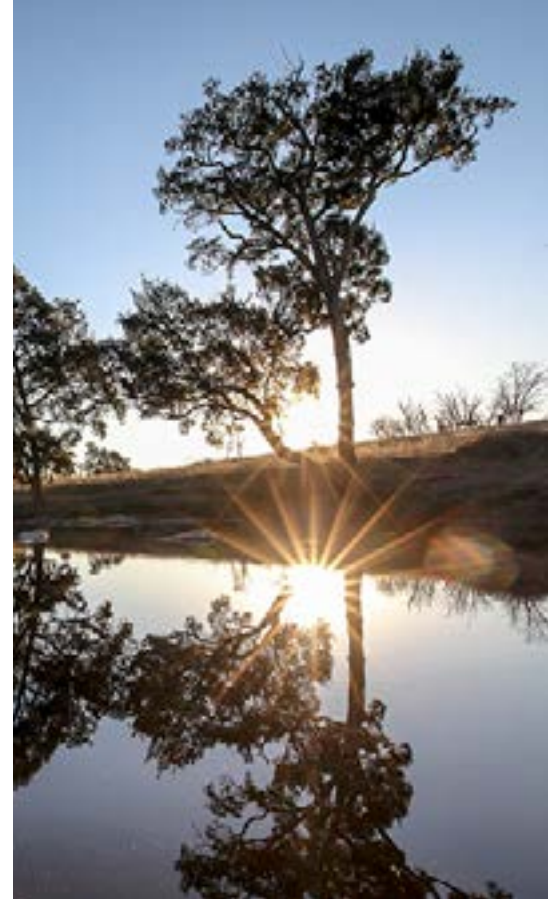
2 [water.nsw.gov.au/customer-services/ordering-and-trading/ordering-water](https://water.nsw.gov.au/customer-services/ordering-and-trading/ordering-water)

3 [water.nsw.gov.au/customer-services/metering/recording-and-reporting-form](https://water.nsw.gov.au/customer-services/metering/recording-and-reporting-form)

4 [water.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/217693/CI-244A-reporting-without-telemetry-form.pdf](https://water.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/217693/CI-244A-reporting-without-telemetry-form.pdf)

5 [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated](https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated)

6 [nrar.nsw.gov.au/about-us/compliance](https://nrar.nsw.gov.au/about-us/compliance)



## More information

Visit the WaterNSW website to find out more about your reporting requirements or scan the QR code below to report your water take online now.

For help getting into compliance contact WaterNSW on 1300 662 077 or via email [customer.helpdesk@water.nsw.gov.au](mailto:customer.helpdesk@water.nsw.gov.au)

To contact NRAR, you can write to us at [nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au)

