



Water Compliance News

21 September 2022

Kia ora,

With the third consecutive La Niña event underway, we are experiencing one of the wettest periods in a decade.

The flooding rains have a way of making us forget the bigger picture of finite water resources, and [the importance of water laws even during times of heavy rain](#).

The threat of drought is never far away in Australia, and NRAR remains committed to monitoring compliance with the state's water laws, regardless of how wet the season has been.

Keep reading below to find important updates, on our [April-June compliance and enforcement results](#), upcoming metering inspections, metering information sessions and field days we will be attending, and more.



Grant Barnes
Chief Regulatory Officer
Natural Resources Access Regulator

Our compliance and enforcement results for April– June 2022



Our latest quarterly report is out!

We've recorded the highest ever number of suspicious activity reports in a single quarter, a result which reflects our proactive focus on helping water users comply with the new non-urban metering rules. About half of all the reports were raised by our teams out in the field reviewing and reporting on how water users are complying with the metering rules.

Use our quarterly reporting tool to see where enforcement activity has been focused in your local or regional area.

[View the results](#)

NRAR is checking compliance with the metering rules in Moree and surrounds



Over the coming months, NRAR officers will be visiting properties that needed to install accurate meters that have been independently verified by the 1 December 2021 deadline.

We begun compliance checks this week for water users with medium to large sized pumps or bores in Moree and surrounding areas.

Water users due to comply by the upcoming 1 December 2022 deadline should act now to make sure their water take is in line with non-urban water metering regulations. This includes all works, including pumps above 100mm and bores above 200mm in the Lower Darling, Lowbidgee, Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan regions and some at-risk groundwater sources.

[Find out more](#)

Are you a water user in the southern inland region?



Water users in the southern inland region of NSW may need to comply with the non-urban water metering rules by 1 December 2022.

Information sessions about the non-urban water metering requirements are being held in [Forbes](#), [Cootamundra](#), [Tumut](#) and [Wagga Wagga](#) from 27-30 September 2022.

NRAR officers will attend the metering information sessions to answer all your compliance questions, along with staff from WaterNSW and the Department of Planning and Environment.

For those that can't make it in-person, there is also an online webinar on 13 October 2022, from 10am-12pm.

Water users can check if the new non-urban metering rules apply to their water supply works with the [NSW Government's online metering guidance tool](#).

[See session dates/times](#)

Want to chat about how to comply with the NSW water laws?



We recently attended AgQuip Field Days in Gunnedah, where we spoke with more than 120 visitors about water use and how they can find answers to their questions.

If you live near Henty, visit our staff at Henty Field Days from Wednesday to Thursday this week. You'll find us under the Telstra tower.

Later this year you can catch us at Murrumbateman, and Australia National Field Days in Orange.

To learn more about NRAR and your obligations as a water user, come and see us at one of this year's field days or visit our website.

[View upcoming field days](#)

How we investigate potential non-compliance with NSW water laws



We take a risk-based, case-by-case approach to our investigations. Focusing on areas where the likelihood of non-compliance or harm is highest, we follow these steps when conducting an investigation:

1. The investigation is prompted by a report from the public, another agency or a potential issue identified from spatial data or a site visit.
2. The case is assessed, and an investigator reviews and gathers further evidence. This can involve site inspections, interviews and the use of our [state-of-the-art technology suite](#).
3. If a breach is found we will determine what the [appropriate response](#) and course of action is based on a variety of factors, such as the degree of harm posed to the environment, community or individual water users.

Watch our new video to learn about the lifecycle of an NRAR investigation.

[Watch now](#)

Innovative technology enhances water regulation



Did you know we are responsible for regulating water use across NSW, including 800,000 square kilometers and over 38,000 water access licences?

The use of innovative technology increases the efficiency and accuracy of our work, making it easier to detect and deter rule breakers.

In 2020, we added satellite imagery and a drone fleet to our technology toolkit and we have now acquired an autonomous boat capable of acoustically profiling dams to measure the volume of water storages, and a set of ultrasonic flow meters that measure water flow in closed pipes.

Combined, this expanding range of technology enhances our capability to proactively monitor water take and use across the state.

Find out more on NRAR's [technology page](#), or watch a video about our state-of-the-art technology toolkit.

[Watch now](#)

NRAR in the news

We share information on our recent prosecutions and other activities on both our website and with the media.

Check out some recent stories below and keep an eye out for us in the news!

- [NRAR focus on meter compliance yields high result | The Gwydir News](#)
- [NRAR discusses its April-June compliance and enforcement results | 2BS radio](#)
- [NRAR begins meter compliance checks in Moree | Country Leader](#)
- [NRAR prosecutes Bathurst man for illegally operating a dam without approval during severe drought and bushfires | ABC Country Hour](#)
- [NSW irrigators under investigation over 'unexplained' flood plain harvesting of 200GL of water | The Guardian](#)

[Visit our news page to see all our latest updates](#)

About NRAR

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) is responsible for the enforcement of water laws in NSW through compliance monitoring and education.

If you have a friend or colleague who might enjoy this newsletter, they can [subscribe here](#), simply hit forward.

Keep in touch with us



Email: communications@nrar.nsw.gov.au

Department of Planning and Environment, Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150,
Australia
[Unsubscribe](#)