

Department of Planning and Environment

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# Point-of-intake measurement method guideline

## Floodplain Harvesting Measurement

February 2021



# Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging 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.

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# Contents

<b>Point-of-intake measurement method guideline</b> .....	<b>a</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Eligibility for point-of-intake measurement method</b> .....	<b>4</b>
2.1 Maintenance.....	4
2.2 Secondary (backup) device.....	5
<b>3 Qualifications</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4 Installation requirements</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5 Tamper-evident seals</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>6 Registration</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Certification</b> .....	<b>6</b>

# 1 Introduction

The NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (2018) will licence and limit floodplain harvesting water extractions.

The Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy (2020) (the measurement policy) has been released together with implementation guidelines to assist water users and duly qualified persons (DQPs) in understanding their compliance obligations.

There are two forms of measurement described in the measurement policy. Storage meters are the *default* measurement method. The measurement policy recognises that there are some cases where an alternative measurement method is needed. For this reason, the point-of-intake is offered as an alternative to the default storage measurement method.

## 2 Eligibility for point-of-intake measurement method

An approval holder can only use the point-of-intake measurement method for floodplain harvesting if:

- all intake points on a nominated water supply work can be metered
- all floodplain harvesting intake points for the water supply work are able to be measured by metering equipment that complies with the NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy (2020)
- all metering equipment has been installed in compliance with the NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy (2020) and the Water Management (General) Regulations 2018.

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### 2.1 Maintenance

An approval holder can only use the point-of-intake measurement method if:

1. The installation allows for maintenance to be undertaken in accordance with the *Maintenance Specifications 2019* published on the Department's website: at [www.water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nsw-non-urban-water-metering](http://www.water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nsw-non-urban-water-metering)
2. The installation is resilient to flood impacts and can be safely accessed for operation, maintenance and inspection.

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## 2.2 Secondary (backup) device

The [Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy \(2020\)](#) requires that a secondary (also known as a backup) measurement device be installed if a landholder wants to undertake floodplain harvesting activities in the following circumstances:

1. where the primary metering equipment is faulty and awaiting repair, in accordance with the 91i process, or
2. the storage does not need to be fitted with primary metering equipment until 1 July 2022 and the landholder wishes to floodplain harvest between 1 July 2021 and 1 July 2022.

## 3 Qualifications

All point-of-intake meters and LIDs must be installed by a Certified Meter Installer (CMI), in accordance with Appendix E of the [NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy \(2020\)](#).

All point-of-intake installations must be registered by a CMI in the DQP Portal (<https://dqp.watarnsw.com.au/>.)

The CMI must validate and certify the point-of-intake meter installation and LID meet the specification for the relevant device.

## 4 Installation requirements

All point-of-intake meter installations must be either a closed-conduit flow meter or a channel flow meter that meets the requirements of the [NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy \(2020\)](#).

All point-of-intake meter installations must be fitted with a compatible Local Intelligence Device (LID) that records and securely transmits data, via telemetry, to the NSW Government's data acquisition service. LIDs must meet the following technical specifications:

- [Data Logging and Telemetry Specifications \(2020\)](#),
- [Data Acquisition Service Logged Data Format Guidelines \(2020\)](#).

The department maintains a list of compatible LIDs that have been tested and proven shown to meet these specifications on its website.

Point-of-intake meters, LIDs and transmission to telemetry must be installed by a Certified Meter Installer (CMI), in accordance with Appendix E of the [NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy \(2020\)](#).

## 5 Tamper-evident seals

All installations must have tamper evident seals installed by a duly qualified person (DQP). Tamper evident seals must be located and installed in accordance with the [NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy \(2020\)](#).

All tamper evident seals must be NSW Government approved seals supplied by Irrigation Australia. Only DQPs can purchase these approved seals through the Irrigation Australia website (see <https://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au/>).

## 6 Registration

A landowner, or a person acting on their behalf (i.e. DQP), must provide evidence that they have met the requirements of this guideline. It is the landowner's responsibility to ensure the DQP has completed all the necessary documents to register each site.

A DQP must register the landowner's site in the WaterNSW online DQP Portal (<https://dqp.waternsw.com.au/>) and upload the determination (PDF format) from the qualified person certifying that:

1. all floodplain harvesting intake points for the water supply work are able to be measured by metering equipment that comply the [NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy \(2020\)](#), and
2. all metering equipment has been installed in compliance with the [NSW Non-Urban Water Metering Policy \(2020\)](#)
3. telemetry has been installed and is transmitting to the DAS.

The DQP must validate and certify that point-of-intake meter installations and LID meet the specification for the relevant device.

## 7 Certification

When all information has been entered into the DQP Portal, a Validation Certificate will be generated. A copy of the certificate will be emailed automatically to the DQP and landowner.