

Water metering and reporting

Essential Freshwater Regulations

The Government Regulations for Measuring and Reporting Water Takes 2010 require anyone with a resource consent to take water at a rate of 5 L/s or more, to measure and record their water take to an accuracy of plus or minus 5%.

In September 2020, an amendment was made to this regulation to require these water users to electronically send their water usage data to the West Coast Regional Council as it is captured by data loggers/information recorders. This can be achieved using telemetry, which is explained in this Council information sheet.

Measuring water use

Keeping a track of the volume of water abstracted helps to better manage fresh water resources in the region.

Monitoring your water takes also helps abstractors to make sure they are complying with their consent conditions and using water in an efficient way.

When must I comply?

Abstractors must comply with the Regulations for Measuring and Reporting Water Takes as set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: When must I comply?

Water permit quantity	When must I comply?
20 litres / second or more	By 3 September 2022
10 litres / second or more	By 3 September 2024
5 litres / second or more	By 3 September 2026

Later deadline to meet the regulations

In certain circumstances where permit holders have limited telecommunication options, they

may apply to Council to record measurements of the water taken weekly.

Code of practice

In partnership with Regional Councils and industry bodies, the Ministry for the Environment and Irrigation New Zealand have developed a Water Measurement Code of Practice to give permit holders greater certainty about services that comply with the regulations. This document can be viewed at <https://www.irrigationnz.co.nz/KnowledgeResources/COP>



Installing a water meter, logger and sending data

- To comply with measuring and reporting regulations, you must install a water meter at the point of abstraction. If that is not possible, Council may consider an alternative location, but you need to apply for this.
- Water meters must be installed as per manufacturer specifications, or as outlined in the Water Measurement Code of Practice (see p.1).
- Water use must be measured every 15 minutes and the data stored and electronically transmitted to Council daily.
- You must provide an installation certificate to the Council following any new installation to show the system has been installed correctly.



Verification of water meters

For measuring and reporting to be useful, the water-take data needs to be accurate. Therefore, the regulations require:

- All water meters used for telemetry to be accurate to within ± 5%.
- Initial verification of the system and reverification every five years.

The Council will accept verifications carried out by Accredited Service Providers (see below). Accredited Service Providers must provide a completed verification report to the Council.

- If a flow meter fails its verification, the consent holder must seek advice from an Accredited Service Provider to resolve the issue.

Accredited Service Providers

Irrigation New Zealand's Water Measurement 'Blue Tick' Accreditation Programme provides a list of accredited companies that have agreed to install, verify and provide data management services under these regulations (see https://www.irrigationnz.co.nz/DataFilter?Action=View&DataFilter_id=133)

- The Council will accept verifications carried out by 'Blue Tick' accredited service providers.
- Council may accept verifications carried out by other service providers that are not 'Blue Tick' accredited at its discretion.

Next steps

Council will be providing further information in September 2021 on how to connect to its water metering system.

Contact us

If you have any questions on water metering and reporting please email: watermeter@wrc.govt.nz or call our Consents and Compliance team on 0508 800 118.

Our website at www.wrc.govt.nz will also be regularly updated as new information comes to hand.