

Water meters

This fact sheet contains information on the installation and standards for water meters in the Northern Territory.

About Meters

Anyone with a valid water extraction licence is required to have a water meter installed on their bore. This is a condition mandatory under the NT *Water Act* for all licenses. Water meters are the primary means for water accounting which in turn supports management decisions with regards to water resources. It is important to accurately measure total extraction, from a particular source, in order to effectively share water where there is competition among users, including the environment.

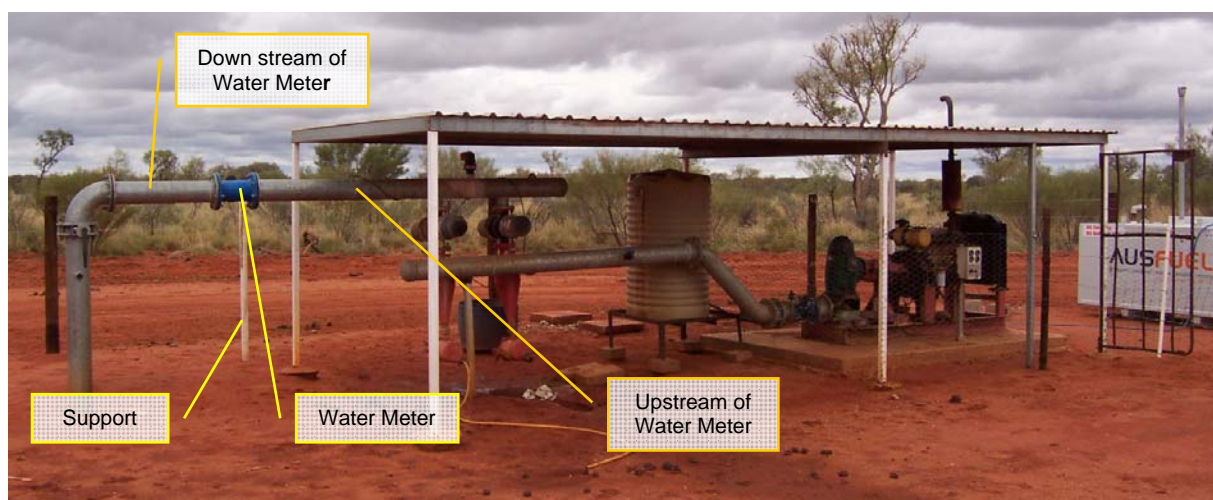
Metering and Monitoring

Licence holders are responsible for purchasing, installing, reading and maintaining a meter. NRETAS has developed guidelines for bore configuration in relation to metering. Meters that have been installed are to be maintained to a manufacturer's specifications and ensure they meet the Departments guidelines. If these specifications are not met, the meter must be replaced at the cost of the licensee. NT Water Resources Officers are required to be given written notification of installation of the meter for inspection, and will continue to inspect meters on an annual basis.

Meter Requirements

Water meters require laminar (smooth) flow and a full pipe in order to read accurately. Incorrect installation alone can result in a measurement error exceeding 20%. Some water meters already installed have been done so in accordance with the specifications of the meter's manufacturer. In cases where this can be substantiated, please submit these details to the Water Resources Branch in your region. If this claim is unable to be substantiated, the meter and its installation must be reconfigured.

Design of an Installed Meter



Fittings and Specifications

All fittings must be able to sustain permanent exposure to the environment and may need to operate under pressures greater than 400kPa. The NT standard for installation of rural water meters as at August 2007; requires:

- a fully immersed inline meter to be installed, that has,
- a minimum 10 times the pipe diameter of straight pipe upstream of the meter with no intrusions, and
- a minimum of 5 times the pipe diameter of straight pipe downstream of the meter with no intrusions, and that the installation must be horizontal and appropriately supported.

For further assistance, visit the Water Resources Branch Internet Site at:
www.nt.gov.au/nretas/water/aswrs/ or contact:

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