



Water Information Bulletins target technical and operational staff in all organisations contributing to Australia's *Improving Water Information Program*.

Bulletins are published as required. Earlier editions and further information about the Bureau of Meteorology's water information role can be found at www.bom.gov.au/water

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide 'persons' (organisations) named in the Water Regulations 2008 with an update on activities surrounding provision of water information to the Bureau.

Online Water Information Survey

In order to establish the extent and nature of water information held by the 260 organisations listed in the Water Regulations 2008, the Bureau of Meteorology is asking all affected organisations to complete an online Water Information Survey.

The aim of the Water Information Survey is to help us understand:

1. What sub-categories of data your organisation holds relevant to the regulations;
2. Who to contact within your organisation regarding particular data types;
3. Your data systems for historical/archive data and ongoing/provisional data; and
4. Whether your organisation can implement the Bureau's eXtensible Markup Language (XML) data format and use File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for data delivery.

Responses from the survey will assist Bureau staff to determine priorities for development in areas of the data delivery and ingestion process. Following completion of the survey by your organisation, we will contact the relevant data managers to discuss technical issues regarding the provision of particular data categories to the Bureau.

For further information about our Water Information Survey please contact David Nicholls by email, d.nicholls@bom.gov.au

Results from the first round of surveys

In August, the first round of water information surveys was sent to the 44 organisations scheduled to deliver data on 1 October 2008. All but six of the 44 organisations completed the Water Information Survey.

In summary, results from the first survey show:

- For surface water information the most common data management system is Hydstra with 50% of organisations using this system for operational and archive data management;
- For groundwater information around 30% of organisations use the Hydstra system for operational and archive data management;
- Up to 15 per cent of surveyed organisations indicated they are unable to use FTP for data provision;
- Less than half the organisations surveyed are able to export data in XML for surface water and groundwater data categories; and
- Many organisations have indicated they do not have in their possession the breadth of data specified in the regulations for their organisation.

Based on the survey results, the Bureau will now:

- Contact organisations that have indicated they do not have FTP capacity to determine how data can be provided to the Bureau; and
- Develop tools to support organisations with the implementation of XML data exports.
- Continue to work with organisations to ensure provision of data to the Bureau is implemented as efficiently as possible.

A second round of surveys

By 31 December 2008, 164 organisations are required to deliver data in accordance with the Water Regulations 2008. This includes the 44 organisations that were required to meet the 1 October deadline for the first phase of data delivery under the regulations.

The 120 organisations that will be delivering information for the first time towards the end of this year will be emailed details of the water information survey with a request to complete it by Monday 3 November 2008. Your assistance in meeting this timeline is appreciated.

The regulations require named organisations to give specified water information that is in their possession to the Bureau. The online Water Information Survey is an important tool to determine which specified information is actually held by an organisation. If you do not hold the information specified in the regulations please indicate this in the relevant section of the survey. Based on your responses, the Bureau will confirm in writing its understanding of the information you must give in order to meet your obligations under the regulations.

For further information about the second round of the Water Information Survey or queries regarding your organisation's compliance please contact David Nicholls by email, d.nicholls@bom.gov.au

Information Delivery web page update

The Bureau's 'Information Delivery' webpage has been updated to include guidelines for the naming and content of ad hoc water information formats. The guidelines explain how data should be delivered to the Bureau as a single zipped file. The zipped file can contain many data files; however each data file should only contain data for a single monitoring station. A file naming convention is also described. The naming convention is used to enable clear identification of the data file format and identification of the monitoring station.

These guidelines can be viewed at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/information-delivery.shtml>

For further information or queries about data delivery naming and formats, please contact Paul Sheahan by email, p.sheahan@bom.gov.au.

Supply of data to the Bureau by organisations who outsource data collection and management activities.

Some organisations named in the Water Regulations 2008 employ service providers such as contractors or other agencies to collect and store data on their behalf. With few exceptions, this information is defined under the regulations as being in the named organisation's control, although it may not be stored in their database. The named organisations are therefore required to ensure its provision to the Bureau. In the case where information is being sourced from a third party service provider, the Bureau can, on instruction from the named organisation, provide a separate FTP login to the service provider. The service provider can then supply data into their own FTP account on behalf of a named person. Please contact us if this situation applies to your organisation.

For further information about third party supply of data, please contact Todd Lovell by email, t.lovell@bom.gov.au.

Water Regulations Seminars

Water Regulations Seminars have now been delivered in all of the states and the Northern Territory. The seminars were held to assist organisations named in the Water Regulations 2008 to understand their obligations. It also gave the participants an opportunity to meet the Strategic Water Information Coordinator (SWIC) for their jurisdiction.

At each seminar presentations were made by representatives from the Bureau and the lead water agencies, and by the SWIC. The seminars also provided participants the chance to pose questions and seek advice and interpretation on their organisation's specific requirements to provide water information to the Bureau.

The Bureau is currently working with the SWICs in each jurisdiction to determine what further seminars/presentations are required to ensure named persons scheduled to commence providing water information during the remainder of 2008 and 2009 are supported as much as possible.

Strategic Water Information Coordinator update

Each state and the Northern Territory has appointed a Strategic Water Information Coordinator (SWIC). Funded under the Bureau's Modernisation and Extension of Hydrologic Monitoring Systems Programme, part of the SWIC's role is to help coordinate the provision of data to the Bureau. Contact details for each SWIC are provided below.

Recently the SWICs have, among other things:

- Organised Water Regulations seminars in their jurisdiction to advise stakeholders of their obligations under the Water Regulations 2008;
- Worked closely with stakeholders and the Bureau to establish the data transfer process;
- Commenced working with project proponents on developing proposals for funding under the Modernisation and Extension Programme;
- Assisted the Bureau in identifying the appropriate contact person in each of the organisations required to provide water information; and
- Commenced planning for an inventory of each jurisdictions' hydrometric monitoring network as a basis for a Strategic Water Information Monitoring Plan (SWIMP).

Further information

For further information please visit www.bom.gov.au/water, contact the Strategic Water Information Coordinator in your state (see above) or one of the Bureau of Meteorology contacts listed.

Strategic Water Information Coordinators (SWICs)

State or Territory	Strategic Water Information Coordinator	Email	Phone numbers
NSW	David Malone	david.malone@dnr.nsw.gov.au	W: 02 9895 6201
Vic	Sabine Schreiber	sabine.schreiber@dse.vic.gov.au	W: 03 9637 8541
Qld	Donna Beattie	donna.beattie@nrw.qld.gov.au	W: 07 3224 7649
SA	John Barrett	barrett.johnw@saugov.sa.gov.au	W: 08 8226 5655
WA	Glen Terlick	glen.terlick@water.wa.gov.au	W: 08 6364 7406
NT	Aidan Smith	aidan.smith@nt.gov.au	W: 08 8999 4522
Tas	David Thorp	david.thorp@dpiw.tas.gov.au	W: 03 6233 9648
ACT	Stewart Chapman	stewart.chapman@act.gov.au	W: 02 6207 0290