



This Water Information Bulletin series targets technical and operational staff in all organisations contributing to Australia's Water Information Program.

Bulletins are published as required and previous editions can be viewed at www.bom.gov.au/water

The purpose of this Bulletin is to support technical staff in organisations required to provide data to the Bureau under the Water Regulations 2008. These regulations came into force on 30 June 2008.

Data survey underway

One of the Bureau of Meteorology's significant challenges is the efficient implementation of the Water Regulations 2008, specifically coordinating the provision of data from organisations around Australia over the next 12 months.

In order to establish the extent and nature of water information held by the 260 affected persons (organisations) under the regulations and how best to transfer this information, we will be asking all affected persons to complete an online Water Regulations survey. The survey is designed to gather information about the water information collected by organisations, including their data managers and software in use. During its development the online data survey has been trialled by a small number of data provider organisations to ensure that it meets both the respondent's and the Bureau's needs.

We will email the survey instructions, web address and login details to our list of relevant organisation contacts progressively over the next few months. We are asking each contact to arrange for the appropriate data category managers within their organisation to complete their section of the survey. The survey's login details provided include an organisation identifier and password which will be the same as that used to access the Bureau FTP site for data transfer (see below).

Initially the survey will be sent to the 44 organisations listed in the regulations for the first phase of data delivery according to the Water Regulations 2008. Organisations are requested to complete the survey within two weeks of its receipt. Your assistance with this project is greatly appreciated.

FTP site for data transfer established

The Bureau has established an FTP site ([ftp.bom.gov.au](ftp://ftp.bom.gov.au)) which affected persons can use for the transfer of data to comply with the Water Regulations 2008. Each of the 260 organisations named in the regulations has a individual login

and directory on the Bureau's FTP site into which data can be placed. The login details will be included in our email introducing the online survey which will be sent to all organisations supplying data to the Bureau over the coming months.

For further information or if you have queries about the data survey or FTP site, please contact our data manager Todd Lovell, by email at t.lovell@bom.gov.au.

Data transfers: Flood forecasting and warning data arrangements

Many organisations currently transfer data to the Bureau for flood warning purposes. This transfer typically uses the Bureau-defined 'HCS' data transfer format. The data transferred to the Bureau is vital for our flood forecasting and warning role and the continuation of this service is a high priority.

The data supplied for flood warning is a subset of the data required to be transmitted under the Water Regulations 2008. Unfortunately the existing HCS format is not able to support all data that will be transferred under the regulations. The Bureau is developing a data transfer standard to enable provision of data to the Bureau in a uniform manner. To this end we have defined an XML format described in the next section.

During the first phase of the Australian Water Resources Information System's development (AWRIS – visit our website www.bom.gov.au/water/awris.shtml), the Bureau will continue to operate existing data systems for the flood forecasting and warning role which use the HCS format. It is our aim to ultimately migrate to the new XML data transfer format enabling organisations to supply data to meet the regulations and flood warning needs through a single transmission.

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There will, however, be a period during which our flood warning systems are unable to utilise data provided in the XML format. Until we advise you otherwise, we are asking organisations supplying these data to leave their existing HCS data exporting processes in place. We anticipate that this duplicate transfer of data to the Bureau will continue until the second half of 2009.

Please note:

If your organisation is unable to provide data to the Bureau of Meteorology using the Hydstra exporting tool, the TimeStudio exporting tool or the XML format all described below, please contact David Nicholls, our water data manager, at d.nicholls@bom.gov.au.

XML data transfer format completed

We have recently completed a joint project with CSIRO to create an XML-based data transfer format. The XML format is an encoding of the Open Geospatial Consortium's (OGC) Observations and Measures abstract model. The content and format of the transfer schema has been reviewed as part of two workshops during development. Workshop participants included representatives of the Bureau, CSIRO, Greenspan Technologies, Kisters Australia, Rubicon Systems Australia and SRA Information Technology. Based on input from these workshops, an initial version of the format has been defined. We will now form an expert panel on data transfer standards with representation from Australian water data organisations to review the XML format and formalise its use through the definition of a National Water Information Standard in accordance with our responsibilities under the Commonwealth Water Act.

The XML schema, example data documents and the format documentation are available on request from Paul Sheahan, our data ingestion coordinator via email at p.sheahan@bom.gov.au.

Implementation of 'Hydstra data merge' export tools

Several lead water agencies have volunteered to be involved in the Bureau's Hydstra data merge project. As part of this project, tools have been created for exporting the data required under the Water Regulations 2008. The exporting tools can be used to deliver these data to the Bureau's FTP site. The Hydstra exporting tool has been completed and the TimeStudio exporting tool is nearing completion.

The exporting tools created for the data merge project will be incorporated in future Hydstra and TimeStudio software distributions and will be freely available for use by organisations.

For further information about the data merge project or the export tools please contact Paul Sheahan, our data ingestion coordinator via email at p.sheahan@bom.gov.au.

Further information

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

Your assistance with the provision of water data to the Bureau of Meteorology is greatly appreciated.

Strategic Water Information Coordinators (SWICs)

As part of the Monitoring and Extension Funding Programme, we recently funded a Strategic Water Information Coordinator position (a 'SWIC') in each state and the Northern Territory. Part of a SWIC's role is to help coordinate the provision of data to the Bureau. Their contact details are provided for your use.

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			
Tas			