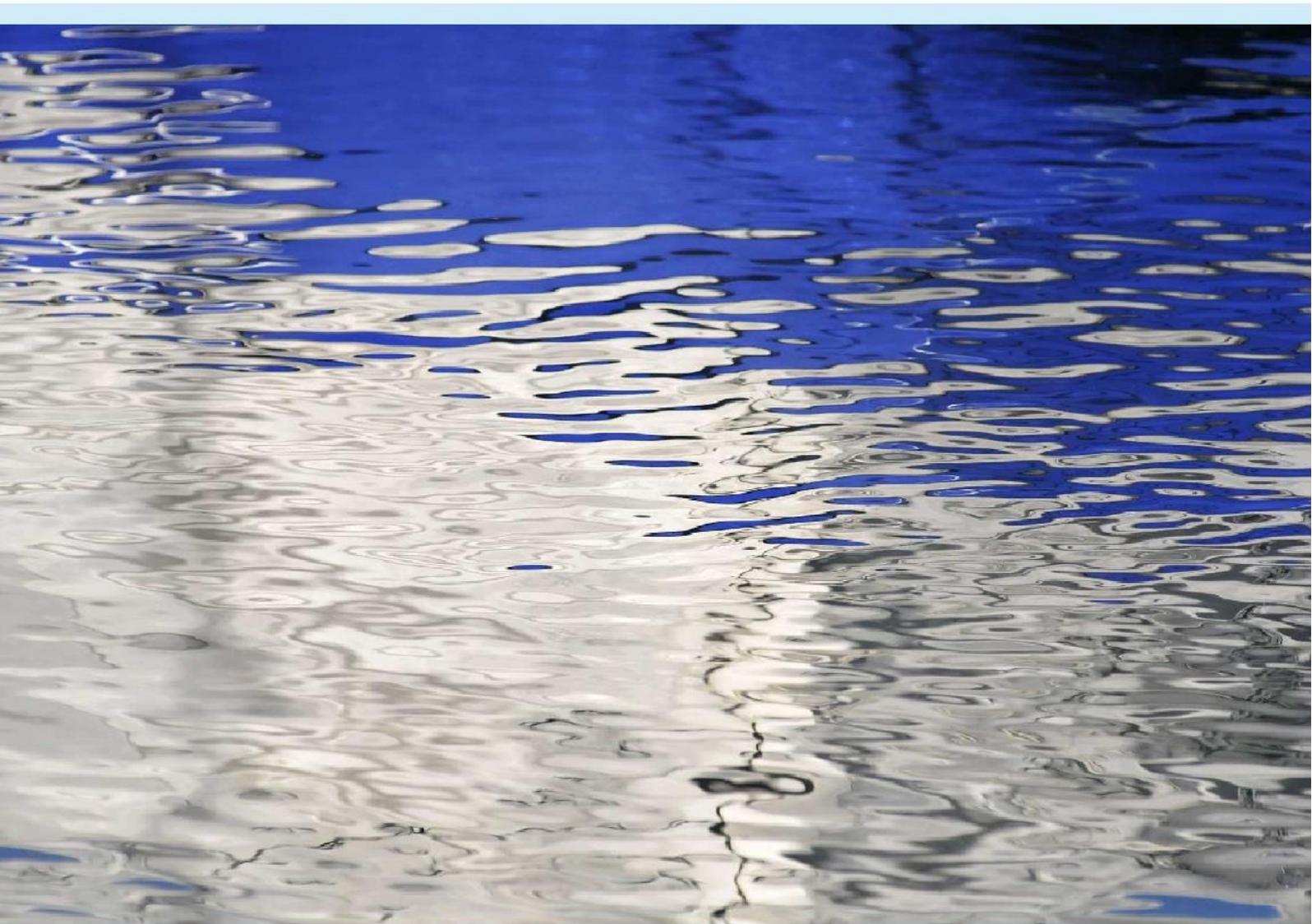




Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Regulations 2008—Principles for developing and maintaining Part 7



Release history

Date	Version	Status	Comment
December 2019	1.1	Current	Minor changes to layout following review—no substantive changes to principles
February 2014	1.0	Superseded	First version, reviewed and updated in 2018

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Water Regulations 2008—Principles for developing and maintaining Part 7

Foreword

The Bureau of Meteorology administers Part 7 (Water Information) of the *Water Regulations 2008* (the Regulations). Part 7 sets out details for provision of water information to the Bureau, as required in the *Water Act 2007*. It defines who must give specified water information to the Bureau, and the time and format in which it must be given.

The Regulations individually name over 200 organisations that are required to give the Bureau specified water information that is in their possession, custody or control. The Bureau is mindful of the costs to organisations in complying with these requirements. It seeks to minimise the impacts of changes to legislative requirements and foster a cooperative approach with data providers that is transparent and treats data providers equally.

These principles are part of a framework of principles, policies and procedures to formalise and communicate a consistent approach to maintaining and developing Part 7 of the Regulations.

- **Principles** are high level, strategic and enduring. They govern the way we manage legislative requirements affecting stakeholder organisations. They frame the strategic development of the underlying policies.
- **Policies** are rules and protocols that are practical in nature and dictate how we will manage particular aspects of the legislative requirements.
- **Procedures** are internal documents that augment the published policies. They contain additional detail relevant to Bureau personnel who are responsible for implementing them.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to affirm the principles that govern the Bureau's management of legislative requirements affecting stakeholder organisations.

Scope

The Bureau applies these principles to all activities associated with administering Part 7 of the Regulations.

Audience

The audience for this document is providers of water information to the Bureau, and Bureau staff with a role in water information.

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Principles

The Bureau will:

1. collaborate with our state and territory partners to understand Australia's water resources and enable better water-related decision making
2. comply with all applicable Government requirements, including those defined in the Commonwealth's regulatory impact analysis system
3. operate in accordance with all Bureau data and information management policies, and the Bureau's Strategy
4. when making changes to legislative requirements:
 - demonstrate the need for the changes through a clear business case, which highlights the resultant benefits to the Australian public
 - consider cost implications, including anticipated cost to water information providers
 - consider the views and needs of affected organisations
 - consult with data providers prior to making significant changes and respond to inquiries in a timely fashion
5. inform all affected organisations of our policies and changes to legislative requirements
6. provide reasonable lead time and allow organisations opportunity to prepare for compliance with new requirements
7. endeavour to assist organisations where possible to meet their obligations.

Review date

This document is due for review by December 2021.

Contact

For more information on these principles, contact: regulations@bom.gov.au

Availability

Find these principles on the Bureau's website at:
<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/principlesPolicies.shtml>