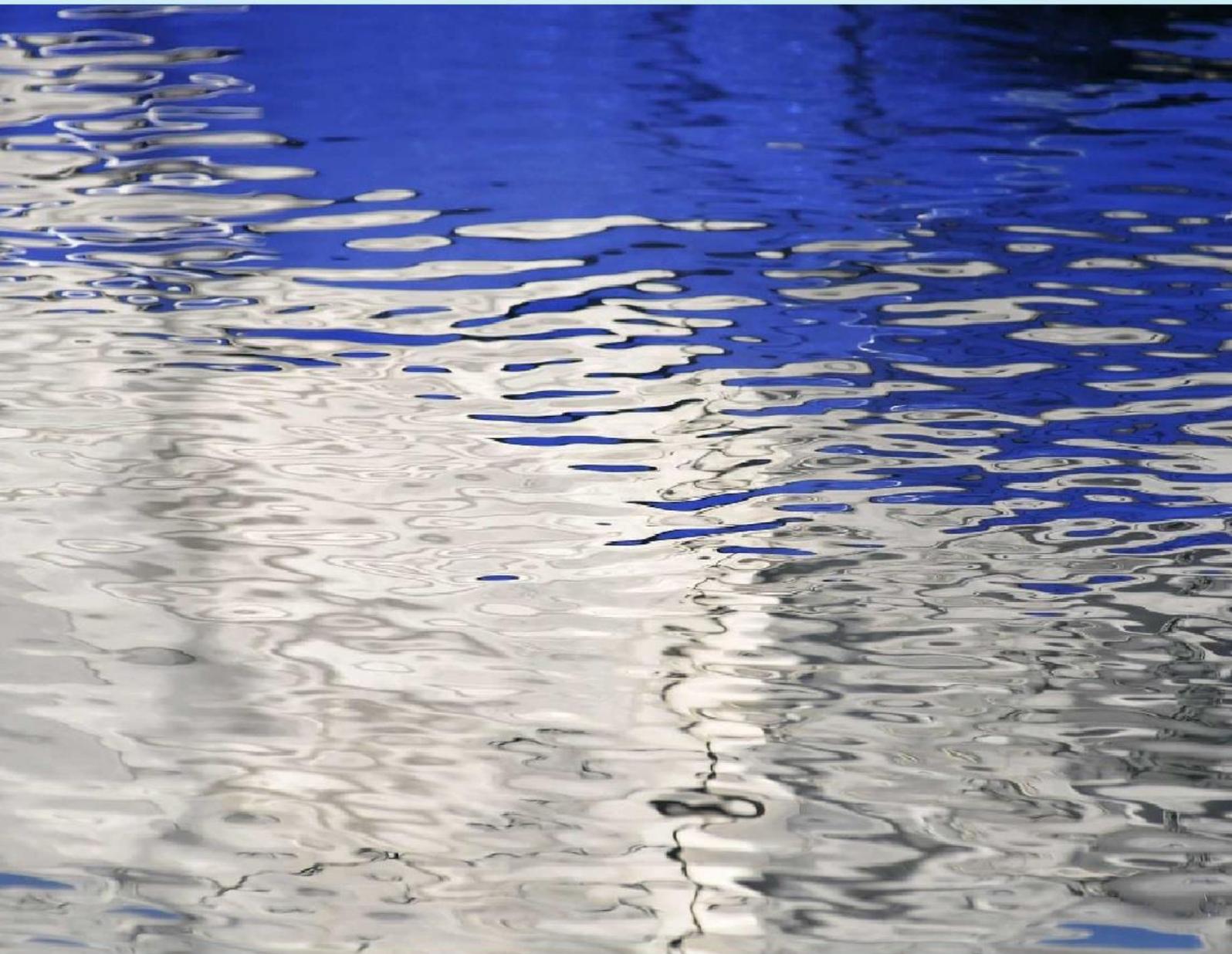




Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Regulations 2008—Amendment policy



Release history

Date	Version	Status	Owner
March 2016	1.0	Final	Water Accounting and Regulations Section regulations@bom.gov.au

Cover photograph by Alison Pouliot

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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 required to give the Bureau specified water information that is in their possession, custody or control.

The Bureau is conscious that organisations incur costs in order to comply 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.

To this end, the Bureau has developed a framework to formalise and communicate a consistent approach to maintaining and developing Part 7 of the Regulations. The framework involves a three tiered architecture consisting of principles, policies and procedures.

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

The Bureau has policies and procedures for each of the activities involved in managing the Regulations. These activities include:

1. amending the *Water Regulations 2008*
2. issuing and maintaining the Administrative Instrument
3. maintaining the list of Commercially Sensitive Sites (incorporated document)
4. maintaining the Metadata and Contextual Information Requirements (incorporated document)
5. maintaining the list of Persons and Classes of Persons (incorporated document)
6. versioning and release of the Water Data Transfer Format.

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Policy

The Bureau of Meteorology:

1. Will operate in accordance with each of the overarching principles for developing and maintaining Part 7 of the *Water Regulations 2008*. The principles are published at <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/principlesPolicies.shtml>
2. Will consider a range of viable options to address the policy problem, including at least one non-regulatory alternative
3. Before amending the Regulations, will consider the following factors, as applicable:
 - the impact (including cost) of an amendment on water information providers
 - the need to service Bureau water information products
 - the Bureau's capacity to ingest and utilise new data
 - the Bureau's ability to provide support, including tools, to affected water information providers
 - the availability of any regulatory offsets
4. Will seek to minimise the frequency of changes to the Regulations
5. Will consult with affected stakeholders, including water information provider organisations, in a genuine and timely manner and take their feedback into account before proceeding with an amendment
6. As applicable, will consult with other relevant Commonwealth and State/Territory government policy makers and regulators to avoid duplicating regulatory requirements
7. Will ensure amendments proceed only when an overall net benefit can be demonstrated, following consideration of the costs and benefits of the change
8. Will communicate with all affected water information provider organisations about the changes associated with an amendment, and provide reasonable opportunity for organisations to prepare for changes, before an amendment takes effect
9. Will ensure that related material on its website is available and up to date. Specifically the Bureau will:
 - provide on its website a link to the amendment published on the Australian Government ComLaw website
 - ensure that further information such as explanatory material is available on the website
 - ensure that the Regs Online tool shows up-to-date data provision requirements at the time the amendment takes effect.

Water Regulations 2008—Amendment policy

Definition	Regulations means the <i>Water Regulations 2008</i> .
Date of effect	This policy takes effect on 11 March 2016.
Review date	This policy is due for review by March 2018.
Who is affected?	This policy applies to water information providers affected by the Regulations, and those in the Bureau with a water information role.
Rationale	Changing the Regulations requirements can impose costs on named organisations and also uses significant Bureau resources. The Bureau must make judgments and trade-offs between minimising data provider obligations and maximising the efficacy of the Regulations as a tool to assist in achieving the objectives of the Water Act.
Contact	For more information on this policy, contact: regulations@bom.gov.au
Related documents	Bureau of Meteorology Principles for developing and maintaining Part 7 of the <i>Water Regulations 2008</i> Bureau of Meteorology Water Data Transfer Versioning Policy The Australian Government Guide to Regulation
Availability	This policy is published on the Bureau's website at: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/principlesPolicies.shtml
