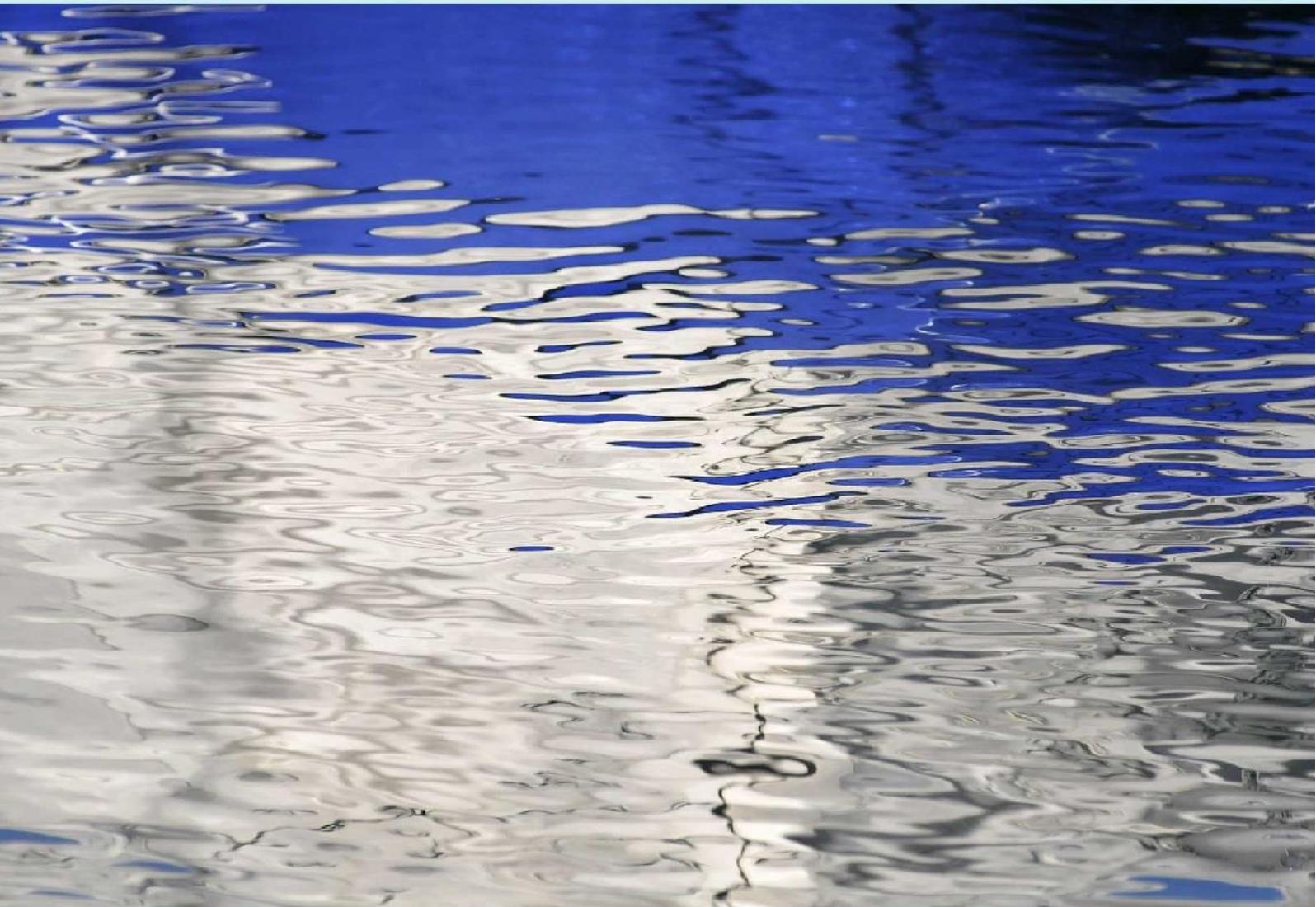




Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Regulations 2008— Amendment policy



Release history

| Date | Version | Status | Comment |
|---------------|---------|------------|---|
| December 2019 | 1.1 | Current | Minor changes to layout following review—no substantive changes to policy content |
| March 2016 | 1.0 | Superseded | First version, reviewed and updated in 2018 |

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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 that are required to give the Bureau specified water information that is in their possession, custody or control. Periodically, the Bureau amends the Regulations to improve their effectiveness.

This policy is 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.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set protocols for amending the Regulations and thus the requirements for providing water information. The Bureau seeks to minimise the impacts of changes to legislative requirements, provide sufficient time for data providers to prepare for changes and ensure requirements are clear for all parties.

Scope

This policy applies to changes to Part 7 of the Regulations.

Audience

The audience for this policy is

- all organisations named in the Regulations that are required to provide water information
- Bureau staff with a water information role.

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Policy

It is Bureau policy to:

1. consider a range of viable options to address the policy problem, including at least one non-regulatory alternative
2. consider the following factors, as applicable, before amending the Regulations:
 - impact (including cost) on water information providers
 - need to service customers of Bureau water information products
 - the Bureau's capacity to ingest and utilise new data
 - the Bureau's ability to provide support to affected water information providers
 - availability of any regulatory offsets
3. minimise the frequency of changes to the Regulations
4. 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
5. as applicable, consult with other relevant Commonwealth and State/Territory government policy makers and regulators to avoid duplicating regulatory requirements
6. ensure amendments proceed only when an overall net benefit can be demonstrated, following consideration of the costs and benefits of the change
7. 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
8. ensure that related material on its website is available and up to date. Specifically, it is Bureau policy to:
 - provide on its website a link to the amendment published on the Australian Government's Federal Register of Legislation website
 - ensure that further information such as explanatory material is available on its website
 - ensure that the Regs Online tool shows up-to-date data provision requirements at the time the amendment takes effect.

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|-------------------|---|
| Definitions | Regulations means the <i>Water Regulations 2008</i> |
| Date of effect | This policy took effect on 11 March 2016 and was reviewed in February 2018 and December 2019. |
| Review date | This policy is due for review by December 2021. |
| 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> The Australian Government Guide to Regulation |
| Availability | Find this policy on the Bureau's website at: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/principlesPolicies.shtml |