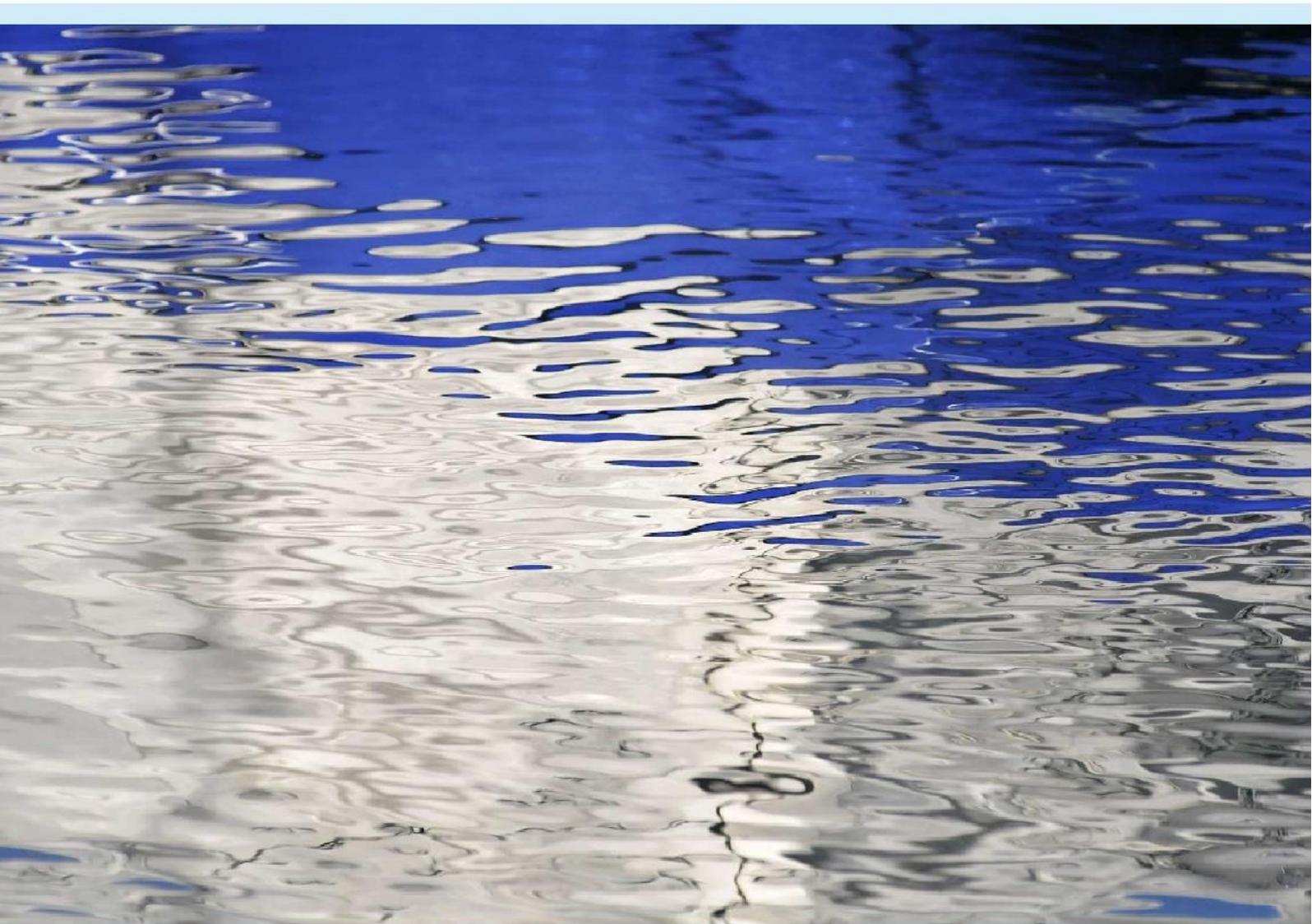




Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Regulations 2008—Policy for updating the list of commercially sensitive sites



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March 2016	1.0	Superseded	First version

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Water Regulations 2008—Policy for updating the list of commercially sensitive sites

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.

For reasons of commercial sensitivity, the Regulations provide for hydroelectricity generators to give their water information in a particular form and at timeframes that protect the public interest. This water information is from sites listed in the document *Commercially Sensitive Sites* which is incorporated by reference in the Regulations.

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

Some of the water information provided to the Bureau may be commercially sensitive, in the sense that its disclosure may be commercially damaging to a person (not necessarily the person who provided the information to the Bureau). The purpose of this policy is to set protocols for adding to or changing the list of commercially sensitive sites, from which particular data providers can give information in a manner that protects the public interest.

Scope

This policy applies to water information requirements for hydroelectricity generators under the Regulations.

Audience

The audience for this policy is

- hydroelectricity generators named in Person Category C of the Regulations
- Bureau staff with a water information role.

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Policy

It is Bureau policy to:

1. review the *Commercially Sensitive Sites* document every two years and assess whether sites should continue to be listed
2. before making changes to the *Commercially Sensitive Sites* document (adding or removing sites):
 - consult with and consider the views of the organisation that owns the site, including any impact on the site owner which may arise from the change
 - consider the reasons (those of both the Bureau and the site owner) for adding or removing the site
 - consider the importance of the information from the site to customers of Bureau water information products
 - consider whether publication of current water information from the site would be in the public interest
 - make a reasoned assessment of the likelihood of commercial damage on a person or organisation, or distortion of market outcomes arising from provision and publication of current water information from the site, taking into account any mitigating effects of delaying publication
3. give site owners adequate notice of, and reasonable opportunity to respond to, a proposal to remove sites from the list
4. when sites are added to or removed from the list, provide information to the site owner to explain associated requirements for provision of the water information from the site
5. formally advise affected water information providers when the Bureau publishes an updated *Commercially Sensitive Sites* document
6. ensure that its website always shows the version of the *Commercially Sensitive Sites* document that lists the current names of sites designated as commercially sensitive
7. publish and maintain an online register of all the accumulated changes made to the site names in the *Commercially Sensitive Sites* document.

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Definitions

Commercially Sensitive Sites means the document of that name located on the Bureau's website at:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/schedules/sensitiveSites.shtml>.

This document is incorporated by reference in the Regulations (Regulation 1.06 refers)

Regulations means the *Water Regulations 2008*

Category C persons are a category of organisations named in the Regulations that include major hydroelectricity generators

Persons means all individuals, trusts, companies and corporations as well as agencies of state, territory or Australian governments, required to give water information to the Bureau.

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 *Water Regulations 2008*](#)

[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>