



**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

## ***Water Regulations 2008—Policy for adding and changing names of Persons***



## Release history

Date	Version	Status	Owner
March 2016	1.0	Final	Water Accounting and Regulations Section <a href="mailto:regulations@bom.gov.au">regulations@bom.gov.au</a>

### 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. Organisations are grouped by Person Category and listed in the document *Persons and Classes of Persons* which is incorporated by reference in the Regulations.

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. Before adding new organisations to the Regulations, or removing organisations, will consider the following factors:
  - the impact (including cost) on the organisation
  - the significance and value of the water information held by the organisation
  - the need to service Bureau water information products
  - the Bureau's capacity to ingest and utilise the water information
  - the Bureau's ability to provide support, including tools, to affected water information providers
3. When adding new organisations to the Regulations, will
  - consult with new organisations about the possibility that they may be added
  - give new organisations, not already providing relevant water information to the Bureau, at least six months' notice of a proposal to add them and a 30 day period in which organisations can respond to the proposal. We will notify them in writing no less than three months before they are added
  - ensure new organisations are added only when an overall net benefit can be demonstrated, following consideration of the costs and benefits of the change
4. Will consult with relevant stakeholders such as the water industry, lead water agencies, named persons and peak industry bodies before adding new categories of organisations
5. Will review the *Persons and Classes of Persons* document at least every six months. We will update the *Persons and Classes of Persons* document within six months of becoming aware of the need for changes
6. Will formally advise affected water information providers when it publishes an updated *Persons and Classes of Persons* document
7. Will ensure that related material on its website is available and up to date. Specifically, the Bureau will:
  - show on its website the current version of the *Persons and Classes of Persons* document that lists the current names of

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organisations in the Regulations

- show on its website an up-to-date register of all the accumulated changes made to the names in the *Persons and Classes of Persons* document
- update the Regs Online tool with name changes within one week of the publication of the *Persons and Classes of Persons* document.

## Definitions

**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

**Persons and Classes of Persons document** means the document of that name located on the Bureau's website at:

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

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

**Regulations** means the *Water Regulations 2008*.

## 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 existing and potential water information providers named in the Regulations, and those in the Bureau who have a role in developing and managing the *Persons and Classes of Persons* document.

## Rationale

Water information providers incur a regulatory burden when they are named in the Regulations, along with the costs of providing water information. The Bureau must make judgments and trade-offs between minimising data provider obligations and maximising the utility of the information given.

## Contact

For more information on this policy, contact: [regulations@bom.gov.au](mailto: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

This policy is published on the Bureau's website at:

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