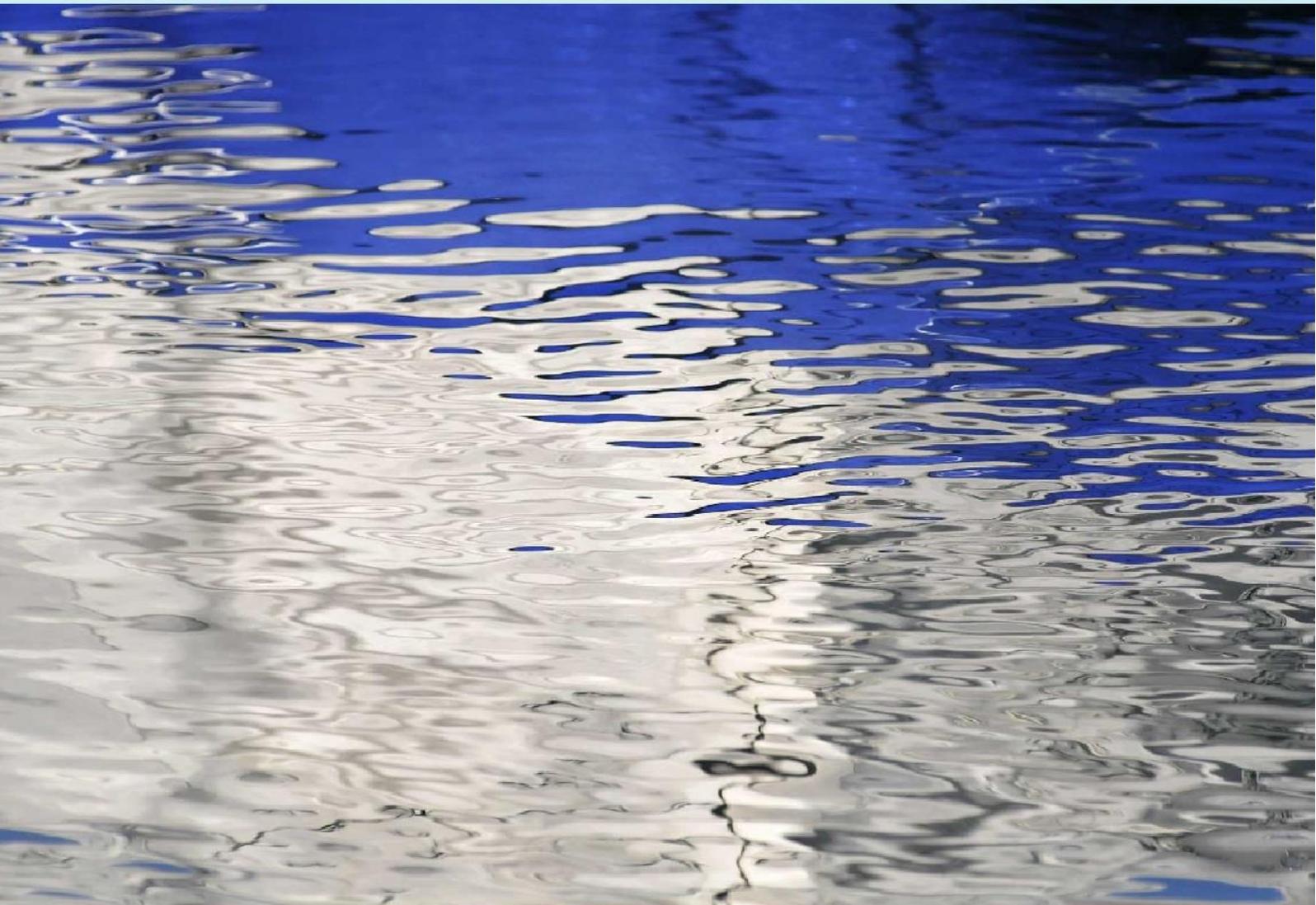




Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Regulations 2008—Policy for updating urban water management information requirements



Release history

Date	Version	Status	Comment
December 2019	1.0	Current	First version

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Policy for updating urban water management information requirements

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 [Urban Water Management Information Requirements document](#) sets out the detail for giving water information under Category 7 (urban water management) of the Regulations. The Regulations incorporate by reference this document.

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 altering the Urban Water Management Information Requirements document and thus the requirements for Category 7 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 urban water management information requirements, including metadata requirements, under the Regulations.

Audience

The audience for this policy is

- urban water utilities named in Regulations Person Categories F, L and M that are required to provide information about urban water management
- Bureau staff with a water information role.

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Policy

It is Bureau policy to:

1. consider the following factors before changing requirements for Category 7 water information:
 - the impact (including cost) on water information providers
 - the need to service customers of Bureau water information products and the urban National Performance Report (NPR)
 - as relevant, the needs of the State and Territory urban performance reporting frameworks, for example the reliance on a stable urban NPR of certain States and Territories that do not have their own state based reporting systems
2. when adding requirements, or extending/revising requirements:
 - consult with relevant parties such as the urban NPR Technical Reference Group, major data providers and subject matter experts
 - ensure that the database application specified in the Regulations for giving Category 7 data can accommodate the revised or extended requirements and that the Bureau can ingest and utilise the data
 - minimise the impost on water information providers
3. provide at least 18 months between making changes to requirements and the date when the data under the amended requirement is due for delivery to the Bureau

In practice, this means the Bureau will make changes affecting a particular financial year's data by 30 April in the financial year preceding that financial year.

For example, the Bureau would make any changes to F/Y 2019/2020 requirements by 30 April 2019. These data would be due for provision by 31 October 2020

4. for changes to requirements that do not impose increased reporting costs, including changes that remove requirements or correct errors, provide at least six months between making changes to requirements and the date when the data must be given to the Bureau

In practice, this means the Bureau would make changes of this type no later than 30 April in the financial year applicable to the data being reported.

For example, the Bureau would make non-significant changes for F/Y 2019/2020 by 30 April 2020. Data for this period would be due for provision by 31 October 2020

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5. communicate changes about updated requirements with all affected data provider organisations
6. publish explanatory material at the same time as it publishes an updated *Urban water management information requirements* document
7. ensure that its website contains the version of the *Urban water management information requirements* document that holds the current requirements

As necessary, the Bureau will also publish another version of the document, clearly notifying users that this new version sets out future requirements which are not yet in effect but will be at a specified date. On the date specified, this version of the *Urban water management information requirements* document becomes the current version.

Definitions

Urban water management information requirements document means the document of that name located on the Bureau's website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/schedules/urbanWater.shtml> The document is incorporated by reference in the Regulations (Regulation 1.06 refers)

Urban NPR means the urban National Performance Report.

Date of effect

This policy takes effect on 20 December 2019.

Review date

This policy is due for review by 20 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 Category 7 Reporting Handbook](#)

[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>