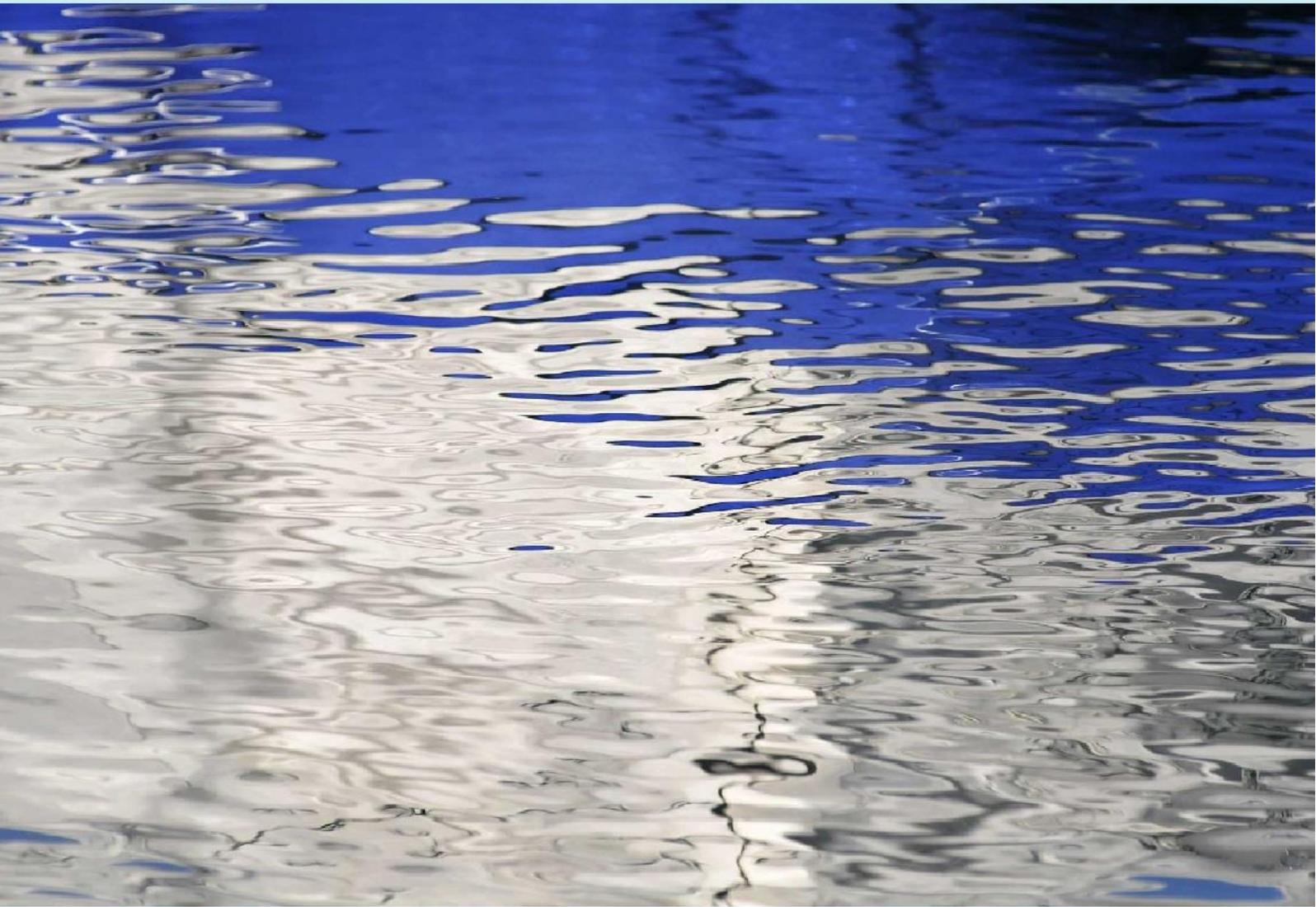




**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

# Water information licensing policy



## Release history

Date	Version	Status	Comment
June 2021	1.1	Current	CC BY version update
December 2019	1.0	Superseded	First published policy

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# Water Information Licensing Policy

## Foreword

The Bureau of Meteorology collects water information as part of its functions under Part 7 (Water Information) of the *Water Act 2007*. These functions require the Bureau to disseminate water information as widely as possible.

The Bureau has a framework of principles, policies and procedures to formalise and communicate a consistent approach to maintaining and developing Part 7 of the *Water Regulations 2008*.

While this licensing policy is not strictly about maintaining the Regulations and is more broadly focused than on Regulations data alone, licensing activities are key to the Bureau's functions in the Water Act. It follows that this licensing policy sits within the suite of Regulations-related policies and is consistent and comparable with them.

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## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide decisions around licensing of water information, to achieve the following:

- wherever possible, water information held by the Bureau of Meteorology is made available to potential users with the most open licence conditions practicable; and
- licence conditions are made clear to potential users of that information.

This policy position aligns with Commonwealth and State government policies<sup>1</sup> to promote a culture of open information and the release of public sector information on the most unrestricted terms wherever possible.

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## Scope

This policy applies to:

- water information provided to the Bureau under the Regulations
- water information developed by the Bureau, and other water information that the Bureau acquires, for the purpose of delivering water information services.

Section 125 of the Water Act defines water information. It includes raw water data, value added information products and related metadata.

<sup>1</sup> Examples of these policies include: the Commonwealth [public data policy](#) and [principles on open public sector information](#), NSW [Government Open Data Policy](#) and [Queensland Government Open Data Strategy](#).

# Water Information Licensing Policy

## Audience

This policy covers two audience groups. Particular policies are relevant to each of these:

- i. copyright owners – these are mainly organisations that provide data to the Bureau, such as the organisations named in the Water Regulations. However, the Bureau itself is also part of this group when it generates intellectual property or owns water data
- ii. users of water data and information products.

## Policy

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It is Bureau policy to:

### Copyright owners

1. assume that copyright subsists in the water information the Bureau collects, creates or publishes, with two exceptions:

- i. where copyright has expired
- ii. where there has been no human intervention in respect of the data<sup>2</sup>

2. where the Bureau is the copyright owner, publish water information under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence wherever possible

3. ask other copyright owners for their licensing preference

4. encourage copyright owners to apply a CC BY licence

5. store and maintain copyright owners' preferences and attributions (where applicable) as a matter of record and for ease of retrieval

### Users of water information

6. make explicit to users at the time of access, the rights and obligations for use of water information. This includes clearly communicating licensing information to those wishing to use water information products, publications and data downloads via the Bureau's publications and websites

7. as appropriate, adequately maintain published licensing information so that it is up-to-date and useful for users while protecting data providers' copyright.

<sup>2</sup> For example, some automatically generated/telemetered data is received by the Bureau under water information Category 11 for flood warning and forecasting purposes

# Water Information Licensing Policy

Definitions	<b>CC BY</b> means <a href="#">Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence</a>
Date of effect	This policy takes effect on 15 June 2021.
Review date	This policy is due for review by June 2023.
Contact	For more information on this policy, contact: <a href="mailto:regulations@bom.gov.au">regulations@bom.gov.au</a>
Related documents	Bureau of Meteorology <a href="#">Principles for developing and maintaining Part 7 of the <i>Water Regulations 2008</i></a> <a href="#">Government Information Licensing Framework (GILF) for Water, Recommended Practice</a>
Availability	Find this policy on the Bureau's website at: <a href="http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/principlesPolicies.shtml">http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/principlesPolicies.shtml</a>