



# Water use, measurement and metering

*Our freshwater is a precious resource for drinking, recreation, cultural use and farming, as well as an important ecosystem. By measuring and managing water takes, we can look after these resources in a way that protects the environment while sustaining the local economy.*

## Water metering requirements

If you have a consent to take more than 20 litres of water per second (20 L/s), you must measure and record how much water you take in each 15-minute period, and report this data to our server daily.

The data must follow below required format:

- **The records must be provided electronically in csv or xlsx or .xml2 format.**
- **The record must comprise measurements of water taken in each 15-minute period.**
- **The records must be able to be combined to produce further records that cover each water year of the permit (1 July to 30 June).**
- **If no water is taken, the records must specify the volume of water taken as zero cubic metres.**

From 3 September 2024, this will apply for consents to take more than 10 litres of water per second, and from 3 September 2026, any consent to take more than five litres per second.

If you have a permit that allows more than five l/s to be taken, a separate meter needs to be installed at every point of take. This needs to be installed by an approved supplier. You can find Irrigation New Zealand's list of 'Blue Tick' accredited suppliers on the Irrigation NZ website.

The Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010 require that all consented water takes of five litres per second or greater be fitted with a water measuring and recording device. The regulations require that water meters be verified (within +/- 5% accuracy) to ensure that water usage extraction information is accurate. Verification tests are required to be completed every five years.

## Submitting your water use data

The easiest way to comply with the new regulations is to fit an electronic data logger and telemetry unit.

If you already have one installed, you will need to it is following the required format above, and submitting data to our server daily.

For most irrigators, a water service provider will install and maintain this system, and ensure that data is submitted on your behalf. However, it is the consent holder's responsibility to ensure this happens.

We recommend contacting your water service provider to check if you are compliant with these rules, and if not, ensuring they make the necessary changes. You can find a list of accredited suppliers on the Irrigation NZ website.

## Water use for domestic purposes and stock water

The take and use of water does not require resource consent if it can meet the following permitted activity rules.

### Groundwater takes

You can take and use groundwater at a rate of up to five L/s up to 10 cubic metres per property per day, provided your bore is located more than 20 m from your property boundary or a surface waterbody. A property greater than 20 hectares is permitted to take up to 100 cubic metres per day at a rate of less than five L/s.

### Surface water takes

You can take and use surface water as a permitted activity under several conditions.

The river must not be subject to a conservation order, fish must be prevented from entering the water take, and if the river is below minimum flow, take must be only for reasonable drinking water and stock water use – not for irrigation.

The rate and volume that can be taken from rivers depends on the seven-day mean annual low flow (7DMALF).

WATER BODY	7DMALF	RATE	VOLUME PER DAY
River	<100 L/s	0.5 L/s	2 m <sup>3</sup>
River	100-500 L/s	2 L/s	10 m <sup>3</sup>
River	500-10 m <sup>3</sup> /s	5 L/s	20 m <sup>3</sup>
River	10-20 m <sup>3</sup> /s	5 L/s	50 m <sup>3</sup>
River	>20 m <sup>3</sup> /s	5 L/s	100 m <sup>3</sup>
Artificial watercourse	N/A	5 L/s	10 m <sup>3</sup>
Lakes	N/A	5 L/s	50 m <sup>3</sup>



## Where to get help

### Check the website

For more information about water use and measurement, visit [ecan.govt.nz/water-metering](https://ecan.govt.nz/water-metering)

### Industry support

Irrigation New Zealand, has a wealth of resources to help with water measurement and metering needs on their website [irrigationnz.co.nz](https://irrigationnz.co.nz)

### Talk to your Zone team

Your local land management advisor can help you with advice water use and metering. For support in your local area, give us a call on 0800 324 636. We can arrange for a resource management officer to contact you by email, phone, or face to face.