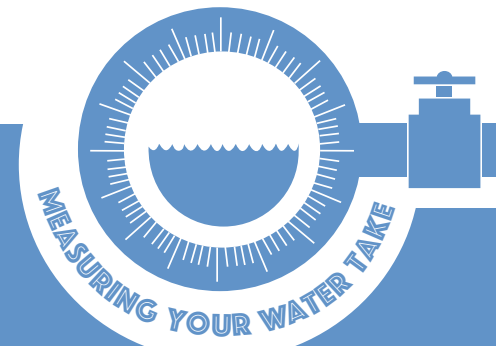




# Handing over of Gnamagara state-owned meters



## Why will state-owned meters be offered for handover?

Under the Government of Western Australia's new statewide policy, *Measuring the taking of water*, most of the state's water licensees, over a five year roll out period, will be required to install, read and maintain their own meters. This has implications for licensees with state-owned meters on the Gnamagara Groundwater System. Under the new measurement policy, most of these licensees will be given the option to either take over the ownership of their relevant state-owned meter or have it removed by the Department of Water and install their own meter.



## What will the handover program involve?

Under our handover program, the department will give licensees with state-owned meters the choice of either signing a Transfer of Ownership Deed and retaining the meter/s on their property, or having us remove their meter. We will not charge anything for either process.

For licensees who are required to meter under the new policy, we will employ a contractor to check the meter is working properly before we hand it over. If the meter is faulty and cannot be repaired onsite, it will be replaced.

If the licensee chooses to have the state-owned meter removed, and is not exempt from metering under the new

policy, they will be required to install their own meter and bear the associated costs.

All licensees who are required to meter their water use under the new policy, whether they have taken over a state-owned meter, or installed a new one, will be required to read and maintain their meter according to their licence conditions.

## When will the program begin?

We are planning to roll out this program in several stages, between 2016 and 2019. We will write to each licensee when their stage is about to begin. The first of these licensees will be contacted in February 2016.

## Did you know?

Under the Gngangara Metering Program that commenced in 2004, 1269 state-owned water meters were installed on the properties of approximately 900 licensees in 20 groundwater subareas. This was an integral part of government efforts to improve management of the Gngangara Groundwater System, which was under significant stress due to declining water levels. From monthly and annual readings, much useful data has been obtained that has benefited both the Department of Water and water users alike.

## What are the benefits of measuring water use?

The state-owned meters on the Gngangara Groundwater System's private bores have supplied useful data since they were installed between 2004 and 2010. Although the ownership of the meters is changing, they will continue to support decision-making that will benefit the licensee and the water resource as a whole.

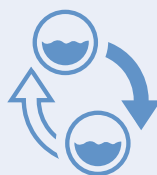
Benefits of metering for licensees on the Gngangara Groundwater System have included:



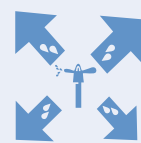
Being able to compare data between bores and determine any that were pumping inefficiently (for those with multiple bores)



Using the data to analyse irrigation practices and make changes to improve water efficiency and fertilizer efficiency



Participating in trading or transfer of water entitlements

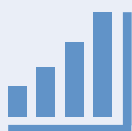


Being able to expand areas of irrigation and increase business opportunities because of more efficient use of water.

Metering under the new measurement policy will support the Department of Water to manage the state's and the Gngangara water resource sustainably by:



Helping us assess how water take affects the Gngangara Groundwater System – enabling us to more accurately determine the cause of changes in groundwater levels and manage allocation limits



Improving modelling and forecasting for future trends in water availability e.g. using computer models to determine impacts of abstraction for local areas



Ensuring licensees' water take stays within licence entitlements



Increasing transparency, fairness and equity in water resource management decision-making across the state of Western Australia.

## Where can I find more information?

Policy on *Measuring the taking of water*  
Information brochures, including  
*Metering your water use*

Our *Guidelines for water meter installation*

Contact your regional office or visit our website for more details.

[www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au)