

NON-URBAN WATER METERING INDUSTRY CAPACITY BUILDING

Standards Development

The National Framework for Non-urban Water Metering requires that all non urban water metering equipment is manufactured, tested and validated against Australian Standards or Australian Technical Specifications for non urban water metering. In 2006 the Department engaged with industry to develop industry standards from the National Measurement Institute (NMI) Pattern Approval Requirements for meter manufacture (to which meter users must also comply). However, due to the complexity of the process, it was first necessary to produce a set of Australian Technical Specifications (ATS) on which the final Australian Standards would be based. In 2008 the suite of Australian Technical Specifications for non urban water metering (ATS) 4747 were published. Following a two year public consultation period, ATS 4747 are now being considered for conversion to an Australian Standard. It is anticipated that, once underway, the conversion will take approximately one year to complete.

Meter Installers, Maintainers, Validators Certification Program

The National Framework for Non-urban Water Metering requires that all meters for non-urban use must be installed/maintained/validated in by certified industry professionals in accordance with the relevant standards and legislative requirements.

Significant work has been undertaken to ensure that sufficient numbers of industry personnel become certified as installers, maintainers and validators of meters. In 2007, the Australian Government provided funding to Irrigation Australia Limited (IAL) to establish an industry based certification scheme to support the implementation of the national metrological assurance framework scheme.

Accreditation under the 'Non-Urban Meter Installation and Maintenance' training course can be achieved through completion of competencies included in two current units of the Water Industry Training Package. These units are: "NWP302A Install meters for non-potable, non-urban water supplies" and "NWP304A Maintain meters for non-potable, non-urban water supplies".

Meter Test Facilities

In order to qualify as suitable for installation under the National Framework, a water meter must be manufactured to comply with the pattern approval requirements, administered by the National Measurement Institute (NMI). Pattern approval determines whether a water meter is capable of achieving specified metrological standards of performance (accuracy) as well as retaining its calibration over a range of environmental and operating conditions while not being capable of facilitating fraud.

On 6 March 2008 following a competitive process, the former Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator the Hon. Penny Wong) agreed to award grants under the *Accreditation and the Upgrading of Water Meter Testing Facilities Programs* to facilities to enable them to make the upgrades necessary to test meters against the pattern approval requirements.

Two facilities have received accreditation under NATA; Manly Hydraulics Laboratory and the University of South Australia, and testing has commenced.

Source: <https://www.environment.gov.au/water/rural-water/srwui/non-urban-water-metering/industry-capacity-building>