

Exemptions

Under Part 7A (5) of the regulations, councils may allow consent holders to provide records at a later deadline (at the council's discretion). Records must still comprise of measurements taken every 15 minutes.

The council must approve this in writing and the exemption is only to be given when councils are satisfied that it is impracticable for the permit holder to comply with daily reporting due to limitations in telecommunications.

Exemptions apply for one year and must be re-applied for annually. These applications must be received between 1 July and 31 December of the year prior to the water year.

Under Part 9, Councils can still give approval for weekly recording of water use but this is expected to be used minimally.

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a new water meter?

Unlikely. Meters installed since the 2010 regulations were required to be suitable for retrofitting with telemetry devices.

Do I need mains power at my site?

No, mains power is not required. Units can be solar or battery-powered.

Where do I find an installer or host?

Ask the council who issued your consent or find an accredited company via Irrigation New Zealand's Blue Tick Accreditation page: <https://www.irrigationnz.co.nz/accreditation>. Search by your region and the service type you require.



Measuring and reporting water takes: a quick guide for consent holders

In accordance with the Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010, and the 2020 Amendments



Who do the regulations apply to?

The regulations continue to apply to holders of resource consents that allow freshwater to be taken at a rate of 5 litres/second (l/sec) or more.

They do not apply to holders of permits for non-consumptive takes; or holders of permits to take of coastal or geothermal water.

2020 changes to reporting requirements

Changes were made to the regulations in 2020 to increase the frequency of recording and reporting.

Daily reporting of measurements taken in each 15-minute period is now a requirement. Some exemptions are possible.

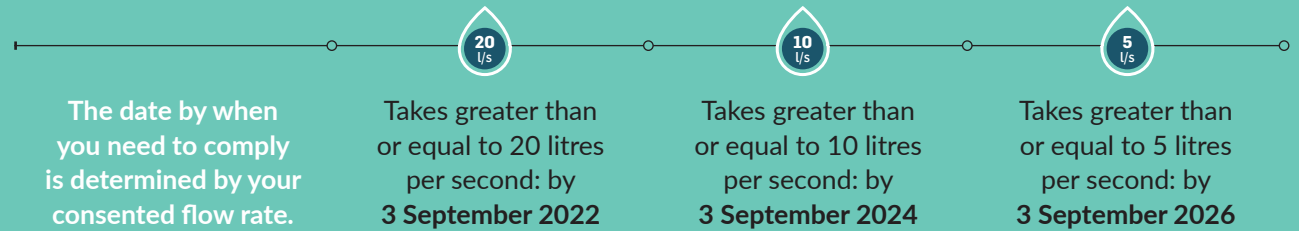
To comply with these regulations, consent holders will need to install telemetry devices to ensure automatic daily transfer of data to councils.

What is telemetry?

Telemetry is the automatic collection and transfer of data. When talking about telemetry for water measurement, we are referring to two parts of the device:

- the logger that counts the pulses and stores measurements made in each 15-minute period.
- the communication device that sends the stored data to the data host and then to the relevant council.
- For more information, refer to the Ministry for the Environment publication, *Measuring and reporting water takes: a guide for consent holders*, available at environment.govt.nz, or email freshwater@mfe.govt.nz.

Timeframes for implementation



What is the cost?

Telemetry costs vary between hosts. The variation is largely driven by the unit's capabilities and subscription costs. Rough costs as at the publishing of this guidance are:

- unit and installation: \$600 to \$1500
- subscriptions ranging from \$20 to \$30 per month.

How does telemetry benefit me?

- It removes the time-consuming job of manually reading and reporting water use.
- Alerts can be set up with your host for system fault finding.
- It can monitor pump performance based on output (flow rate).
- It helps you understand your water use better and informs your decisions on further use.
- Accurate records of water use are beneficial during consent renewals or reviews.

Who installs and maintains telemetry systems?

Third party providers usually install and maintain telemetry systems. The only council in New Zealand that does not require the use of third-party providers is Horizons Regional Council as they install and maintain all telemetry sites themselves.

Installers

Many electrical and irrigation companies can install telemetry devices, but they are often resellers, they do not host the data or transfer it to the council.

Data hosts

Data hosts are specialist companies that provide sensors, measurement tools and telemetry equipment which transmits data to clients and councils. Often, they use resellers to install equipment to ensure national coverage for their product.

Who is responsible for fixing failed transmission systems?

While the consent holder is ultimately responsible, often councils and data hosts will work together to resolve the issue as they both receive alerts.