

# Metering Water Extractions

Policy

May 2005

*improving water management  
securing entitlements  
facilitating trading*



**Queensland** Government  
Natural Resources and Mines

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**Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines,  
Water Management and Use (Queensland)**

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## **FOREWORD**

Growing pressure upon Australia's water resources from increasing urban and regional population growth means Australians must be smarter about how much water we use and when and how we use it. Better planning and management, more efficient on-farm use and establishing the value of water are key elements for ensuring a sustainable future.

Under the Queensland Government's *Metering Water Extractions Policy* the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will install approximately 16,000 meters as part of a statewide metering project. The metering of all works that take unsupplemented water for commercial purposes will enable the Queensland Government to greatly enhance its ability to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the national water reform agenda and the National Water Initiative.

Metering the water extracted from water courses, lakes and aquifers provides the Queensland Government with the information needed to implement effective water resource management strategies. Equally importantly, meters also provide entitlement holders with greater security that their entitlement will not be eroded, as well providing them with up-to-date water use information. . Water users can use this information to modify water use practices to save water and production costs.

Improving Queensland's water resource accounting, monitoring and reporting systems through metering will ensure water resource planning, allocation and management activities are more effective in securing sustainable water allocations and environmental flows. The statewide metering system is a fundamental mechanism for facilitating the operation of water markets and water trading schemes. Secure water entitlements (along with prices that better reflect the value of water as a tradable commodity) will increase the confidence of investors in the water industry.

I am pleased to present the *Metering Water Extractions Policy* to the people of Queensland. It represents the beginning of a new era - an era in which the Queensland Government is working to establish a world-leading metering system for managing water resources and securing water entitlements for the future.

Stephen Robertson MP,  
**Minister for Natural Resources and Mines**