



Australian Government



Inspector-
General of
Water
Compliance

Metering report card key messages

- One of the most common areas of concern raised with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance is the state of metering across the Basin. There is a commonly held perception that inconsistencies in metering across the Basin has created an unfair and uneven playing field.
- The Inspector-General and staff have been working in collaboration with Basin jurisdictions to develop a metering report card which will demonstrate progress being made towards the level of metering coverage, accuracy and timeliness of data that meets community expectations.
- The report card will be developed annually and covers three broad categories of effective measurement of water take:
 - Coverage (does the pump have a meter)
 - Accuracy (does that meter meet the Australian standards)
 - Timeliness (are meter readings being collected or monitored in a timely manner)

There are gaps in the data. Why is that?

- The report card is a demonstration of progress at a point in time as at 30 June 2021, and we acknowledge it isn't perfect and we are continuing to work with states on maturing their data sets.
- We ultimately want to compare apples with apples, and right now in some areas it's like comparing pink ladies with granny smiths – similar but not exactly the same.
- So where there is 'no data' it doesn't necessarily mean there wasn't any data or information provided to the Inspector-General, it just means in some cases the data provided wasn't the comparable data we were looking for.
- One of the recommendations of the Des Pearson review was to work collaboratively with Basin jurisdictions while also having improved transparency. We see the report card as the beginning of this journey.

What is telemetry and why is it important?

- Telemetry is automatic and wireless transmission of data. The Inspector-General sees this as an area which could be improved, to allow for more timely reporting of data.
- NSW and Victoria are the only Basin jurisdictions that actively mandate the use of telemetry for some of their licence holders.
- In Victoria, approximately 45% of their non-urban meters are fitted with telemetry, and this represents approximately 71% of total meterable water take.
- Queensland released a revised non-urban metering policy in late 2022. This policy indicates that telemetry will be required for high-risk entitlements in high-risk areas, which will include the Queensland portion of the Murray-Darling Basin.
- SA do not currently mandate telemetry for any of their licence holders, however they are undertaking telemetry trials to determine its suitability for some of their licence holders.
- The ACT does not mandate telemetry for any of its licence holders and maintains that from a risk perspective (in terms of volume of water take) it is not justified.