

Water Metering - why measure your water use

The information in this sheet explains

- how measuring water use is useful to both irrigators and Regional Council,
- methods for returning water use data to Council
- administration charges.

Measuring water use

The increasing demand for water by agriculture, industry, urban users, and recreation makes proper management and conservation of our water supplies increasingly important. Proper management of water use requires an understanding of how much water irrigation system uses. Water meters; when properly selected and maintained, can be the most accurate and easiest method for measuring water flow.

Measuring your water use can help you to -

1. Improve irrigation water use efficiency by accurately measuring how much water is applied
2. Determine pumping efficiency to allow water to be supplied as inexpensively as possible
3. Detect potential well, pump or irrigation system problems
4. Identify if you are complying with your consent conditions.

The Regional Council uses the water use data to -

1. Keep track of and make efficient use of water allocation
2. Monitor compliance with consent conditions
3. Understand water resources and eco systems responses to pumping
4. Plan for future economic growth of communities in a sustainable way.

Methods for returning water data

The technical monitoring condition in water take consents can vary. Your consent may require you to use telemetry as your reporting method or require you to manually read the meter daily or weekly and each month report to Council.

If you are not sure what your consent requires you to do, it is important to clarify this, so please contact the Hawke's Bay Regional Council on (06) 835-9200 and ask to speak to a consents adviser.

Telemetry is a technology that allows remote measurement and reporting of information. A telemetry device fitted to a water meter receives a pulse from the meter (generally 1 pulse per 3mtr of water), accumulates the pulses then transmits it to the telemetry provider for you to view on a web page. The telemetry provider reports the water use directly into the Council's database each day. Telemetry allows you to monitor more than just your water take – you can also monitor air and soil temperature, soil moisture and pump failures. Talk to local irrigation installers or irrigation user group about telemetry options.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has developed a dialup friendly web page on our **website** where water use data can be entered. To register to use the web page go to www.hbrc.govt.nz/wateruse, click register at the top of the page, fill in your details including your consent details and click. You will receive a conformation email. You can use the Help function for instructions on how to use the site

If you have any queries regarding data entry, please contact Jo Rodgers rodgers@hbrc.govt.nz or 06 833 8043.