



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL

DRAFT
REPLACEMENT OF WATER METERS
POLICY

JULY 2022

DOCUMENT CONTROL

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Manager Water and Wastewater				
REVIEWED BY:	Senior Management Team				
LINK TO CSP/DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN:	Theme 5 – A quality-built environment – 15a – Supply treated water to urban centres – 15a.02 – Provide and maintain reticulation services in Leeton, Yanco, Wamoon and Murrami.				
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PREVIOUS VERSIONS:	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS	AUTHOR/EDITOR	REVIEW/SIGN OFF	MINUTE NO (IF RELEVANT)
1	27/10/04				
2	26/06/13				13/136
3	13/7/22	Policy content transferred to new policy template. No amendments made.	Manager WWW		

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This document will be reviewed every 4 years or as required in the event of legislative changes or operational requirements.

Any major amendments to the document must be made by way of a Council Resolution. Minor amendments such as corrections to spelling, changes to wording for improved clarity, formatting and updates to the Appendixes may be made without approval from the Council.

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1. Purpose

The purpose is to assist staff in replacing water meters and where owners request to be levied for a smaller water service connection to their property.

Council has adopted access charges based on the water meter size to each property in implementing best practice water pricing. Increased sizes above 20mm/25mm attract higher charges to reflect the instantaneous demand that could be placed on the water supply system by the draw off to that property.

For some time Council has permitted a maximum standard size of 20mm for metering residential properties, to ensure that water availability during peak demands is equally distributed to each property by having uniform size metering.

Prior to this practice being implemented, property owners had the option of 25mm and larger service connections and meters. However, with a limited supply available through a 100mm and 150mm water main system, it is necessary to provide water availability throughout the system in an equitable manner on a needs basis. Council can only permit a maximum standard size of 20mm for metering residential properties, to ensure that water availability during peak demands is equally distributed to each property by having uniform size metering.

Council has an obligation to the Minister for the implementation of Demand Management principles to reduce the demand on the water supply treatment storage and distribution system. This will assist in delaying the need to augment the existing infrastructure, with large savings in capital expenditure.

Current water reforms are placing greater accountability on water utilities for promoting reduction of water usage, and best practice management.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all existing and future water connections to properties.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Manager of Water and Wastewater is responsible for reviewing and implementing this policy.

The actual meter replacements will be delegated to the direct/indirect reporting line below the Manager.

The meter replacement may be delegated to external contractors.

4. Supporting Documents

Leeton Shire Council, Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (2009)
Leeton Shire Council, Water Conservation and Demand Management Strategy
Leeton Shire Council, Asset Management, Preliminary Strategic Implementation Plan

5. Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

Appendix A – Policy Procedure

The following guidelines will apply to any request for connection of town water, and replacement of existing water meters:

- That Council, in its ongoing water meter replacement program include the replacement of existing residential water service meters greater than 25mm, with a maximum size of 25mm.
- That the Council provide a water service with a minimum flow rate during normal off peak demand periods, at the property boundary of 0.5 litres/sec where possible.
- That the replacement of existing larger water meters with smaller water meters at the request of property owners, be included in the water meter replacement program on a prioritised basis, taking into account the age of the meter, accuracy of recordings at low flows, serviceability and suitability of the meter etc.
- In conjunction with Council's water main replacement program, all replacement meters for residential connections be a uniform 20mm, subject to satisfying 2 above, or 25mm for those properties with an existing 25mm or larger meter installed.
- That all new connections to residential properties and subdivisions be metered with a standard 20mm water meter. This will include individual metering of units in a strata subdivision where practicable.
- That all requests for non residential connections be considered on an individual basis. This will apply for connections for commercial and industrial development, schools etc, taking into account usage requirements, fire protection requirements etc.
- All new connections to rural holdings will be considered as residential connections, with the fitment of a standard 20mm meter.