



Notice

15 July 2016

Water Compliance Reporting Manual - 2016

The Economic Regulation Authority (**ERA**) has published an amended version of the Water Compliance Reporting Manual 2016 (**Water Manual**).

- [Water Manual \(clean version\)](#)
- [Water Manual \(marked-up version\)](#)

Amendments to the Water Manual

The ERA amended the water services licence template (**licence**) as a result of the 2016 Water Licence Review. The new licences commenced on 1 July 2016. The ERA's decision on the new licence template can be found here:

- [Decision on Water Licences](#)

In addition to the amendments deriving from the amended template, the Water Manual has been edited to streamline information on performance reporting and correct some minor typographical errors.

For the first time, the ERA's policy for re-numbering modified licence obligations has been applied to the Water Manual, which is explained in more detail later in this notice.

The Water Manual replaces the previous version, which was published in April 2014.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is important that there is a shared understanding among all stakeholders on the licence terms and conditions. To support this, the ERA has issued the Water Manual to provide:

- a consolidated list of the compliance obligations relevant to the licensees, depending on their licence type;
- categorisation of licence conditions to assist with reporting obligations;
- a self-assessment framework for licensees to facilitate compliance with licence conditions and report non-compliances to the ERA; and
- the format and due dates of the reports that licensees must provide to the ERA.

The Water Manual aims to identify all the compliance requirements for water supply, sewerage, drainage and irrigation licensees. Licensees are encouraged to note the compliance requirements that apply to their licence type and circumstances.

Numbering of Licence Obligations in the Water Manual

The ERA's policy for re-numbering modified licence obligations has been applied in the Water Manual. The ERA implemented this policy following feedback from industry representatives during the 2014 review of the ERA's *Audit and Review Guidelines: Water Licences*. The continuity of numbering will assist licensees in tracking their legislative obligations over long periods of time, and will be of particular assistance to auditors conducting operational audits of a water licence.

When a licence obligation is rescinded, the applicable obligation number is not reused and the description of the obligation is changed to "not used". When new obligations are added to the manual, they are indexed with an additional letter after the number, for example, the number 10A will be assigned to a new obligation inserted between 10 and 11.

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