

Essential Services Commission of South Australia
GPO Box 2605
Adelaide SA 5001

Re Submission on South Australian Water Metering Code

The Barossa Council operates a number of CWMS networks in the Barossa Valley, with a large number of effluent (sewer) customers and only a handful of reuse water customers. The reuse water customers are both internal and external to Council, external customers are all local growers who take the reuse water as bulk water into their own distribution pipework with council having no metering on the users properties.

The current cost per KL is below \$0.50 with users invoiced yearly, this price takes into consideration that this water must be taken by customers to prevent dumping of reuse water into waterways which when it occurs is a major cost to Council in additional monitoring costs as required by to EPA.

The philosophy in the development of this supplier/customer reuse water market is to have the most reliable and environmentally sound method of disposal of treatment effluent from our CWMS systems and giving benefit back to all ratepayers when the reuse water is used for Council functions.

With Council having this philosophy regarding the sale of reuse water the metering of actual flows is based on operational flow meters being used not metering points/rigs as defined by Australian standards.

Please see below the Council's response to the questions asked by the Issues Paper in reference to our reuse water customers no submissions on metering our effluent(sewer) will be made as metering of these customers is not realistic.

- 1. Are the existing practices, processes, standards and specifications for meters sound and do they provide for satisfactory meter provision services?*

The metering currently used is suitable for the bulk reuse water supply as metering points/setups are agreed to at time of signing supply contracts. Any requirement to change from current arrangements would need a change to supply contracts to allow recovery of the cost of the new metering requirements and with the low cost per KL charged the increase in meter accuracy would be at a great cost per KL

2. Do the current metering arrangements provide adequate customer protections in keeping with the Commission's primary objective of protecting the long-term interests of consumers?
YES With the Low Cost per KL of reuse water the financial risk of small errors on metering using the current metering arrangement is very low compared to the additional costs of changing the metering arrangements.
3. If not, does a strong case exist to introduce a Water Metering Code?
NO not with Low Cost bulk water reuse customers
4. What additional benefits to customers (and retailers) would be realised by the introduction of a code?
None not with Low Cost bulk water reuse customers
5. If introduced, what other aspects of metering should be included in a Water Metering Code?
None at this time
6. What metering information should be provided to customers and how should it be conveyed?
With bulk water low cost reuse water supply flexibility in the information conveyed to it to be changed to reflect the customer's requirement as agreed to in supply contracts

For any additional comment please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below

Regards



Michael Clark
CWMS Coordinator
The Barossa Council
PH 85638479