

# Water Regulations 2014

## FACT SHEET

### Why do we need new water and sewer regulations?

Water supply and sewerage service levels currently vary across the state, in part because metropolitan and regional water corporations have regulated activities differently.

The Water (Estimation, Supply and Sewerage) Regulations 2014 and the Water (Trade Waste) Regulations 2014 provide a consistent approach to regulating water supply, sewerage and trade waste and reduce red tape by replacing various bylaws and regulations with a single set of regulations for all water corporations.

### What are the key changes?

The Water and Sewerage Regulations largely confirm existing arrangements, with some extra provisions to help water corporations manage ongoing issues.

The Water and Sewerage Regulations provide that:

- plumbers will be responsible for the safe keeping of a water corporation's meters until they are installed on a customer's property;
- a person can ask a water corporation to test their water meter for accuracy and the timeframes for complying with such a request;
- customers will be required to install a backflow prevention device if their property poses a risk to the corporation's reticulated water supply;
- plumbers are required to obtain consent before commencing works and connecting a property to the Water Corporations sewerage or water ,
- plumbers will be required to submit sanitary drainage plans to the relevant water corporation upon the completion of work that alters or removes existing sanitary works or installs new sanitary works; and
- Water corporations will be responsible for maintenance of water supply pipes and sanitary drains that connect the property to the water corporation's water or sewer main. **Refer to diagram attached**

### Will penalties be affected?

Yes. Penalties for non-compliance will increase from two to three penalty units, to between five and 20 penalty units. This is because the current penalties are low and, in some cases, cheaper than the cost of meeting the requirements.

The consequences of not complying are significant. For example, backflow of sewerage could affect a large number of properties. Penalties need to rise to act as a deterrent.

A penalty unit is currently \$147.61.

## Revocation of existing regulatory arrangements

The [Water Industry Revocation Regulations 2014](#) also commence on 1 July 2014 and revoke the existing Water Industry Regulations 2006. Any existing water corporation by-laws that exist will not apply to the extent that they are inconsistent with the new regulations.

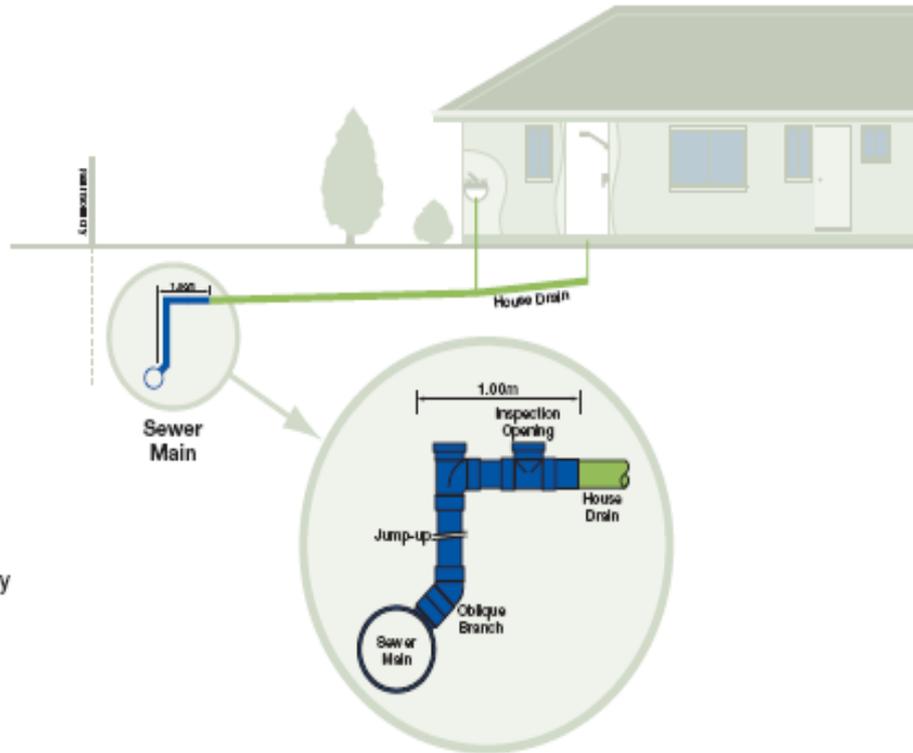
The proposed Regulations largely confirm current arrangements, with some extra provisions to help water corporations and their customers better manage recurring issues. The key changes to water supply and sewerage regulations are:

- plumbers will be responsible for the safe keeping of a water corporation's meters until they are installed on a customer's property;
- people will be clearer about when they can ask a water corporation to test their water meter for accuracy and the timeframes for complying with this;
- as identified above, maintenance obligations have been changed to require water corporations, in most cases, to maintain pipes and drains outside a customer's property boundary. This improves customer service state wide and aims to reduce the overall costs of maintaining the infrastructure.

# ATTACHMENT 1 SEWER AND WATER MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Sewer maintenance responsibilities where sewer main is located **inside** the property boundary.

- Owner's Full Responsibility
- LMW's Full Maintenance Responsibility



Sewer maintenance responsibilities where sewer main is located **outside** the property boundary.

- Owner's Full Responsibility
- LMW's Full Maintenance Responsibility

