

Innovative Smart Metering Program for Hervey Bay

What is the AMR Smart Metering Project?

The AMR Smart Metering Program is a city-wide program to replace all existing domestic water meters in Wide Bay Water's service area with newer, "smarter" technology. The program will be known generally in the community as "Smart Metering" because of the new meters' ability to collect comprehensive data on water consumption, and because the data can be collected "remotely".

Twenty thousand domestic water meters will be replaced with "Smart Metering" units in several phases:

- an initial "Proof of Concept" phase consisting of 1500 units
- five further phases to install the remaining 18,500 units.

This city-wide system is an Australian-first and possibly a world first type of water metering system. The project is estimated to cost \$5.4 million;

- The Australian Government has committed \$2.6 million towards the project under its Water Smart Australia Programme.
- The Queensland Government has committed \$930,000 to the project.

What are the benefits for ratepayers?

The smart metering system will assist us all to be smarter with our water management activities and lead to cost savings to ratepayers through the deferment of new capital infrastructure such as; pipe augmentation, treatment plants and water storages.

For example;

- The smart metering system will help identify leakage in our network, and in your homes; and as we eliminate leakage we reduce water wastage and delay the need for new capital works.
- The smart metering system will help us all to understand our water use patterns. If some water use activities are moved to off-peak periods, the city's peak usage can be maintained or even reduced. This can defer the need to upsize water mains thereby saving the Hervey Bay community millions of dollars in capital expenditure.

In short, "Smart Metering" will help us all to be smarter with our water use and this will translate to bottom line savings for ratepayers.

What are "smart" meters?

Wide Bay Water's smart metering system is not to be confused with the Trademarked SmartMeter™. Rather, the Hervey Bay system uses three pieces of equipment that make it "smart":

- a standard ELSTER meter
- a DATAMATIC data logger called a Firefly®, and
- a DATAMATIC transceiver called a Road Runner.

How does it work?

The Firefly is fitted to the Elster meter, and is capable of recording hourly flow data for up to 90/120 days (compared to existing meters which simply show total consumption from one meter reading to the next).

This data can be transmitted to the Road Runner - a transceiver which can be hand-held by meter readers or fitted to a vehicle.

The Road Runner beams a signal to "wake up" the Firefly, which then transmits the water flow/consumption data for the nominated period. In most cases this comprehensive data is transferred in less than 20 seconds.

Once captured, this data can then be transferred to a desktop computer and software package, which can process the information for billing.

Wide Bay Water is also working on developing a package to compile and convert the raw data into user-friendly information about water consumption patterns – both for individual customers, and for citywide resource planning.



More Information

Wide Bay Water Corporation is excited about this important new initiative that will keep our community at the forefront of water management practices. For more information;

call 1300 808 888
or visit
www.widebaywater.qld.gov.au