

# waterwise

Council advises you to regularly check your water meter to avoid any unexpected water leaks

The black/white numbers, on the left, show the reading in kilolitres.

These are the numbers used for billing purposes.

The white/red numbers, on the right, show litres used.

If this dial continues to move when all water taps are turned off inside the property it may indicate you have a leak.



## How to read your Water Meter

### Who's responsible for water infrastructure?

#### Property owner responsibilities

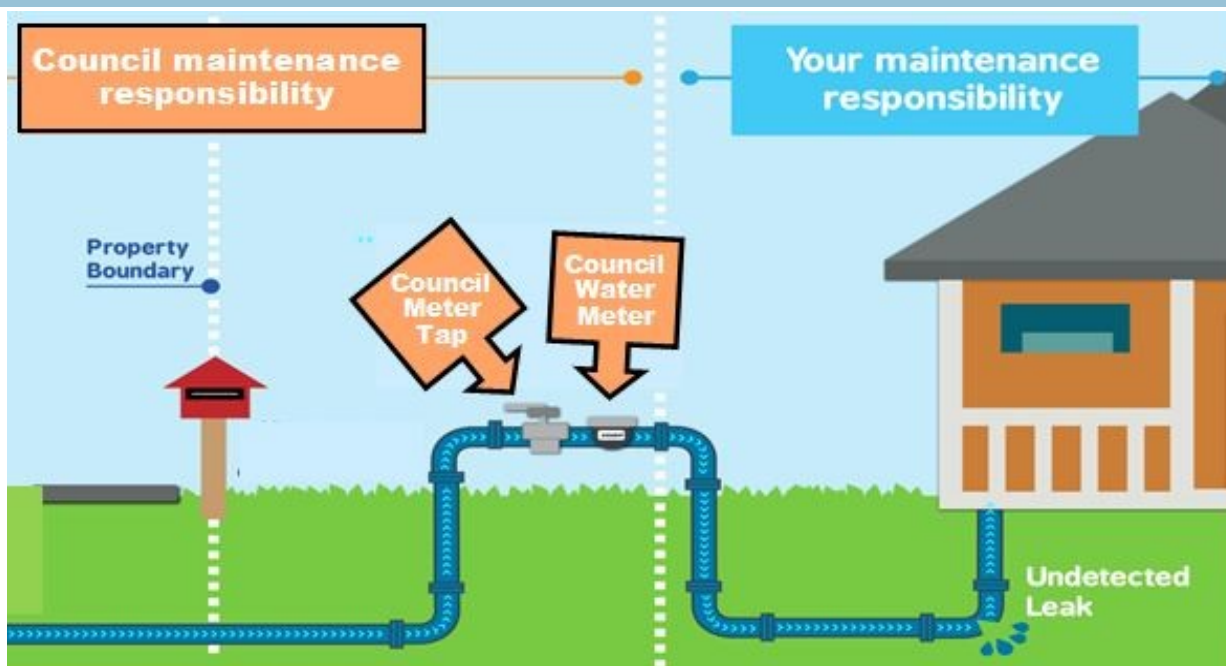
Property owners own and are responsible for the installation, repair, maintenance and replacement of all the private fittings, mains connected water tanks and pipes on their property up to the water meter connection point. If a leak or blockage is detected in these pipes, it is the property owner's responsibility to fix it. We recommend the property owner contacts a plumber to rectify the problem as soon as possible.

#### Council responsibilities

We are responsible for the water meter and the pipes leading away from the property. Any change to these pipes including new connections, disconnections and alterations must be authorised. If a problem is detected in these pipes, it is our responsibility to fix it.

### Repairing a Water Leak

If the leak is in one of your pipes (the property owner's pipes), you should call a licensed plumber. You will also be charged for the water that your property uses while the leak remains unrepaired. For information regarding Council's policy on Concealed Water Leaks please refer to [GRC 0071 Concealed Water Leaks Policy](#) on the Goondiwindi Regional Council website.



## *Detecting a Water Leak on your property*

There are a number of things you can look out for, as well as simple checks you can do, that will assist you in detecting leaks on your property. The simplest check is to take a reading of your water meter, don't use any water (including toilets) for half an hour and then read the meter again. If there is a difference between the two readings you may have a leak. If you suspect you have a leak, you can engage a plumber who can help you find and fix the leak.

### **Detecting a water leak tips for residential properties:**

- 💧 Look for dripping taps, damaged seals around all taps and sinks. (A tap that drips approximately 2 times per second can waste over 25 litres a day).
- 💧 Keep an eye out for any water pooling under the dishwasher and fridge (if it is connected to the plumbing).
- 💧 Investigate any warped or discoloured cupboards, bench tops or walls.
- 💧 Ensure your toilet cistern isn't continually running. (A leaking toilet is the most common leak and can waste up to 260 litres a day. Check by putting food colouring in the cistern. If the colour shows in the toilet bowl without flushing you've got a leak).
- 💧 Look for any cracked, frayed, bulging or wet hoses connecting the washing machine as well as any water pooling under the washing machine or laundry tub.
- 💧 Check around the house for damp, warped or discoloured walls and floorboards as well as damp carpets.
- 💧 Check for drips on the side of the hot water system.
- 💧 In the garden look for wet patches or areas of grass that are greener than expected as well as damp and unstable brick paving or concrete.
- 💧 Check outdoor garden taps/hoses, garden reticulation (including sprinklers) for drips and leaks.
- 💧 Check evaporative air conditioners are functioning correctly.

### **Detecting a water leak tips for commercial properties:**

- 💧 Conduct monthly inspections of your business focusing on piping joints, toilets, showers, taps, pump seals, hose nozzles, shut-off valves, cooling towers etc.
- 💧 Poorly maintained equipment can often be prone to leaks. Check any equipment that uses water on a regular basis and put in place preventative maintenance schedules to help avoid potential issues.
- 💧 For underground or concealed pipe work, plumbing companies can be employed to use acoustic leak detection units and pressure testing to locate leaks.

## **How much water do you use?**

- 💧 Check your water bill, it gives an indication of average daily water use.
- 💧 Check your water meter. Make a note of your meter reading, then check it again week later. Divide the amount by seven to estimate the daily use for your household.