

# MASTER-SUBTRACTIVE METERING FACT SHEET

NEW PROCEDURES FOR INSTALLING SMART METERS FROM DECEMBER 2017

## Master and subtractive metering

A master meter measures total, or aggregated, power consumption at premises where downstream meters exist.

Meters installed downstream from a master meter are referred to as subtractive (or slave) meters, as they measure a subset of power already measured by the master meter.

Subtractive metering may be used to measure consumption by controlled load hot water systems, shearing sheds and bore pumps, etc.

While subtractive metering has not been installed by Essential Energy and its predecessor organisations for more than 20 years, around 14,300 premises within our distribution area (generally located in rural areas) have master-subtractive metering arrangements.

All master-subtractive installations have basic 'Type 6' accumulation meters.

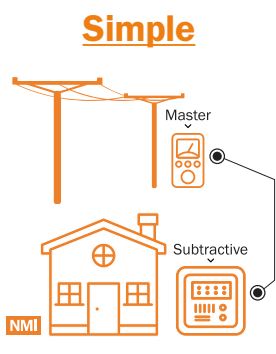
## Installation types

There are three types of master-subtractive metering configurations.

### Simple configuration

(comprising approximately 9,500 premises) incorporates:

- > one master meter
- > one subtractive meter
- > one National Metering Identifier (NMI)
- > one Financially Responsible Market Participant (FRMP – generally an electricity retailer).



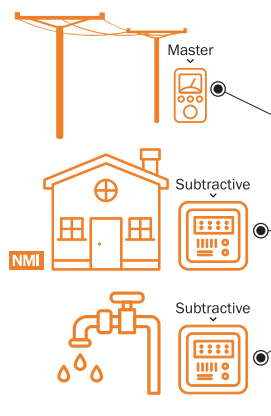
### Complex Single Premises configuration

(comprising approximately 3,100 premises) incorporates:

- > either more than one master meter, or

- > more than one subtractive meter, or
- > more than one of each
- > one National Metering Identifier (NMI)
- > one Financially Responsible Market Participant (FRMP – generally an electricity retailer).

### Complex Single Premise

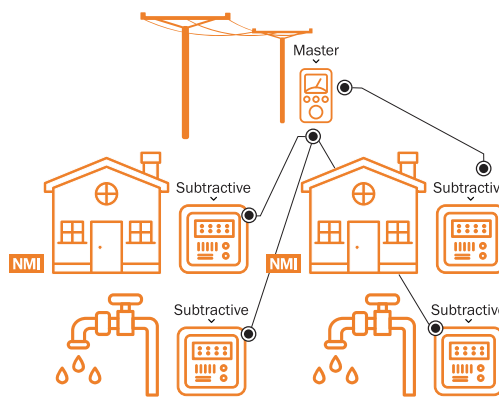


### Complex Multiple Premises configuration

(comprising approximately 1,700 premises) incorporates:

- > either more than one master meter, or
- > more than one subtractive meter, or
- > more than one of each
- > two or more National Metering Identifiers (NMI)
- > one or more Financially Responsible Market Participants (FRMP – generally an electricity retailer).

### Complex Multiple Premise



General enquiries **13 23 91**

Power outages **13 20 80**

Master-Subtractive metering technical enquiries **1800 065 396**

**essentialenergy.com.au**

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NEW PROCEDURES FOR INSTALLING SMART METERS FROM DECEMBER 2017

## Smart meter installation at master-subtractive metered premises

From December 2017, all new meters installed at premises must be smart (sometimes referred to as 'advanced' or 'Type 4') meters.

Smart meter installation will be undertaken at a site with a master-subtractive metering configuration:

- > at the request of a retailer (usually on behalf of a customer)
- > to replace a failed meter.

## Retaining concessional tariffs

- > **IMPORTANT:** Smart meters are not compatible with current master-subtractive metering configurations that enable customers to receive controlled load concessional tariffs.
- > To retain concessional tariffs measured by subtractive meters, customers will need to either re-wire or reconfigure wiring at their premises.
- > Alternatively, customers can contact their electricity retailer to discuss other tariffs that may be available (such as Essential Energy's Time of Use network tariff). However, some premises will still require re-wiring or reconfiguration.
- > If a subtractive meter has no concessional tariff, it may be possible to simply remove the subtractive meter and replace the master with a smart meter.

## Requests to install a smart meter

The following procedures will apply:

- > The retailer will assign a Metering Coordinator to arrange meter installation.
- > The Metering Coordinator will arrange a site visit.
- > Essential Energy's Metering Services team will be available to discuss optimal metering solutions with the retailer and their Metering Coordinator, including procedures for site re-wiring or reconfiguration, alternative tariff options, or not installing a smart meter and retaining existing master-subtractive metering.

- > Discussions with multiple retailers may be necessary for sites with multiple FRMPs.
- > The retailer will discuss options with the customer and notify the Metering Coordinator and Essential Energy of the preferred option.

## Replacing a failed meter

If a single meter fails at premises with master-subtractive metering, all meters at the site must be replaced with smart (Type 4) meter installation.

The following procedures will apply:

- > Essential Energy will send a Meter Fault Notification (MFN) to the retailer, and ask them to contact the Metering Services Team.
- > Essential Energy's Metering Services Team will provide advice on the type of master-subtractive metering configuration at the premises and discuss options for meter failure rectification.
- > The retailer will determine a preferred option and assign a Metering Coordinator to arrange smart meter installation.
- > Discussions with multiple Retailers may be required for sites with multiple FRMPs
- > If a retailer or their Metering Coordinator elect to seek an exemption from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) for rectification of a metering installation malfunction, Essential Energy will work with both the retailer and their Metering Coordinator to prepare an exemption request and a rectification plan, based on individual premises requirements.

## For further information

Contact Essential Energy's Metering Services team:  
Phone: **1800 065 396**  
E-mail: [metering.services@essentialenergy.com.au](mailto:metering.services@essentialenergy.com.au)

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