

# Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Policy - Containment Only

## 1 Purpose

Council is committed to preventing the possibility of **backflow** of contaminated substances into Council's water supply system, which if occurred, could result in sickness and in some cases, death. Backflow is the reverse flow of waters or other liquids from a potentially polluted source into the town's water supply. This is caused by several conditions:

1. **Backsiphonage** – is where the pressure in the reticulation system becomes less than atmospheric, this causes water from connected properties to flow backwards into the town's supply e.g. water main break
2. **Backpressure** – is when the consumer's water pressure is greater than the pressure in the town's water supply.
3. **Cross-Connection** – is a direct or indirect physical connection of a potable water supply to a line that is non-potable e.g., town water supply to a non-potable bore.

Coffs Harbour as the supplier of water to the public undertakes to provide safe drinking water to the consumer's property. Council ensures this by protecting the systems from contamination or pollution. With this in mind Council is undertaking to make all new and existing water connections compliant with the Local Government Acts and Australian Standards.

## 2 Policy

The objectives of the backflow prevention and cross connection control policy are to:

- Separate and protect the potable water supply from real or potential hazards by the installation of backflow devices
- Protect public health by providing a secure and safe water supply
- Manage cross connection and reduce the possibility of backflow
- Contain any real or potential hazard within the boundaries of the consumers property
- Ensure the integrity and safety of Councils water supply
- Ensure that non potable water from each end user does not infiltrate the Council water supply

Coffs Harbour City Council ensures the implementation of this policy by installing **LOW** hazard rated backflow prevention devices on all new 20 & 25mm domestic services. If these 20 & 25mm services meet high and medium hazard ratings it is up to the owners to ensure the correct device is installed. Council will also ensure that the owners or occupiers of services larger than 25 mm that have a high or medium hazard rating install the correct device. Existing properties that have been identified as having, **HIGH** or **MEDIUM** hazard ratings are the most urgent to ensure are compliant.

### 2.1 Requirements for Testable Devices

- All testable backflow devices must be registered with Council and tested on installation.
- All testable devices must be tested on an annual basis and results forwarded to Council.
- Council will be maintaining a database for all registered backflow devices.

## 2.2 Council's Rights

- Council has the right as the relevant authority to make any property owner install supplementary containment, zone or individual devices to guarantee that there will not be contamination of the town's water supply.
- Council has the right to recoup any costs that it incurs in the process of ensuring properties are compliant with the relevant codes and practises.

## 2.3 Hazard Ratings

### • High Hazard

Any condition, device or practice within the water supply system and its operation, which has the potential to cause death.

### • Medium Hazard

Any condition, device or practice within the water supply system and its operation, which could endanger health.

### • Low Hazard

Any condition, device or practice within the water supply system and its operation, which would constitute a nuisance but not endanger health.

## 3 Definitions

**Potable Water:** Water that is safe for human consumption

## 4 Key Responsibilities

Position	Directorate	Responsibility
Mayor	Council	To lead Councillors in their understanding of, and compliance with, this policy and guidelines.
General Manager	Executive	To lead staff (either directly or through delegated authority) in their understanding of, and compliance with, this policy and guidelines.
Directors	All Directorates	To communicate, implement and comply with this policy and related guidelines.
Council Leaders	All Directorates	To plan, action, communicate, implement and comply with this policy and related guidelines as it impacts your areas of responsibility.
All Council workers	Council	To comply with this policy and related guidelines.

## 5 References

- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
- Local Government Act 1993
- NCC2016-Plumbing Code of Australia -Volume-Three
- Australian Standard AS3500 National Plumbing and Drainage Code
- Australian Standard AS2845 Backflow Prevention
- CHCC Water Meter / Service Installation policy
- CHCC Urban Rainwater Tank Policy

## 6 Details of Approval and revision

- **Approval date:** 22/06/2017
- **Responsible Section:** Water and Sewer
- **Superseded policies/procedures:**
- **Next review date:** 22/06/2021

### Table of amendments

Amendment	Authoriser	Approval ref	Date