

Drinking Water Quality Policy

1 Purpose

The policy states Council's commitment to:

- Implementation of a Drinking water Quality Management System
- Meeting applicable and other regulatory requirements including consumer expectations in relation to potable drinking water.
- managing its water supply catchments, treatment and supply assets to provide safe, high quality drinking water, which consistently meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG)

Providing safe, high quality potable water utilising best practice water quality management in accordance with the ADWG

The ADWG, whilst not mandatory, is a scientific based framework for good management of drinking water supplies that when implemented, provides assurance that safe, quality and aesthetically pleasing potable water is delivered to customers at the point of supply.

2 Policy

To achieve Council's commitment, and in partnership with the community, other stakeholders and relevant agencies, Coffs Harbour City Council will:

- **Manage water quality from catchment to tap** at all points along the delivery chain, from the source water to the consumer's tap
- **Adopt a risk-based approach** in which potential threats to water quality are identified and managed, in accordance with the ADWG, to minimise any threat to drinking water quality
- **Integrate the needs and expectations** of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning
- **Establish effective monitoring programs** to systematically monitor the quality of drinking water and ensure effective reporting mechanisms. Provide relevant and timely information that promotes confidence in the water supply and its management to consumers
- **Develop / Review Contingency and Incident Response Plans** that will be regularly reviewed and updated
- **Participate in research and development** by maintaining awareness of current research and development activities to ensure that Coffs Harbour City Council is up to date with current industry standards
- **Contribute to setting industry regulations and guidelines** through active participation in the development of industry regulation and guidelines relevant to health and the broader water cycle
- **Adopt best practice water quality management** by aligning our water quality systems and processes with the framework's proactive and multi-barrier approach to best practice water quality management
- **Continually improve our management practices** by assessing performance against industry standards, corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations

- **Continually improve the capability of our staff** by encouraging and supporting participation in training and professional development and ensuring all employees are aware of and actively seek to achieve the aims of this policy
- Maintain a long term and sustainable water supply** which recognises global and regional priorities in the management of water.

3 Definitions

Drinking Water: potable water fit for human consumption

4 Key Responsibilities

General Manager

To lead staff through delegated authority in their understanding of this Policy.

Director Sustainable Infrastructure and Group Leader Strategic Asset Management

To ensure the commitment made within this Policy is implemented and met.

Water Services Team Leader

To oversee compliance with, and coordination of the Policy.

Council Officers

To promote the use of, and knowledge of this Policy.

5 References

- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011)
- Local Government Act 1993;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;
- Public Health Act 2010;
- NSW Public Health Regulation 2012;
- Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957 & associated 2007 Regulations;
- Water Management Act 2000;
- Water Act 1912;
- Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003;
- Competition and Consumer Act 2010;
- The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) 2011;
- NSW Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines;
- NSW Health Drinking Water Monitoring Program (2005);
- NSW Health Response Protocol for management of microbial quality of drinking water

6 Details of Approval and revision

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

Table of amendments

Amendment	Authoriser	Approval ref	Date

7 Appendices

Coffs Harbour City Council Drinking Water Quality Management System October 2013.