

# Recycled Water Quality Policy

## 1 Purpose

The Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling 2006 (AGWR) sets out a holistic approach to managing health and environmental risks of recycled water. This approach involves:

- Proactively identifying, assessing and managing risks to human and environmental health
- Identifying how hazards may arise
- Determining risk controls and barriers to protect users, the public and the environment.

Whilst the AGWR is not mandatory, it provides an authoritative reference based on the best scientific evidence for determining the safe use of recycled water. This policy states Council's commitment to the meeting the requirements of the AGWR and responsible, safe and sustainable use of recycled water.

## 2 Policy

In order to meet the AGWR, regulatory and recycled water user requirements, Council will:

1. Ensure that the protection of public and environmental health is recognised as being of paramount importance
2. Maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant agencies involved in managing water resources, including waters that can be recycled
3. Engage appropriate scientific expertise in developing recycled water schemes
4. Recognise the importance of community participation in decision-making processes and the need to ensure that community expectations are met
5. Manage recycled water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source to the recycled water user
6. Use a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and controlled
7. Integrate the needs and expectations of our recycled water users, communities, other stakeholders, regulators and employees into planning processes
8. Establish regular monitoring of control measures and recycled water quality and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the recycled water supply and its management
9. Develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability
10. Participate in and support appropriate research and development activities to ensure continuous improvement and continued understanding of recycled water issues and performance
11. Contribute to the development of industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle
12. Continually improve our practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

Coffs Harbour City Council will implement and maintain recycled water management systems consistent with the AGWR to effectively manage the risks to public and environmental health.

### 3 Definitions

**Recycled Water:** Water derived from sewage treatment that has been treated to achieve the required water quality standard.

### 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 and to ensure staff have frameworks and strategies necessary to implement and comply with this policy.
Council Leaders	Sustainable Infrastructure	To ensure policy is integrated into planning and decision making and to implement and comply with this policy and related procedures.
All Council officials	Council	All employees involved in the supply of recycled water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the recycled water management system.

### 5 References

- Local Government Act 1993
- Public Health Act 2010
- NSW Public Health Regulation 2012
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Competition and Consumer Act 2010
- The Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling (AGWR) 2006
- NSW Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines e.g. Related legislation

### 6 Details of Approval and revision

- **Approval date:** 14/09/2017
- **Responsible Section:** Asset Project Delivery
- **Superseded policies/procedures:**
- **Next review date:** 14/09/2021

#### Table of amendments

Amendment	Authoriser	Approval ref	Date