



DRINKING WATER QUALITY POLICY

Version No.	Responsible Department	Prepared By	Date First Created	Review Date	Adopted Date Resolution No.
1.0	Engineering & Infrastructure Services	Project Officer	16 August 2019	4 years	9 October 2019 – Resolution No 2019/264

1. PURPOSE

Narromine Shire Council ("Council") is committed to the sustainable supply and management of safe, high quality drinking water in the community. This policy provides a basis for the operation of Council's water supply involving catchments, storages, water treatment facilities and the distribution system.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Council is responsible for providing a safe, reliable and cost effective drinking water supply, which is customer focused, enhances the environment and caters for the sustainable growth of the Shire¹. There is a commitment to consistently meeting or exceeding the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), consumer and other regulatory requirements. Council will implement and maintain a drinking water quality management system consistent with the ADWG to effectively manage the risks associated with public and environmental health.

This policy provides a basis for developing more detailed guiding principles and implementation strategies. As such it addresses broad issues and requirements, such as:

- Commitment to responsible use of water, and the application of a risk based management approach;
- Recognition and compliance with relevant regulations and other requirements;
- Communication, engagement and partnership arrangements with agencies with relevant expertise, employees, contractors, stakeholders and with water users;
- Council's intention to adopt best-practice management and a multiple-barrier approach;
- Continuous improvement in managing the treatment and use of drinking water; and
- Considering the opinions and requirements of all partnership agencies, employees, other stakeholders and the wider community.

Council will ensure that all staff involved in water supply will understand, implement, maintain and continuously improve the water management system.

Staff membership and participation in professional associations dealing with management and use of drinking water is encouraged.

3. POLICY PROVISIONS

Council supports and promotes the responsible and sustainable use of water and the application of a management approach that consistently meets the Australian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines as well as regulatory requirements.

¹ Narromine Shire Council Water Asset Management Plan (AMP 1) – Levels of Service
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To achieve this Council will:

- Ensure that protection of public and environmental health is recognised as being of paramount importance;
- Maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant agencies involved in the management of water resources;
- Engage appropriate scientific expertise in developing and operating the water schemes;
- Meet the cost of providing water by applying appropriate cost recovery practices;
- Recognise the importance of community participation in decision-making processes and the need to ensure that community expectations are met within a sustainable framework;
- Manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source to the water user;
- Use a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and controlled;
- Integrate the needs and expectations of our water users, communities and other stakeholders, regulators and employees into planning processes;
- Establish regular monitoring of control measures and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information to Council, Regulators and key stakeholders, and promote confidence in the water supply and its management;
- Develop and maintain appropriate contingency planning and incident-response capability to efficiently manage Council's response to drinking water quality incidents.
- Participate in and support appropriate research and development activities to ensure continuous improvement and continued understanding of water issues and performance;
- Participate in setting industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle.
- Ensure a continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and efficient operation of water supply schemes through employee training and education; and
- Continually improve our practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

4. DEFINITIONS

Drinking Water – Water, provided by Council, intended primarily for human consumption.

5. LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS

This policy has been developed to be consistent with the following legislative requirements:

- Water Management Act, 2000
- Local Government Act, 1993
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- National Water Quality Management Strategy, 2018
- NSW Public Health Act 2010 No 127
- NSW Public Health Regulation 2012

6. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The effectiveness of this policy will be measured by:

- Compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan.
- Customer feedback.
- Drinking water usage
- Audits by Health NSW Drinking Water Unit

7. REVIEW

The Drinking Water Quality Policy and associated management plans will be reviewed every four (4) years, or as required.