

Drinking Water Quality Policy

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

1. Policy Statement

Townsville City Council (Council) is committed to promoting and protecting public health by managing its water supply to provide safe, high-quality Drinking Water.

2. Principles

Council wishes to ensure that it supplies high quality Drinking Water that meets or exceeds our DWQMP and the ADWG standards.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Workers responsible for the provision of Drinking Water to the Declared Water Service Areas of Townsville.

4. Responsibility

The Chief Executive Officer and the Director Infrastructure and Operations are responsible for ensuring this policy is understood and adhered to by all relevant Workers.

5. Definitions

ADWG - Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011 Version 3.8 Updated September 2022).

Declared Water Service Area --means the area to which Council is able to offer a potable water service to properties. Not all properties within a local government area will have access to a potable water service.

Drinking Water - means water, for human consumption, intended primarily as water for drinking, whether or not the water is used for other purposes.

DWQMP - Drinking Water Quality Management Plan as referred to in the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

Manager - an individual responsible for overseeing and coordinating specific functions, departments, teams or projects within Townsville City Council.

Workers - includes employees, contractors, volunteers and all others who perform work on behalf of Council.

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PAGE 1 OF 2

6. Policy

In order for Council to provide safe, high quality Drinking Water, Council will:

- manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from “catchment to meter” by using a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified, assessed and mitigated;
- integrate the needs and expectations of consumers, stakeholders, regulators and Workers into its planning to provide and maintain a safe water supply;
- establish and maintain regular and effective Drinking Water quality monitoring and reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, that promotes confidence in the management of its water supply systems;
- develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capabilities to manage incidents and other emergent events potentially affecting water quality;
- participate in appropriate research and development activities (including Worker training) to ensure continued understanding of Drinking Water quality issues and performance;
- contribute to setting industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle;
- continually improve its practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations; and
- openly communicate this policy to the community to encourage public awareness.

7. Legal Parameters

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Public Health Act 2005

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

8. Associated Documents

Townsville City Council’s Drinking Water Quality Management Plan 2011

Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011 Version 3.8 Updated September 2022)

Queensland Water Service Provider - Water Services Annual Performance Report

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PAGE 2 OF 2