

Drinking Water Quality Policy

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Townsville City 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 staff responsible for the provision of drinking water to the declared water service areas of Townsville.

Townsville City Council supplies both potable and non-potable water and this policy applies to potable water only.

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 staff.

5. DEFINITIONS

ADWG – means Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011 Version 3.4 Updated October 2017).

Declared Water Service Area – means the declared water service area is the area to which council is able to offer a portable water service to properties. Not all properties within a local government area will have access to a portable water service.

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

Manager – includes persons appointed to positions with the title, Team Manager, General Manager, Principal, Director and Chief.

Portable Water – Water that is safe to drink or to use in food preparation.

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

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6. POLICY

The council wishes to provide safe, high quality drinking water, and 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 employees 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 employee 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

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

Public Health Act 2005

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Townsville Water Drinking Water Quality Management Plan 2011

Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011 Version 3.4 Updated October 2017)