

Recycled Water Re-Use 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 recycled water supply to provide safe, high-quality recycled water for irrigation and industrial purposes only.

2. Principles

This policy ensures that Council supplies only appropriate quality recycled water in accordance with:

- the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*; and
- the National Water Quality Management Strategy.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all workers responsible for the provision of recycled water.

4. Responsibility

The Director of Infrastructure and Operations and the General Manager Water Services are responsible for ensuring this policy is understood and adhered to by all relevant workers.

5. Definitions

Recycled water - means wastewater treated to a standard that is appropriate for its intended use.

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

6. Policy

In order for Council to provide recycled water only of an appropriate standard Council will:

- manage recycled water at all points along the delivery chain from “catchment to meter” by using a risk-based approach in which potential threats to recycled water quality are identified, assessed and addressed;

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Document No. - 26527963
Authorised by - Director Infrastructure & Operations
Document Maintained by - Water Services

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Version No. 3
Initial Date of Adoption (Version No. 1) - 11.12.18
Current Version Reviewed - 20.11.24
Next Review Date - 20.11.28
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- provide recycled water that will be used in accordance with the general accepted practices for using recycled irrigation water in an urban environment that will ensure:
 - (a) applied recycled irrigation water should not leave the specified site as direct run-off;
 - (b) applied recycled irrigation water should not leave site as wind drift;
 - (c) applied recycled irrigation water should not leave site as run-off from rain event mixed with recycled irrigation water; and
 - (d) applied irrigation water should not leave site as run-off from applying recycled irrigation water to soil already at saturation point or beyond target profile depth.

Council will work with end users to ensure adequate measures and controls are put in place to mitigate the risk of the above;

- integrate the needs and expectations of consumers, stakeholders, regulators and workers into its planning to provide and maintain a safe recycled water supply;
- establish and maintain regular and effective recycled water quality monitoring and reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and to promote confidence in the management of its recycled water supply systems;
- develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capabilities to manage incidents and other emergent events potentially affecting recycled water quality;
- participate in appropriate research and development activities (including worker training) to ensure continued understanding of recycled 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;
- provide the community and relevant stakeholders with relevant and timely information; 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

Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (NHMRC)

Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risk (NWQMS)

National Water Quality Management Strategy

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