



COUNCIL POLICY

Drinking Water Quality

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| POLICY NO | 052 |
| DEPARTMENT | ENGINEERING & COMMERCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE |
| PROGRAM | WATER AND WASTE SERVICES |

1.0 Scope

This policy applies to the treatment and distribution of potable water from 'source to tap' within the Mackay Regional Council (MRC).

2.0 Purpose

The intent of this policy is to provide a strategic, preventative approach to total drinking water total management and outlines the policy for the treatment and distribution of potable water from 'source to tap' within the Mackay Regional Council (MRC).

3.0 Reference

- Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act of 2008
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

4.0 Definitions

To assist in interpretation the following definitions shall apply:

Act shall mean *the water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act of 2008*

AWDG shall mean *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011*

Council shall mean *Mackay Regional Council*

MRC shall mean *Mackay Regional Council*

Region shall mean *the area within the boundaries of MRC*

WWS shall mean *the Water and Waste Services Program of MRC*

5.0 Background

WWS is a commercialised business unit, responsible for the provision of quality, cost effective and environmentally sustainable water services within the region.

WWS is committed to delivering sustainable water services to the region in an efficient and commercially responsible manner.

6.0 Policy Statement

WWS is committed to managing its water supply effectively to provide a safe, high-quality drinking water that consistently meets AWDG framework and other regulatory requirements as well as consumer expectations.

To achieve this, in partnerships with stakeholders and relevant agencies, WWS will:

- Manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source water to the consumer's tap by using a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and managed to minimize any threat to drinking water quality in accordance with the AWDG.
- Comply with the health-related criteria of the AWDG and work to progressively improve compliance with aesthetic criteria.
- Integrate the needs and expectations of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning with effective two-way communication.
- Retain regular monitoring of the quality of drinking water and effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the water supply and its management to consumers.
- Maintain an appropriate contingency planning and incident response capacity.
- Participate in appropriate research and development activities (including employee training) to ensure continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and performance.
- Contribute to the debate on setting industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle.
- Continually improve our practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

WWS will implement and maintain a drinking water quality management system consistent with the AWDG to effectively manage the risks to drinking water quality.

The senior management of MRC are responsible for:

- ensuring that the activities of the Council are in keeping with this policy.
- facilitating the implementation of the policy by providing the necessary authorities and allocating the required funding within Council's budgetary constraints.

All managers and employees involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the drinking water quality management system.

WWS will communicate freely to the public its drinking water quality policy and implementation.

7.0 Review of Policy

This Policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council

Notwithstanding the above, this policy is to be reviewed at intervals of no more than two years.