

**Program:** Water Treatment  
**Date of Adoption:** 24 May 2023  
**Resolution Number:** ORD-2023-127  
**Review Date:** 24 May 2026

### Scope

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

### Objective

To provide a strategic, preventative approach to drinking water total management and to outline the policy for the treatment and distribution of potable water from 'source to tap' within the MRC local government area.

### Policy Statement

Water and Waste Services are committed to managing our water supply effectively to provide a safe, high-quality drinking water that consistently meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) and other regulatory requirements as well as consumer expectations.

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This process to remain in force until otherwise determined  
by Mackay Regional Council

Contents

1.0 Principles ..... 3

2.0 Definitions ..... 4

3.0 Review of Policy ..... 4

4.0 Reference ..... 4

## 1.0 Principles

MRC is responsible for the provision of quality, cost effective and environmentally sustainable water services within the region.

MRC is committed to delivering sustainable water services to the region in an efficient and commercially responsible manner, through its Water and Waste Services (WWS) program.

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 minimise any threat to drinking water quality in accordance with the risks identified in the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP) and the ADWG framework.
- Comply with the health based criteria and where practicable the aesthetic based criteria of the ADWG framework.
- Integrate the needs and expectations of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning with effective two-way communication.
- 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 its practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

WWS will implement and maintain a drinking water quality management system consistent with the DWQMP and ADWG framework and other regulatory requirements to effectively manage the risks to drinking water quality.

The senior management of MRC are responsible for:

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

## 2.0 Definitions

To assist in interpretation the following definitions shall apply:

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

**ADWG** shall mean *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011*

**Council** shall mean *the Mayor and Councillors of 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 department of MRC*

## 3.0 Review of Policy

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

- The related documents are amended or replaced.
- 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 three (3) years.

## 4.0 Reference

- *Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act of 2008*
- *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*
- *Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP)*

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Version Control:

Version	Reason / Trigger	Change	Endorsed / Reviewed	Date
1	New Policy		Council	20.07.11
2	Review of Policy	Amendments to Policy	Council	23.11.16
3	Review of Policy	Minor amendment to policy	Council	10.04.19
4	Review of Policy	Amendments	Council	24.05.23