

Item 10: Operations

10.1 Drinking Water Quality Policy

REPORT BY THE MANAGER WATER AND SEWER
TO 21 APRIL 2021 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, GOV400088

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. receive the report by the Manager Water and Sewer on the Drinking Water Quality Policy; and**
- 2. adopt the Drinking Water Quality Policy.**

Executive summary

The Drinking Water Quality Policy was adopted by Council on 2nd August 2017 and is due for review.

The Drinking Water Quality Policy has been updated by amending the references to include the latest legislative requirements, related policies and plans.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

Detailed report

The Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Amendment (Review) Act 2017 requires water utilities to develop and implement a quality assurance program, such as a Drinking Water Management System, for drinking water quality.

MWRC has implemented a Drinking Water Management System in line with the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems (NSW Health, NSW DPI 2013). A key element of the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems is the commitment from the Water Utility to a drinking water quality policy

The Drinking Water Quality Policy was adopted by Council on 2nd August 2017 and has been reviewed. The Drinking Water Quality Policy has been updated by amending the references to include the latest legislative requirements, related policies and plans.

The content of the Policy has not been changed and, as such, there will be no changes in the operations of Council due to the updated Policy

Community Plan implications

Theme	Protecting Our Natural Environment
Goal	Provide total water cycle management
Strategy	Maintain and manage water quantity and quality

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not Applicable

Council Policies

Drinking Water Quality Policy adopted on 2nd August 2017. Review date for this policy was 1st February 2020.

If the reviewed Policy is not adopted, MWRC would not comply with its own Drinking Water Management System

Legislation

The Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Amendment (Review) Act 2017 requires water utilities to develop and implement a quality assurance program for drinking water quality.

Financial implications

Not Applicable

Associated Risks

Without a current Drinking Water Quality Policy, there is a risk that commitment to drinking water quality will not be seen as a priority by MWRC staff. This could lead to a possible drinking water incident with serious consequences to the community's health.

CLAIRE CAM
MANAGER WATER AND SEWER

GARRY HEMSWORTH
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

7 April 2021

Attachments: 1. Drinking Water Quality Policy - Review.pdf.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER



POLICY Drinking Water Quality

*A prosperous
and progressive
community*

DRAFT	REFERENCE	1-01.1.2
COUNCIL MEETING MIN NO	REVIEW DATE	01/02/2020-01/02/2024
DATE: 9 APRIL, 2021-16 FEBRUARY,	FILE NUMBER	WAT50007

Objective

To provide a commitment to the sustainable management and supply of safe drinking water to our customers.

Legislative requirements

The Public Health Act 2010 [and Public Health Amendment \(Review\) Act 2017](#) requires water utilities to develop and implement a quality assurance program for drinking water quality. Implementing a Drinking Water Management System in line with the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems (NSW Health, NSW DPI 2013) satisfies this requirement. Commitment to a drinking water quality policy is a key element of the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems.

Related policies and plans

- Mid-Western Regional Council Risk-Based Drinking Water Management System - Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone Water Supply Systems ([Version 2, 20172014](#))
- Mid-Western Regional Council Drinking Water Quality Management [Plan-Progress Report Number 4 \(January 2016\) System Annual Report \(November 2020\)](#)
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011) - Updated [May 2019November-2016](#)
- Public Health Act (2010) NSW
- [Public Health Amendment \(Review\) Act 2017](#)

Policy

To achieve the sustainable management and supply of safe drinking water to our customers, Mid-Western Regional Council will:

- Manage water quality at all points along the delivery network from the source water to the customer's tap.
- Use a risk based approach in which potential risks to water quality are identified and managed to minimise any threat to drinking water quality.
- Deliver water to our customers that complies with the health related criteria in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- Promote community participation in decision making processes and ensure that community expectations are considered.
- Implement a Drinking Water Quality Management [SystemPlan](#) and review on a periodic basis in line with the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems.

POLICY: ~~DRINKING WATER QUALITY DRINKING WATER QUALITY~~ | 1-1-20, 9 APRIL 2021 31-MAY-2017 20 JANUARY 2021

- Continually improve our management practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations
- Continually improve the capability of staff by encouraging and supporting participation in training and professional development and ensure all employees are aware of and actively seek to achieve the aims of this policy.

All managers, employees, and contractors of Mid-Western Regional Council that are involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the Drinking Water Quality Management System.

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