

## 10.2 Policy Review - Drinking Water

REPORT BY THE WATER QUALITY OFFICER  
TO 13 DECEMBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400103, GOV400088

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. receive the report by the Water Quality Officer on the Policy Review - Drinking Water;
2. place the *Drinking Water Policy* on public exhibition for 28 days; and
3. adopt the *Drinking Water Quality Policy* if no submissions are received during the public exhibition period.

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### Executive summary

The Drinking Water Quality Policy was adopted by Council on 21 April 2021 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 Regulation 2022 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 21 April 2021 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

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Protecting Our Natural Environment</b>
Goal	Provide total water cycle management

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Strategy     Maintain and manage water quantity and quality

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## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Not Applicable

### **Council Policies**

Drinking Water Quality Policy adopted on 21 April 2021. Review date for this policy is 1 February 2024. 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 Regulation 2022 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.

FRANCOISE PIELTAIN  
WATER QUALITY OFFICER

JULIAN GEDDES  
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

8 November 2023

*Attachments:* 1. Draft Drinking Water Policy.

### APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER



## POLICY Drinking Water Quality

*A prosperous  
and progressive  
community.*

DRAFT	REFERENCE	1.2
COUNCIL MEETING MIN NO	REVIEW DATE	01/02/2027
DATE: 8 NOVEMBER, 2023	FILE NUMBER	WAT500007

### 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 Regulation 2022 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 3, 2023)
- Mid-Western Regional Council Drinking Water Quality Management System Annual Report (August 2023)
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011) - Updated September 2022
- Public Health Act (2010) NSW
- Public Health Regulation 2022
- Mid-Western Regional Council Risk Management Framework

### 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.
- Review the implemented Drinking Water Quality Management System on a periodic basis in line with the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems.

**POLICY: DRINKING WATER QUALITY | ERROR! REFERENCE SOURCE NOT FOUND., 8 NOVEMBER, 2023**

- 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.