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Objective

To provide a commitment to implementing and maintaining a Wastewater Quality Management Plan that improves efficiency and productivity, ensuring all statutory and regulatory requirements are compliant and our services meet the requirements of our customers.

MWRC has five key risk-based objectives while managing wastewater quality:

1. Safety of people (both sewer workers and the community)
2. Protection of assets
3. Protection of treatment plant processes
4. Facilitation of regulatory and licence compliance, including protection of receiving environments
5. Facilitate development of a Circular Economy

Legislative requirements

MWRC reticulation systems and sewage treatment plants (STP) are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and must comply to their individual EPA licence.

The Australian Wastewater Quality Management Guidelines 2022 provide a framework for effectively managing the wastewater product from its source, through its collection and treatment at the STP.

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2021
- Water management Act 2000
- Local Government Act 1993
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) licences 5230, 1958, 1737 and 5808
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Related policies and plans

- MWRC Wastewater Quality Management Plan - Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone Sewerage systems (draft)
- Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy
- Pressure Sewer System Policy – Backlog Sewerage Schemes
- Strategic Business Plan for Sewerage Services
- Sewerage Development Servicing Plan

- Sewer Systems Asset Management Plan
- Mid-Western Regional Council Risk Management Framework

Policy

To achieve the sustainable management of wastewater, Mid-Western Regional Council will:

- Manage wastewater quality at all points along the delivery network from the collection point to the effluent discharge point
- Use a risk-based approach in which potential risks are identified and managed to minimise any threat to safety of people, assets, treatment process
- Promote community participation in decision making processes and ensure that community expectations are considered.
- Implement a Wastewater Quality Management Plan in line with *The Australian Wastewater Quality Management Guidelines 2022*
- Continually improve our management practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments, stakeholder expectations and Industry standards
- 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 provision of wastewater collection, treatment and discharge are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the Wastewater Quality Management Plan.