



DRINKING WATER QUALITY POLICY

Version No.	Responsible Department	Prepared By	Date First Created	Review Date	Adopted Date Resolution No.
1.0	Engineering & Infrastructure Services	Project Officer	16 August 2019	4 years	9 October 2019 – Resolution No 2019/264
2.0	Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Manager Utilities	June 2025	4 years	9 July 2025 – Resolution No 2025/422

PURPOSE

Narromine Shire Council ("Council") is committed to the sustainable supply and management of safe, high quality drinking water in the community. This policy provides a basis for the operation of Council's water supply involving catchments, storages, water treatment facilities and the distribution system. Council has three distinct water supply systems, Narromine, Trangie and Tomingley, this policy applies to all systems.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council is responsible for providing a safe, reliable and cost effective drinking water supply, which is customer focused, enhances the environment and caters for the sustainable growth of the Shire¹. Council is committed to consistently meeting or exceeding the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), as well as consumer and other regulatory requirements. Council will implement and maintain a drinking water quality management system consistent with the ADWG and NSW Public Health Regulations to effectively manage the risks associated with public and environmental health.

This policy establishes a foundation for developing more detailed guiding principles and implementation strategies. It outlines broad issues and requirements, including:

- Commitment to responsible use of water, and the application of a risk-based management approach;
- Recognition and compliance with relevant regulations and other requirements;
- Communication, engagement and partnership arrangements with Council operations staff, state and federal agencies and expert consultants;
- Commitment to adopt best-practice management and a multiple-barrier approach for treated water supply;
- Commitment to continuous improvement in managing the treatment and use of drinking water; and
- Commitment to collaboration with agencies, employees, other stakeholders and the wider community.
- Commitment to continuous improvement
- Commitment to staff professional development in water treatment and water system management

POLICY PROVISIONS

Council supports and promotes the responsible and sustainable use of water and the application of a management approach that consistently meets the Australian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines as well as regulatory requirements.

To achieve this Council will:

- Ensure that protection of public and environmental health is recognised as being of paramount importance;
- Maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant agencies involved in the management of water resources;

¹ Narromine Shire Council Water Asset Management Plan (AMP 1) – Levels of Service

- Engage appropriate scientific expertise in developing and operating the water schemes;
- Meet the cost of providing water by applying appropriate cost recovery practices;
- Recognise the importance of community participation in decision-making processes and the need to ensure that community expectations are met within a sustainable framework;
- Manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source to the consumer;
- Use a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and controlled or eliminated;
- Integrate the needs and expectations of our water users, communities and other stakeholders, regulators and employees into the water planning processes;
- Undertake regular monitoring of the water distribution network and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information to Council, Regulators and key stakeholders to promote confidence in the water supply system and its management;
- Maintain appropriate contingency planning and incident-response capability to efficiently manage Council's response to drinking water quality incidents.
- Participate in and support appropriate research and development activities to ensure continuous improvement in understanding water issues and performance;
- Participate in working groups to create industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle.
- Ensure a continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and efficient operation of water supply schemes through employee training and education; and
- Continually improve Council practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

DEFINITIONS

Drinking Water – Water, provided by Council through the water supply system that is appropriate and intended primarily for human consumption.

LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS

This policy has been developed to be consistent with the following legislative requirements:

- Water Management Act, 2000
- Local Government Act, 1993
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines Version 3.8 Updated September 2022
- National Water Quality Strategy, 2024
- NSW Public Health Act 2010 No 127
- NSW Public Health Regulation 2022

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The effectiveness of this policy will be measured by:

- Compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan.
- Compliance with NSW Health Regulations and Triple Barrier Requirements
- Customer feedback.
- Drinking water usage
- Internal Audit preparation for ISO-31000 Drinking Water Audit
- External ISO-31000 Drinking Water Quality Audit
- Audits by Health NSW Drinking Water Unit

REVIEW

The Drinking Water Quality Policy and associated management plans will be reviewed every four (4) years, or as required.