





Drinking Water Quality Policy (Revision 1)

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Document Revision History	
Date adopted by Council:	24 November 2016
Minute No:	105/11/16
Revision Number:	1
Review Date:	July/August 2022
Date Adopted by Council:	23 August 2022
Minute No:	111/08/22
Next Review Date:	See item 9 of this Policy
Revision Number:	
Review Date:	
Date Adopted by Council:	
Minute No:	

August 2022

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1. Purpose

Murrumbidgee Council is committed to managing its water supply effectively to provide a safe, quality product that consistently meets appropriate drinking water standards developed in accordance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and other regulatory requirements.

To achieve this, Murrumbidgee Council will implement and maintain a Drinking Water Management System to effectively manage the risks to drinking water quality.

2. Scope

The Drinking Water Quality Policy applies to all Managers and employees involved in the supply of drinking water. They are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the Drinking Water Management System.

3. Objective

This policy expresses Murrumbidgee Council's strategic intent regarding safe drinking water management.

4. Policy statement

This policy sets out how Murrumbidgee Council will implement and maintain a Drinking Water Management System to effectively manage the risks to drinking water quality.

In partnership with relevant stakeholders, Murrumbidgee Council will:

1. Manage water quality at all points, from catchment (where possible) through to treatment, storage and distribution;
2. Use a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and balanced;
3. Develop incident response processes to deal with any water quality issues identified;
4. Ensure that employees and any contractors involved in the supply of drinking water understand their responsibility and are appropriately trained to implement the Drinking Water Management System;
5. Routinely monitor the quality of drinking water; use effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information; and promote confidence in the water supply and its management;
6. Comply with the regulatory requirements of the Public Health Act 2010 (NSW) and associated Public Health Regulation 2012; and
7. Continually improve our practices by assessing performance against criteria stated in the Drinking Water Management System.

5. Policy implementation

Failure to comply with this policy may be dealt with in accordance with Council's relevant Code of Conduct, Local Government (State) Award or other laws.

6. Definitions

This policy's definitions are:

Term	Definition
Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG)	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011), including the framework for management of drinking water quality, as amended or updated from time to time
Drinking Water	Water primarily intended for human consumption which also has other personal, domestic or household uses, such as bathing and showering.
Drinking Water Management System (DWMS)	This DWMS forms Murrumbidgee Council's quality assurance program for its drinking water service, and addresses the elements of the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality and the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems 2013 (NSW Health).

7. References and related documents

The following legislation and/or guidelines are applicable to this policy:

Legislation and professional guidelines

- Public Health Act 2010 (NSW);
- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)

Associated Documents

- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines - Framework for the Management of Drinking Water Quality (2011)
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Water) - LWU Performance Monitoring Data and Reports
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Water) – Safe and Secure Water Program
- NSW Health - NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems (2013)

8. Exceptions

Nil

9. Policy Review

This policy:

- To be reviewed within the first year of the new Council term;
- May be reviewed and amended at any time at Council's discretion (or if legislative or State Government Policy changes occur).