

Backflow Prevention Policy

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Strategic Pillar	Community Connections
Responsible Branch	Utilities

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1 OUTCOMES

- 1.1 Council water supplies are protected from the risk of backflow contamination arising from connections to the water supply system.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 All connections to QPRC potable and non-potable (recycled) water networks must comply with AS3500.1. This includes installing, maintaining and testing Backflow Protection Devices (BPD) based on the hazard rating of the property.
- 2.2 Property owners are responsible for engaging an Accredited Person to assess, install, test and maintain BPDs in accordance with this Policy.
- 2.3 Property owners are responsible for all costs associated with backflow prevention.
- 2.4 If backflow prevention is missing or insufficient, Council will take enforcement action in accordance with this Policy.
- 2.5 Council may recover costs incurred in ensuring BPDs are installed and maintained.

3 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 3.1 The Policy applies to all connections to Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council potable and recycled water networks.
- 3.2 This Policy only covers Containment Protection. Individual and Zone protection within a property is the responsibility of the Property Owner.

4 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 Accredited Person - A licensed plumber who holds accreditation from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) for backflow prevention device commissioning and certification
- 4.2 Backflow – flow in the opposite direction to normal flow that may draw pollutants from one area into another.
- 4.3 Backflow Prevention Device – a mechanical device that will prevent backflow.
- 4.4 BPD – Backflow Prevention Device.
- 4.5 Containment Device – a Backflow Prevention Device that provides Containment Protection.
- 4.6 Containment Protection – the installation of a Backflow Prevention Device on the water service at the property boundary, to prevent backflow from within the property into the potable water supply system.
- 4.7 Cross-Connection – any connection or arrangement between the potable water supply system connected to the water main or any fixture, which may under certain conditions enable non-drinking water or other substances to enter the potable water supply system.
- 4.8 Individual Protection – the installation of a Backflow Prevention Device on an individual water fixture
- 4.9 Zone Protection – the installation of a Backflow Prevention Device on several but not all water fixtures within a property

5 LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS

- 5.1 *AS/NZS 3500.1 Plumbing and Drainage, Part 1: Water Services*
- 5.2 *AS/NZS 2845 Water Supply – Backflow Prevention Devices*
- 5.3 *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011*

6 CONTENT

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 All BPDs shall be installed by a licenced plumber or Accredited Person.
- 6.1.2 All BPDs shall be commissioned, tested and maintained by an Accredited Person.
- 6.1.3 BPDs shall comply with AS3500.1 regardless of the site use (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, mixed).
- 6.1.4 Containment Devices shall be installed on the outlet side of the master water meter(s) supplying the property.
- 6.1.5 Where there is no master water meter, the Containment Device shall be installed within 1m of the property boundary. There shall be no connections bypassing the Containment Device or water meter.
- 6.1.6 BPDs shall be installed so that the underside of the device is a minimum of 300mm above the surrounding surface unless otherwise specified in the code.
- 6.1.7 If site use changes result in a change in hazard rating, the property owner shall, within 5 days of the site use change, have an Accredited Person certify the change in hazard rating. The Accredited Person shall notify Council of the new rating within 5 days of their assessment.
- 6.1.8 Council may at any time conduct a site inspection to confirm BPDs are installed and being managed appropriately.

6.2 Cross-Connection Hazard Rating

- 6.2.1 Containment Protection shall be determined on the assumption that Zone Protection or Individual Protection within the site has failed or has not been installed.
- 6.2.2 If a site has activities with varying individual hazards, Containment Protection shall be based on the highest individual hazard.
- 6.2.3 Where hazards are unknown for a commercial, industrial or a mixed development, a High Hazard shall be adopted and a testable device will be required.

6.3 Minimum Device

- 6.3.1 Properties with high or medium hazards shall install a testable device.
- 6.3.2 High hazards shall have a Registered Break Tank, Reduced Pressure Zone Device or Registered Air Gap.
- 6.3.3 Medium hazards shall install a testable double check valve as a minimum.
- 6.3.4 Low hazards shall install a non-testable dual check valve as a minimum. Council issued 20 and 25mm water meters contain an integral dual check valve and no further protection is required.

6.4 Properties with Non-potable (Recycled) Water

- 6.4.1 Properties supplied with potable and non-potable (recycled) water are required to install BPDs on both supply systems.
- 6.4.2 BPDs shall be the same on both the potable and non-potable services and comply with the deemed hazard rating as stipulated in AS/NZS 3500.1.

6.5 Fire Services

- 6.5.1 Fire services require the installation of a double check detector assembly as a minimum.
- 6.5.2 Independent fire drencher sprinkler systems require the installation of a dual check valve.
- 6.5.3 Where a fire booster service is installed, BPDs shall be installed so that the underside of the device is a minimum of 750mm above the surrounding surface.
- 6.5.4 On separate hydrant and/or sprinkler fire services BPDs shall be installed within 1m of the property boundary and upstream of any booster assembly or offtake from the fire service.

6.6 Register of Backflow Prevention Devices and Record Keeping

- 6.6.1 Council will maintain a register of testable BPD installations and annual maintenance records.
- 6.6.2 The customer's Accredited Person shall complete the Backflow Prevention Application (required on installation of the device) and submit the associated documentation to Council within 5 business days of installation.
- 6.6.3 The customer's Accredited Person shall complete the Backflow Prevention Device Inspection and Maintenance Report (required on commissioning or testing the device) and submit the associated documentation to Council within 5 business days of inspection.

6.7 Failure to Install, Register, Test or Maintain Devices

- 6.7.1 Where a customer has failed to install, register, test or maintain BPDs, Council may do one or more of the following:
 - a) Send formal notification of the issue(s) and specify the required works and timeframe for completion.
 - b) Test and certify the BPD and charge the property owner for the works.
 - c) Apply a water flow restrictor to the metered water service for the property until the issue is rectified to Council's satisfaction.
 - d) Disconnect the water service if Council believes that the hazard presents an unacceptable risk to the water supply.
 - e) Apply related fees as set out in Council's adopted Operational Plan. Fees will be payable for any reconnections required following rectification of issue(s).

7 REVIEW

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed every four years or earlier as necessary if:
 - a) legislation requires it, or
 - b) Council's functions, structure or activities change