

# Potable and Recycled Water Supply Policy

<b>Date policy was adopted:</b>	27 September 2023
<b>Resolution number:</b>	394/23
<b>Next Policy review date:</b>	September 2024
<b>Reference number:</b>	52.5.4
<b>Strategic Pillar</b>	Infrastructure
<b>Responsible Branch</b>	Utilities

### 1. OUTCOMES

- 1.1 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) supplies potable as well as recycled water to customers within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area. QPRC will implement and maintain water management systems consistent with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and National Guidelines on Water Recycling to effectively manage the risks to public and environmental health.
- 1.2 This Water Supply Policy formalises Council's commitment to responsible, safe and sustainable use of both potable and recycled water. This policy provides a basis for developing more detailed guiding principles and implementation strategies. As such, it addresses broad issues and requirements such as:
- (a) Commitment to responsible use of water, and the application of a risk based management approach
  - (b) Recognition and compliance with relevant regulations and other requirements
  - (c) Communication, engagement and partnership arrangements with agencies with relevant expertise, employees, contractors, stakeholders and with water users
  - (d) Council's intention to adopt best-practice management and multiple-barrier approach
  - (e) Continuous improvement in managing the treatment and use of potable and recycled water, and
  - (f) Considering the opinions and requirements of all partnership agencies, employees, users of recycled water, other stakeholders and the wider community.
- 1.3 Council will ensure that all staff involved in water supply will understand, implement, maintain and continuously improve the water management system.
- 1.4 Staff membership and participation in professional associations dealing with management and use of potable or recycled water is encouraged.

### 2. POLICY

- 2.1 QPRC 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 and National Guidelines on Water Recycling, as well as recycled water user and regulatory requirements.
- 2.2 To achieve this, we will:
- (a) Ensure that protection of public and environmental health is recognised as being of paramount importance.
  - (b) Maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant agencies involved in the management of water resources, including waters that can be recycled.
  - (c) Engage appropriate scientific expertise in developing and operating the water or recycled water schemes.
  - (d) Meet the costs of providing water by applying appropriate cost recover practices.
  - (e) Recognise the importance of community participation in decision-making processes and the need to ensure that community expectations are met within a sustainable framework.

- (f) Manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source to water user.
- (g) Use a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and controlled.
- (h) Integrate the needs and expectations of water users, communities and other stakeholders, regulators and employees into planning processes.
- (i) Establish regular monitoring of control measures and recycled water quality and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information to Council, Regulators and key stakeholders and promote confidence in the water supply and its management.
- (j) Develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability.
- (k) Participate in and support appropriate research and development activities to ensure continuous improvement and continued understanding of water issues and performance.
- (l) Contribute to the development of industry regulations and guidelines and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle.
- (m) Continually improve our practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

*Potable Water* — water provided by Council, intended primarily for human consumption.

*Recycled Water* — water generated from sewage, greywater or stormwater systems and treated by Council to a standard that is appropriate for its intended use.

### 4. LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS

- *Water Management Act, 2000*
- *Local Government Act, 1993*
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- Australian Guidelines on Water Recycling, 2006
- National Water Quality Management Strategy, 1994

### 5. CONTENT

5.1 The effectiveness of this policy will be measured by:

- (a) Compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan.
- (b) Compliance with the Recycled Water Quality Management Plan.
- (c) Customer feedback.
- (d) Potable water usage.
- (e) Recycled water usage.

### 6. REVIEW

6.1 This policy will be reviewed every four years or as required by changes to:

- (a) Legislation; or
- (b) Council's functions, structure or activities.