



Drinking Water Quality Policy



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Environment - Wingecarribee Community Strategic Plan 2041 -
Sustainably manage natural resources, such as water for the benefit
of life 4.1.4.

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1 Objectives

The objective of the Policy are:

- to confirm Council's commitment to the supply of safe drinking water to the community
- to support Wingecarribee Shire Council's Drinking Water Management System (DWMS).

2 Policy Statement

A clean, safe and reliable water supply is essential to the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to the Wingecarribee Shire.

Wingecarribee Shire Council (Council) is committed to the effective and professional management of its drinking water supply systems and will take all reasonable steps to ensure the reliable supply of safe, high quality drinking water.

Council will achieve this by implementing processes and procedures that address the twelve (12) elements of the Framework for the Management of Drinking Water Quality, as published in the National Health and Medical Research Council's Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), and any other obligations required by legislation and regulations.

To achieve its obligations, Council in partnership with relevant stakeholders and agencies will:

- maintain and regularly review the multi-barrier health approach for drinking water supply to ensure the consistent delivery of a safe, reliable and a high-quality product,
- use a risk-based systems management approach whereby potential threats to drinking water quality are identified, managed and minimised,
- systematically monitor the quality of water in its operational and distribution networks and maintain effective reporting systems to provide timely and relevant information that promotes confidence in the Wingecarribee Shire's water supply,
- maintain and regularly review appropriate contingency plans, incident reporting and response capabilities, and ensure relevant staff are trained in incident response protocols,
- maintain two-way communication avenues with the community to keep consumers informed of drinking water management matters,
- maintain an active and informed participation in relevant consultative processes with industry, professional associations, government departments and agencies, particularly NSW Health and Water NSW,
- identify staff training needs and deliver this training to ensure the ongoing professional development and knowledge of current industry practices,
- participate as required in the development of industry regulations and guidelines, relevant to the supply of healthy drinking water and the broader water cycle,
- develop and maintain documented procedures for all aspects of drinking water quality supply and management, including maintaining timely records to identify short- and long-term trends,
- implement a document control system to ensure current versions of procedure documentation are always in use and ensure staff are trained in the requirements of the procedures,
- establish accountable and effective processes for regular internal and external auditing of all necessary aspects of our water supply operations,
- ensure senior management periodically review, and report to Council's Executive, the effectiveness of the DWMS and evaluate the need for change in consultation with other stakeholders and in relation to:
 - a. changing industry standards,
 - b. improved technologies,
 - c. changed operational and reporting requirements in the governing regulations and legislation, and
 - d. observing both short- and long-term trends in drinking water quality and the supply system.
- aim to achieve and communicate the objective of this Policy and drinking water quality issues

- to all staff and the community
- report on water quality to consumers, regulatory authorities and stakeholders as required.

3 Scope

This Policy applies to Council staff, contractors, partnering organisations and anyone else involved in the delivery of drinking water to the Wingecarribee Shire.

4 Responsibilities

Responsibilities for the implementation of this Policy are shared as follows.

4.1 Councillors

Councillors shall:

- lead the community in their understanding of and compliance with this Policy

4.2 Executive

The Executive shall:

- implement the Policy; and
- lead staff in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy.

4.3 Manager Water Services

The Manager Water Services shall:

- provide guidance to Councillors, Executive and other Council staff as to the content and implementation of this Policy,
- ensure the timely review of this Policy,
- conduct investigations into alleged non-compliance with this Policy – if the policy owner is responsible for dealing with such matters.

4.4 Managers

Managers shall:

- provide guidance to Council staff within their respective branches as to the content and implementation of this Policy, seeking guidance from the policy owner as required,
- implement this Policy by directing relevant staff,
- lead staff in their understanding of and compliance with this Policy.

4.5 Council staff

Council staff shall:

- comply with this Policy.

5 Performance Measures

The success of this Policy will be measured by:

- Customer satisfaction,
- Compliance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines,
- Delivery of operational procedures to mitigate business risk.

6 Definitions

Define any specific terms relating to the policy that may not be obvious to a member of the public or other external stakeholder. Include any acronyms and their meanings. The following table should be used:

ADWG	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
DWMS	Drinking Water Management System

7 Related Material

7.1 Related Legislation

The following legislative materials are related to this Policy:

- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG)
- Public Health Act 2010
- Public Health Regulation 2022
- Water Management Act 2000

7.2 Related Policies, Procedures

The following policies and documents as applicable are related to this Policy:

- Drinking Water Management System
- Backflow Prevention Policy
- Water Extraction Policy

8 Non-compliance with this Policy

Non-compliance with this Policy should be reported to Manager Water Services who will investigate and determine the appropriate course of action.

9 Document Control

9.1 Version Control

Version	Adoption Date	Notes
1.0	April 2015	Original policy
1.1	May 2018	Routine review of document with minor edits.
1.2	February 2021	Routine review of document with minor edits due to format changes.
2.0	December 2024	Routine review of document with minor edits and update of format to align with branding change

10 Attachments

There are no attachments to this Policy.

Approved by:

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL

11 December 2024