

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Amendment (Review) Act 2017 require water utilities to develop and implement a quality assurance program for drinking water quality. Implementing a Drinking Water Management System in line with the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems (NSW Health, NSW DPI 2013) satisfies this requirement.

Commitment to a drinking water quality policy is a key element of the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems.

## **2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to outline Council's commitment to ensuring that the drinking water it supplies, is both safe to drink and is of high quality.

It will also assist with ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation and support the promotion of good management practices and principles of continuous improvement.

## **3. POLICY OBJECTIVE**

To provide a commitment to the sustainable management and supply of safe drinking water to our customers.

## **4. LEGISLATION**

Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011) - Updated May 2019

Public Health Act (2010) NSW

Public Health Amendment (Review) Act 2017

## **5. APPLICATION/SCOPE**

All managers, employees, and contractors of Coonamble Shire Council that are involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the Drinking Water Quality Management System.

## 6. POLICY

To achieve the sustainable management and supply of safe drinking water to our customers, Coonamble Shire Council will:

- Manage water quality at all points along the delivery network from the source water to the customer's tap.
- Use a risk-based approach in which potential risks to water quality are identified and managed to minimise any threat to drinking water quality.
- Deliver water to our customers that complies with the health-related criteria in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
- Promote community participation in decision making processes and ensure that community expectations are considered.
- Continually improve our management practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.
- Continually improve the capability of staff by encouraging and supporting participation in training and professional development and ensure all employees are aware of and actively seek to achieve the aims of this policy.
- Implement a Drinking Water Management System and review on a periodic basis in line with the NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems.
- Implement improvement items as specified in Council's Drinking Water Management System.
- Record and investigate customer complaints regarding drinking water quality issues. These complaints are categorized into taste, odour, and colour issues.

## 7. DEFINITION

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Act	Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)
ADWG	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011
DWMS	Drinking Water Management System
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
QAP	Quality Assurance Program
Regulation	Public Health Regulation 2012 (NSW)

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