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# Drinking Water Quality Policy

September 2020

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Policy owner:	Headworks and Treatment Unit, Water and Sewer
Approved by:	Central Coast Council
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# Contents

- Contents..... 2
- Purpose ..... 3
  - Scope..... 3
  - Background..... 3
- General ..... 4
- Compliance, monitoring and review ..... 5
- Definitions ..... 5
- Related resources ..... 5
- History of revisions ..... 6

## Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate Central Coast Council's (**Council's**) commitment to providing drinking water that is consistent with the requirements of the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG)*, except to the extent that NSW Health specifies otherwise, and other regulatory requirements.
2. This Policy documents Council's commitment to providing continuous supply of safe high-quality drinking water by implementing a Drinking Water Management System (**DWMS**).

## Scope

3. This Policy covers all elected members of Council, all personnel employed by Council, any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities, and all activities of the Council.
4. All managers, employees, and contractors involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the DWMS.

## Background

5. This Policy is based on a Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality developed for the water industry under the ADWG.
6. Council developed its DWMS consistent with the *Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality* required under the ADWG in 2018.
7. The DWMS is mandated by the *Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)* and *Public Health Regulation 2012*. The intent of the DWMS is to effectively facilitate the management of risks to drinking water quality.

## General

8. Council is committed to managing its water supply effectively to provide continuous supply of safe drinking water that consistently meets the ADWG, except to the extent that NSW Health specifies otherwise, and regulatory requirements.
9. To achieve this, in collaboration and consultation with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Council will:
  - a. implement, maintain and periodically revise the DWMS consistent with the ADWG
  - b. use multiple barrier and risk-based approaches to identify and appropriately manage potential threats to water quality
  - c. manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from the source to the consumer
  - d. maintain regular monitoring of the quality of drinking water at appropriate locations and effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the water supply and its management
  - e. participate in relevant research and development activities and join professional associations and industry peak organisations to ensure continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and improvement of performance
  - f. maintain appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability, including investigation of incidents and review of response plans, procedures and protocols
  - g. contribute to the development and setting of industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle
  - h. provide training to employees associated with the catchment, water resources and drinking water systems
  - i. undertake regular audits to ensure the robustness and operational preparedness of the processes associated with policy and guidelines to manage critical events
  - j. integrate the needs and expectations of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning and decision-making process
  - k. continually improve our practices by regularly assessing performance against regulatory requirements, corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations

## Compliance, monitoring and review

10. Suspected breaches or misuse of this policy are to be reported to the Chief Executive Officer. Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code of Conduct and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.
11. This Policy will be reviewed, at a minimum, within 6 months of each local government election.
12. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this policy in a recognised Council record-keeping system.

## Definitions

13. In this policy:
  - a. **Council:** Central Coast Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies
  - b. **Drinking Water Management System (DWMS):** Documents, procedures and other supporting information for the safe supply of drinking water that satisfies the requirement for a quality assurance program in the *Public Health Act 2010*
  - c. **The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG):** Guidelines promulgated by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2011, and the ongoing updates and revisions

## Related resources

14. Legislation:
  - a. Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
  - b. Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)
  - c. Public Health Regulation 2012 (NSW)
15. Associated/Internal documents:
  - a. Council's Code of Conduct
  - b. Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

## History of revisions

Amendment history	Details
Original approval authority details	<p data-bbox="596 533 703 566">Council</p> <hr data-bbox="596 636 1437 640"/> <p data-bbox="596 645 1086 678">14/09/2020 Minute Number <b>470/20</b></p> <hr data-bbox="596 685 1437 689"/> <p data-bbox="596 723 1422 920">This Policy affirms Central Coast Council's commitment to providing continuous supply of safe high-quality drinking water by implementing a Drinking Water Management System. This policy replaces equivalent policies of the former Wyong Shire Council and the former Gosford City Council.</p>