



Recycled Water Quality Policy

September 2020

Policy No: CCC054

Policy owner:	Headworks and Treatment Unit, Water and Sewer
Approved by:	Central Coast Council
Date of approval:	14 September 2020
Policy category:	Statutory
Content Manager No:	D13995140
Review by:	March 2022

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate Central Coast Council's (Council's) commitment to responsible and sustainable management and use of recycled water that is consistent with the requirements of the [National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling](#), and other regulatory requirements.

Scope

2. 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.
3. All managers, employees and contractors involved in the supply of recycled water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the recycled water management system. Membership and participation in professional associations dealing with management and use of recycled water is encouraged.

Background

4. This Policy is based on a template developed for the water industry under the [Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling](#).
5. The Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling are designed to provide an authoritative reference that can be used to support beneficial and sustainable recycling of waters generated from sewage, grey water and stormwater.

General

6. Council supports and promotes the responsible and sustainable management and use of recycled water, and the application of a best practice multi-barrier management approach that consistently meets the [Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling](#), as well as recycled water user and regulatory requirements.
7. To achieve this, in collaboration and consultation with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Council will:
 - a. ensure that protection of public and environmental health is paramount
 - b. apply the principles of sustainability at all points along the delivery chain from source to recycled water use

- c. use a multi-barrier risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified, assessed and controlled
- d. integrate the needs and expectations of users of recycled water, community stakeholders, regulators and employees into planning and decision-making processes
- e. manage recycled water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source to recycled water user
- f. prepare, implement and periodically review end-user recycled water management plan and recycled water risk management plan to guide our activities and end-users on the safe use and handling of recycled water to minimise risks
- g. maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders
- h. provide training to employees associated with the recycled water system
- i. carryout regular monitoring of control measures and recycled water quality and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the recycled water supply and its management
- j. develop and maintain appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability, including investigation of incidents and review of response plans, procedures and protocols
- k. participate in and support relevant research and development activities and join professional associations and industry peak organisations to ensure continued understanding of recycled water quality issues and improvement of performance
- l. undertake regular audits to ensure the robustness and operational preparedness of the processes associated with policy and guidelines to manage critical events
- m. contribute to the development and setting of industry regulations, guidelines and other standards relevant to recycled water
- n. continually improve our practices by regularly assessing performance against regulatory requirements, corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations

Compliance, monitoring and review

8. 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.

9. This Policy will be reviewed, at a minimum, within 6 months of each local government election.
10. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this policy in a recognised Council recordkeeping system.

Definitions

11. 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. **National Water Quality Management Strategy:** Strategy to protect the Australia's water resources by maintaining and improving water quality, while supporting dependent aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, agricultural and urban communities, and industry.
- c. **The Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling:** Guidelines are designed to provide an authoritative reference that can be used to support beneficial and sustainable recycling of waters generated from sewage, grey water and stormwater.

Related resources

12. Legislation:

- a. [Local Government Act 1993 \(NSW\)](#)

13. Associated/Internal documents:

- a. [Council's Code of Conduct](#)
- b. [Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling](#)

History of revisions

Amendment history	Details
Original approval authority details	<p data-bbox="603 533 703 566">Council</p> <hr data-bbox="603 636 1437 640"/> <p data-bbox="603 645 1018 678">14/09/2020 Minute No 470/20</p> <hr data-bbox="603 757 1437 761"/> <p data-bbox="603 795 1410 1034">This policy demonstrates Central Coast Council’s commitment to responsible and sustainable management and use of recycled water that is consistent with the requirements of the National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling, and other regulatory requirements.</p>