

COUNCIL POLICY



Policy name	Drinking Water Quality
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Abstract
The purpose of this Policy is to outline Gunnedah Shire Council’s commitment to ensuring that the drinking water it supplies, is both safe to drink and is of high quality

Dates	Policy or amendment approved 13 December 2023 Policy or amendment takes effect 13 January 2024 Policy is due for review (up to 4 years) 13 December 2027
Endorsed by	Executive Leadership Team at its meeting held 28 November 2023
Approved by	Gunnedah Shire Council, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held 13 December 2023 Resolution number: 6.12/23
Policy Custodian	Manager Water Services
Relevant to	Gunnedah Shire Council Staff; Consumers of drinking water in Gunnedah, Curlewis, Mullaley & Tambar Springs; NSW Department of Health; and DPIE-Water
Superseded Policies	Gunnedah Shire Council, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 April 2015. Resolution number: 21.04/15
Related documents	Drinking Water Management System Australian Drinking Water Guidelines NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems.
Related legislation	Public Health Act 2010 (NSW) Public Health Regulation 2012 (NSW)

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1. Purpose

Council's objectives in adopting this Policy are to:

- 1.1 Outline Gunnedah Shire Council's commitment to ensuring that the drinking water it supplies, is both safe to drink and is of high quality.
- 1.2 Assist with ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation.
- 1.3 Support the promotion of good management practices and principles of continuous improvement.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This Policy applies in full to any person who undertakes or is involved in Gunnedah Shire Council's water operations, including Staff, Suppliers, Contractors and/or delegates.
- 2.2 The Policy pertains to all processes and activities undertaken by Council in maintaining the water supplies of Gunnedah, Curlewis, Mullaley and Tambar Springs.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Act	Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)
ADWG	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NRMMC	Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council
QAP	Quality Assurance Program
Regulation	Public Health Regulation 2012 (NSW)

4. Policy principles

- 4.1 Council acknowledges that it has a responsibility to ensure that it provides safe, high quality drinking water that consistently meets all legislative requirements as well as consumer needs and expectations.
- 4.2 The Act and Regulations require Council to establish and adhere to a Quality Assurance Program consistent with the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality in the ADWG issued by NHMRC/NRMMC.
- 4.3 Council is therefore committed to effectively managing its water supply with the guidance of a preventative management strategy that uses a QAP consistent with the stipulated framework and involves implementation of multiple barriers, regular monitoring of critical steps in the process of bringing water from the source to the consumer, timely reporting of incidents, planned contingencies and continuous improvement of systems and operations.

5. Policy statement

Gunnedah Shire Council will, in partnership with relevant stakeholders and/or agencies, strive to encompass the following as part of its water quality management strategy and QAP in order to achieve its objectives:

- 5.1 Manage water quality at all points along the water delivery chain, from the source (bores), through to the consumer, including storage reservoirs and the reticulation system.
- 5.2 Adopt a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified, balanced and mitigated where necessary.
- 5.3 Integrate the needs and expectations of consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into Council's planning.
- 5.4 Establish regular monitoring of the quality of drinking water and effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and promote confidence in the water supply and its management.
- 5.5 Develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability.
- 5.6 Participate in appropriate research and development activities to ensure continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and performance.
- 5.7 Contribute to debate on setting industry regulations and guidelines and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle.

- 5.8 Seek to continually improve Council's practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

6. Accountability, roles and responsibilities

6.1 Policy Custodian – Manager Water Services

Council's Manager Water Services is the officer accountable for managing policy compliance, initiating the policy review process and internal auditing requirements. They will also have the responsibility for all aspects of policy implementation, unless appropriately delegated to another officer.

6.2 System Management – Manager Water Services

Council's Manager Water Services has overarching responsibility for the management of Council's water system and its functions.

6.3 Data Maintenance – Water Technical Support Officer

The recording and maintenance of all relevant data is the responsibility of the Water Technical Support Officer.

6.4 Compliance – Water Services Coordinator

Council's Water Services Overseer Coordinator is charged with ensuring that all water monitoring and reporting duties are carried out as and when required.

6.5 Monitoring and Reporting – Water Quality Officer

Council's Water Quality Officer is responsible for performing all water testing/monitoring and reporting.

7. Acknowledgements

- 7.1 The following acknowledgements are made recognising organisations or documents that have provided a basis, instructive comment or templates that have been used to develop this Policy:

- (a) Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011.

8. Version Control and Change History

Date	Version	Approved by & resolution no.	Amendment
January 2015	1	Ordinary Meeting 18 Apr 2015 Resolution 21.04/15	
December 2023	2	Ordinary Meeting 13 Dec 2023 Resolution 6.12/23	