



# Drinking Water Quality Policy

*Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*

# 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Townsville City Council is committed to promoting and protecting public health by managing its water supply to provide safe, high-quality drinking water.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

Council wishes to ensure that it supplies high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds our DWQMP and the ADWG standards.

## 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff responsible for the provision of drinking water to the declared water service areas of Townsville.

## 4. RESPONSIBILITY

The Chief Executive Officer and the Director Infrastructure and Operations are responsible for ensuring this policy is understood and adhered to by all relevant staff.

## 5. DEFINITIONS

**ADWG** – means Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011 Version 3.4 Updated October 2017).

**Declared Water Service Area** – means the declared water service area is the area to which council is able to offer a portable water service to properties. Not all properties within a local government area will have access to a portable water service.

**DWQMP** – means Drinking Water Quality Management Plan as referred to in the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008.

**Manager** – includes persons appointed to positions including with the title, Team Manager, General Manager, Principal, Director and Chief.

**Portable Water** – Water that is safe to drink or to use in food preparation.

**Workers** – includes employees, contractors, volunteers and all others who perform work on behalf of Council.

## 6. POLICY

The council wishes to provide safe, high quality drinking water, and will:

- Manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from “catchment to meter” by using a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified, assessed and mitigated;
- Integrate the needs and expectations of consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into its planning to provide and maintain a safe water supply;
- Establish and maintain regular and effective drinking water quality monitoring and reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, that promotes confidence in the management of its water supply systems;

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- Develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capabilities to manage incidents and other emergent events potentially affecting water quality;
- Participate in appropriate research and development activities (including employee training) to ensure continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and performance;
- Contribute to setting industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle;
- Continually improve its practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations; and
- Openly communicate this policy to the community to encourage public awareness.

## 7. LEGAL PARAMETERS

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

*Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*

*Public Health Act 2005*

## 8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Townsville Water Drinking Water Quality Management Plan 2011

Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011 Version 3.4 Updated October 2017)

## 9. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Version	Amendment	Reviewer	Approved

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