

POLICY NO: TS-7
POLICY NAME: DRINKING WATER QUALITY POLICY
VALIDITY: 280512/9
REVIEWED: MAY 2012

OBJECTIVE

1. Kyogle Council is committed to managing its water supplies effectively to provide a safe, high-quality drinking water that consistently meets the NHMRC/NRMMC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, and consumer and other regulatory requirements.

BACKGROUND

1. The NSW Government has approved the ADWG 2004 (Guidelines) for implementation as a model of best practice in New South Wales. The Guidelines are a joint publication of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the National Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC). The Guidelines define the quality of water suitable for human consumption, and provide advice on protecting water supplies. The Guidelines provide a solid foundation for assessing water quality by specifying health-based and aesthetic criteria as well as describing the philosophy of a multiple barrier approach from catchment to tap to ensure the safety of the water. This is embodied in the Guidelines as the "Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality".
2. The Public Health Act 2010 provides the NSW regulatory mechanism for compliance with the ADWG. This has recently been embodied in Part 5 of the (Draft) Public Health Regulation:

Part 5 Safety measures for drinking water

27 Quality assurance programs

(1) For the purposes of section 25 (1) of the Act, a quality assurance program must address the elements of the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality (as set out in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines published by the National Health and Medical Research Council) that are relevant to the operations of the supplier of drinking water concerned.

(2) A supplier of drinking water must provide a copy of its quality assurance program to the Director-General.

(3) The Director-General may arrange for the review of a quality assurance program of a supplier of drinking water at any time.

(4) The Director-General may make quality assurance programs and any reviews of such programs publicly available.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council operated drinking water supplies within the Kyogle Local Government Area.

POLICY

To meet the objectives set out in this policy, and in partnerships with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Kyogle Council will:

- manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source water to the consumer;
- use a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and balanced;
- integrate the needs and expectations of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning;
- 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;
- develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability;
- participate in appropriate research and development activities to ensure continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and performance;
- contribute to the debate on setting industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle;
- continually improve our practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.
- implement and maintain a drinking water quality management system consistent with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines to manage effectively the risks to drinking water quality.
- ensure all managers and employees involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the drinking water quality management system.

BUDGETING

1. Council will within its budgetary constraints, endeavour to provide a level of funding each year to meet the management requirements documented in this policy and associated drinking water quality management system.
2. Council will allocate human and financial resources for the implementation of this policy and associated drinking water quality management system, within Council's budget constraints.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (NHMRC/NRMMC as reviewed from time to time)
- NSW Public Health Act 2010 and associated Regulations

DURATION AND REVIEW

The policy and procedure will be reviewed periodically as required.