

## 5.2. VARIOUS WATER AND WASTEWATER GENERAL POLICIES

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### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the revised;**
  - a) Drinking Water Quality General Policy**
  - b) Recycled Water General Policy**
  - c) Sewer Construction – Replacement of Trees General Policy**
  - d) Water Meter Installation General Policy**
- 2. Delegates authority under Section 257 (1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise any minor amendments to all the listed policies above.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Water and Wastewater Drinking Water Quality General Policy, Recycled Water General Policy, Sewer Construction – Replacement of Trees General Policy and the Water Meter Installation General Policy are due for review.

The revised policy is presented in this report for adoption by Council every four years.

### BACKGROUND

The Drinking Water Quality General Policy is associated with all Water and Wastewater activities regarding the supply of drinking water to the community.

The purpose of the Recycled Water General Policy is to establish guidelines in relation to the supply and use of recycled water.

The Sewer Construction – Replacement of Trees General Policy is used for a uniform approach in dealing with claims for compensation for the loss of trees and other flora resulting from construction of sewers.

The purpose of the Water Meter Installation General Policy is to establish a policy for the installation of water meters in areas of the Douglas Shire Council.

### COMMENT

The existing Drinking Water Quality General Policy, Recycled Water General Policy, Sewer Construction – Replacement of Trees General Policy and the Water Meter Installation General Policy were reviewed with minimal changes. Changes were mostly updating the Water and Wastewater's Manager name for responsibility to review.

## PROPOSAL

The proposal is for Council to:

1. Adopts the revised;
  - e) Drinking Water Quality General Policy
  - f) Recycled Water General Policy
  - g) Sewer Construction – Replacement of Trees General Policy
  - h) Water Meter Installation General Policy
2. Delegates authority under Section 257 (1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise any minor amendments to all the listed policies above.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

To establish guidelines and a uniform strategic approach to all matters relating to Water and Wastewater based on best practice models, a clearly articulated approach and reduce the risk of lack of transparency, communication and consultation processes.

## CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

#### Theme 3 - Leading Environmental Stewardship

*Goal 3 - We will continue to build water infrastructure so that the Douglas Shire may enjoy water security and water quality.*

#### Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

*Goal 1 - We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.*

## COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play several different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Asset-Owner</b>          | Meeting the responsibilities associated with owning or being the custodian of assets such as infrastructure. |
| <b>Information Provider</b> | Bringing people together to develop solutions to problems.   |
| <b>Regulator</b>            | Meeting the responsibilities associated with regulating activities through legislation or local law.         |

## CONSULTATION

**Internal:** Water and Wastewater Department

**External:** Nil

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Sewer Construction - Replacement of Trees General Policy **[5.2.1 - 1 page]**
2. Drinking Water Quality General Policy **[5.2.2 - 1 page]**
3. Recycled Water General Policy **[5.2.3 - 2 pages]**
4. Water Meter Installation General Policy **[5.2.4 - 1 page]**

## **SEWER CONSTRUCTION – REPLACEMENT OF TREES GENERAL POLICY**

### **Intent**

To establish a policy for a uniform approach in dealing with claims for compensation for the loss of trees and other flora resulting from construction of sewers.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to sewer construction works in the area of the Douglas Shire Council carried out or commissioned by Water and Wastewater.

### **Provisions**

In the event of compensation claims arising from the loss of trees and other flora which are required to be moved in order to construct sewerage works, Water and Wastewater's response be as follows:

- (i) A replacement tree of similar species is delivered to the householder by Water and Wastewater. Mature trees are replaced by saplings where possible.
- (ii) The householder is responsible for planting, watering and caring for the replacement tree.

### **Policy Requirements**

1. That compensation for loss of trees and other flora as a result of sewer construction be enacted.
2. That this policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

**This Policy will remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.**

Manager Responsible for Review:

Manager Water and Wastewater

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 16/06/2015

CURRENT ADOPTION: 16/09/2019

DUE FOR REVISION: 09/07/2023

## DRINKING WATER QUALITY GENERAL POLICY

### Intent

To establish a policy for the implementation and maintenance of a Drinking Water Quality Management System that is consistent with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

### Scope

This policy applies to all Water and Wastewater activities associated with the supply of drinking water to the community.

### Provisions

The Drinking Water Quality Management System will utilise a risk-based “catchment to tap” approach to identify and manage potential risks associated with drinking water quality.

To achieve this, in partnership with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Water and Wastewater will:

- Consider the needs and expectations of our customers, stakeholders, regulators and employees and integrate appropriate solutions into our planning to provide and maintain safe water supplies.
- Undertake regular monitoring of drinking water quality and maintain effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and promote confidence in the management of the water supply systems.
- Have in place appropriate contingency plans and incident response capabilities to respond to and manage water quality incidents.
- Audit and review our practices against industry standards and stakeholder expectations to continually improve our performance.
- Provide training to all relevant employees to ensure that they are aware of this policy and are involved in the implementation of our Drinking Water Quality Management System.
- Openly communicate this policy to the community to encourage public awareness.

This policy assigns responsibility for drinking water quality management to all Water and Wastewater employees and acknowledges that corporate responsibility lies with the Water and Wastewater Management and ultimately the Douglas Shire Council, Chief Executive Officer.

This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Manager Responsible for Review:

Manager Water and Wastewater

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 16/06/2015

CURRENT ADOPTION: 16/09/2019

DUE FOR REVISION: 09/07/2023

## RECYCLED WATER GENERAL POLICY

### Intent

To establish guidelines in relation to the supply and use of recycled water.

### Scope

This policy applies to the supply and use of recycled water produced and supplied from Douglas Shire Council Wastewater Treatment Plants.

### Provisions

Recycled water produced following treatment of sewage at Wastewater Treatment Plants is a valuable resource which should be utilised in a sustainable manner.

The use of recycled water has the following potential benefits –

- Less treated effluent discharged to receiving waters
- Compliance with EPA effluent discharge license conditions
- Reduced ecological impacts of nutrients or other pollutants
- Reduced potable water demand
- Improved social amenity from greater availability of water
- Maximum use of an available and valuable resource
- Nutrient recycling
- Cost effective fit for purpose alternative to potable water.

Douglas Shire Council therefore supports the use of recycled water, for non potable purposes only, which has been treated to a level that is fit for its intended use. Recycled water can be used for a number of applications such as –

- Irrigation of open spaces
- Industrial uses
- Dual water reticulation to residential and commercial developments (separate potable and non potable supply to each household)
- Agricultural and horticultural uses.

The supply and use of recycled water must be carried out in a sustainable manner with all potential risks being identified prior to the supply of recycled water so as to ensure that there is no risk to public health and the environment.

Douglas Shire Council Water and Wastewater will supply recycled water to users in accordance with all appropriate local, state and federal regulatory provisions and guidelines and work in partnership with relevant regulatory agencies.

The supply of recycled water to potential users is at the sole discretion of Douglas Shire Council based on advice from the Manager of Douglas Shire Council Water and Wastewater.

Where it is deemed a sustainable and environmentally acceptable option Douglas Shire Council will preferentially use recycled water for non potable uses in Council operations and facilities.

Community consultation and engagement with stakeholders is a key component in the planning phases of recycled water schemes. Stakeholders are those parties that are likely to be affected by a recycled water project. As part of the integrated planning process for the implementation of recycled water schemes Douglas Shire Council Water and Wastewater will develop community engagement processes that are appropriate for the recycled water schemes that may be proposed.

This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Manager responsible for review:

Manager Water and Wastewater

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 16/06/2015

CURRENT ADOPTION: 16/06/2019

DUE FOR REVISION: 09/07/2023

## WATER METER INSTALLATION GENERAL POLICY

### Intent

To establish a policy for the installation of water meters in areas of the Douglas Shire Council.

### Scope

This policy applies to all properties on reticulated supply.

### Provisions

1. Approved (by Water and Wastewater Department) water meters be used to meter water service connections within the Douglas Shire Council area.
2. All properties be metered where it is practical to do so and where metering is in accordance with Federal and State Government Policy.
3. That the cost of metering unmetered areas be met through current and future capital works programs, with priority to commercial properties and low density residential properties.
4. All unmetered properties be charged a fee based on the deemed reasonable consumption as determined by the annual budget process.

### Policy Requirements

1. That the metering of water service connections be enacted.
2. That this policy remains in force until otherwise determined by Council.

This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Manager Responsible for Review:

Manager Water and Wastewater

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 16/06/2015

CURRENT ADOPTION: 16/06/2019

DUE FOR REVISION: 09/07/2023