



Water Hydrant Standpipe Extraction Policy

For more information contact
Shoalhaven Water

City Administration Centre

Bridge Road (PO Box 42)
Nowra NSW Australia 2541
P: (02) 4429 3214
F: (02) 4429 3170
water@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au
www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au

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PURPOSE

- To regulate and manage the extraction of water from mains by hydrant standpipes.
- To provide a fair and equitable system for measuring and charging hydrant water use, thereby maintaining appropriate water management practices in the Shoalhaven.
- To provide guidance and service to customers who wish to use metered standpipes for extraction of water from mains.
- To protect drinking water quality by preventing potential contamination of mains from inappropriate standpipes.
- To monitor and review water consumption patterns and assist in the planning of water supply infrastructure.

STATEMENT

This policy was adopted by Council Minute 00.711 on 23rd May 2000, Minute 04.1655 on 21st December 2004, Minute 09.334 on 24th March 2009 and Minute 13.35 on 29 January 2013.

1 EXEMPTION CIRCUMSTANCES

Under the Local Government Act 1993, the NSW Fire Service, State Emergency Service and the Australian Defence Force will be permitted to use unmetered standpipes for provision of emergency Services only.

Shoalhaven Water Operations Section will be exempt for essential maintenance of water mains to ensure water quality standards.

2 CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF AN APPLICATION

2.1 Hire Agreement and Use of Standpipes

Customers who wish to extract water from hydrants are required to hire a metered standpipe from Shoalhaven Water and will be required to enter into an agreement for their use.

The agreement specifies the conditions governing the use of the metered standpipes and payment of fees, charges and security deposit. Metered standpipes remain the property of Shoalhaven Water.

2.2 Hire Period

Standpipes will be available for hire on a quarterly basis.

2.3 Fees, Charges and Security Deposit

Fees, charges and security deposits will be set annually under Council's adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan – Fees, Charges and Rentals.

Note: The fees and charges are based on full cost recovery of the capital and maintenance cost of the metered standpipe over 10 years plus administration costs for each hire period. The security deposit is set at 30% of the standpipe cost to encourage security and return of the device by hirers.

Usage is based on the maximum usage charge for water adopted in a financial year.

2.4 Ownership of Standpipes

All metered standpipes for extraction of water will be owned by the Shoalhaven Water Group of Shoalhaven City Council. The use of private standpipes in Council's mains is prohibited.

2.5 Identification of Standpipes

Standpipes will be numbered and coloured for easy identification.

2.6 Types of Standpipes

Standpipes are available in two sizes:

- 65mm: For larger volume users (Max Flow Rate: 8.3 L/sec)
- 25mm: For smaller volume users (Max Flow Rate: 1.5 L/sec)

2.7 Penalties and Costs

The hire agreement will include clauses for the imposition of penalties in the event of damage, loss or destruction of the standpipe. The security deposit will be forfeited should such loss or damage result from negligent use by the hirer and additional costs recovered.

Appropriate safeguards have been incorporated in the agreement to discourage misuse.

2.8 Meter Reading

Standpipes are to be presented to Shoalhaven Water for meter reading and billing at quarterly intervals (March, June, September and December) and/or at the end of the hire period.

2.9 Standpipes Currently in Use

To encourage the removal of unmetered standpipes in the region, a rebate of \$50 will apply upon surrender of these standpipes.

3 OTHER MATTERS

3.1 Implementation

The Water Customer & Business Service Section of Council's Shoalhaven Water Group has responsibility to implement the policy through processing of an application.

3.2 Future options

Shoalhaven Water will consider further options of installing permanent bulk water filling stations at points throughout the city to reduce the number of metered standpipes and impact on water supply distribution from their use. Shoalhaven Water will also consider a longer term strategy of replacing all water hydrant standpipes with “smart metering technology” units.

3.3 Review

In accordance with S 165 (4) of the Local Government Act 1993, this policy will be reviewed within one year of the election of every new Council.

3.4 Application of ESD Principles

To ensure accountable use of standpipe services and the water extraction from the supply system against water availability.

3.5 Definitions

Hydrant – A fitting on a water main specifically designed for connection of a standpipe to extract water from the main.

Standpipe – A device to connect to a hydrant for extraction of water. The device is fitted with a control valve and meter for measuring water extracted.