

Drinking Water Quality Policy

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1 PURPOSE

To provide a commitment to the sustainable management and supply of safe, high quality drinking water. The policy provides a basis for the operation of Shoalhaven City Council's water supply involving catchments, storages, water treatment facilities and the distribution system.

2 STATEMENT

Shoalhaven Water is committed to providing safe, high quality drinking water, which consistently meets or exceeds the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, consumer and other regulatory requirements.

Shoalhaven Water will implement and maintain a drinking water quality management system consistent with the *Australian Water Guidelines* to manage effectively the risks to drinking water quality.

3 PROVISIONS

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

- Manage water quality at all points along the delivery network, from the source water to the consumer's tap by using a risk-based approach in which potential risks to water quality are to be identified and made explicit and managed to minimise any threat to drinking water quality.
- Integrate the needs and expectations of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning.
- Retain 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 to consumers.
- Adhere to and comply with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Shoalhaven Water and NSW Health.
- Maintain an appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability.
- Participate in appropriate research and development activities (including employee training) to ensure continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and efficient operation of water supply schemes.
- Contribute to setting industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle.
- Align our water quality systems and processes with the framework's proactive and multi-barrier approach to best practice water quality management.
- Continually improve our management practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

- Working with our employees, the Shoalhaven community, regulators and other stakeholders to ensure the water supply schemes are planned, constructed and operated consistent with industry best practices.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

Shoalhaven City Council will support this Policy by:

- Maintaining Council's Drinking Water Quality Management Plan.
- Implementing appropriate operations and management procedures for the water supply.
- Conducting regular Water Quality Committee and NSW Health Liaison Meetings.
- Reporting on the supply of safe drinking water.

5 REVIEW

The Drinking Water Quality Policy and associated management plans will be reviewed on a periodic basis and particularly where new guidelines and/or management information dictates.

6 APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

This policy will play a key role in ensuring the protection of public health, environment and water resources.