



**muswellbrook
shire council**

Drinking Water Quality Policy

MSC30E

Authorisation Details

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Details History

Version No.	Date changed	Modified by	Amendments made
1	12/02/2019	Operations Manager Water & Wastewater	Original Version adopted by General Manager and Noted by Council at Ordinary Meeting on 12/02/2019
2	30/11/2022	Operations Manager Water & Wastewater	Updated policy statement

Policy Objective

To highlight Muswellbrook Shire Council's commitment to supplying safe, high quality drinking water to the communities of Muswellbrook, Denman, and Sandy Hollow, that consistently meets the NHMRC / NRMCC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 6, 2011 (ADWG 2011), and consumer and other regulatory requirements.

(where, NHMRC is the National Health and Medical Research Council and NRMCC is the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council)

Risks being addressed

Muswellbrook Shire Council affirms its commitment in ensuring that its customers in Muswellbrook, Denman and Sandy Hollow receive safe, high quality drinking water that consistently meets the quality requirements as stipulated in the ADWG 2011.

This commitment is in line with Council's goal of providing safe, secure, and reliable water and wastewater services as outlined in Council's Operational Plan.

Policy Statement

Muswellbrook Shire Council's commitment to supplying safe, high quality drinking water to the communities of Muswellbrook Shire will be implemented through its Drinking Water Management System (DWMS) and Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy, consistent with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011.

To achieve this, in partnership with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Muswellbrook Shire 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.

Muswellbrook Shire Council will implement and maintain a drinking water quality management system consistent with the Guidelines to effectively manage the risks to drinking water quality.

All managers and employees involved in the supply of drinking water at Muswellbrook Shire Council are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining, and continuously improving the drinking water quality management system.

Delegations

There are no associated delegations with this policy.

Legislation

NHMRC/NRMMC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 6, 2011
NSW Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Regulation 2022
Local Government Act 1993

Dispute Resolution

The Operations Manager Water & Wastewater is the interpreter of this policy.

Associated Council Documentation

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- Muswellbrook Shire Council Drinking Water Management System
- Muswellbrook Shire Council Drinking Water Management System– Improvement Plan
- Muswellbrook Shire Council Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy
- Operational Plan