



muswellbrook shire council

Recycled Water Policy MSC23E

Authorisation Details

Authorised by:	Council	Internal/External:	External
Date:	26/09/2023	Minute No:	97
Review timeframe:	4 years	Review due date:	September 2027
Department:	Community Infrastructure Services		
Document Owner:	Operations Manager Water & Wastewater		
Community Strategic Plan Goal	5. Effective and efficient infrastructure that is appropriate to the needs of our community		
Community Strategic Plan Strategy	5.3 Provide safe, secure and reliable water supply and sewer services		

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1. Policy Objective

Muswellbrook Shire Council's Recycled Water Policy has been developed in line with the *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks (Phase 1)*-2006 and formalises Council's commitment to safe, responsible and sustainable use of recycled water. All stakeholders should be made aware of the policy.

2. Risks being addressed

This policy embraces the twelve elements of the risk management framework in the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling to identify major health and environmental risks when using recycled water, and to implement preventative measures to reduce such risks to acceptable lower risks. The twelve elements are arranged in four main areas:

1. commitment to responsible use and management of recycled water;
2. system analysis and management;
3. supporting requirements; and
4. Review.

These requirements are detailed in the policy below.

3. Scope

All managers and employees involved in the supply of recycled water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining, and continuously improving the recycled water management system.

This policy applies to all relevant stakeholders.

4. Policy Statement

Muswellbrook Shire Council supports and promotes the responsible use of recycled water and the application of a management approach that consistently meets the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling, as well as recycled water user and regulatory requirements.

5. Policy

Muswellbrook Shire Council, together with the NSW Health Authorities, NSW Environment Protection Authority, and relevant stakeholders will:

- Ensure that protection of public and environmental health is recognised as being of principal importance.
- Maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant agencies involved in management of water resources, including waters that can be recycled.
- Engage appropriate scientific expertise in developing recycled water schemes.
- Recognise the importance of community participation in decision-making processes and the need to ensure that community expectations are met.
- Manage recycled water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source to the recycled water user.

- Use a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and controlled.
- Integrate the needs and expectations of our users of recycled water, communities and other stakeholders, regulators, and employees into planning processes.
- Establish regular monitoring of control measures and recycled water quality, and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and promote confidence in the recycled water supply and its management.
- Develop appropriate contingency planning and incident-response capability.
- Participate in and support appropriate research and development activities to ensure continuous improvement and continued understanding of recycled water issues and performance.
- Contribute to the development of industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle.
- Continually improve Council's practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

Muswellbrook Shire Council will implement and maintain recycled water management systems consistent with the *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling* and the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy to effectively manage the risks to public and environmental health.

6. Dispute Resolution

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

7. Related Documents

8.1 Legislation and Guidelines

- Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks (Phase 1) (2006)
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Muswellbrook Shire Environmental Protection Licences
- Public Health Act 2010
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

8.2 Policies and Procedures

- [Drinking Water Policy](#)
- [Liquid Trade Waste Policy](#)
- DRAFT Recycled Water Management Plan (Pending)
- [Denman - Pollution Incident Response Management Plan \(PIRMP\)](#)
- [Muswellbrook - Pollution Incident Response Management Plan \(PIRMP\)](#)

8.3 Other Supporting Documents

- Environment Protection Licence 1593 (Muswellbrook)
- Environment Protection Licence 5059 (Denman)

8. Version History

This section identifies authors who reviewed the Policy and the date that it became effective.

Version No.	Date changed	Modified by	Amendments/Previous adoption details
1	28/09/2021	Operations Manager	Adopted by Council 28/9/21, minute number 97
2	05/07/2022	Business Improvement Officer	Added policy number and authorisation details.
3	04/07/2023	Operations Manager Water & Wastewater	Separated Policy from Policy Statement and added more Acts to Legislation. Added sections: Risks being addressed, Scope, Dispute Resolution and Related Documents. Public exhibition of draft policy 27/07/2023-24/08/2023. Adopted by Council 26 September 2023, Minute No 97.