

1. Policy Intent

To establish a policy for the implementation and maintenance of Drinking Water Quality Supplies to the Tablelands Community that complies with the relevant legislation and standards and protects public health.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Council activities associated with the supply of drinking water to the community. The policy pertains to all support, operational, and management personnel involved in the provision of drinking water and associated infrastructure.

3. Background/Supporting Information

Tablelands Regional Council (TRC) is bound by the requirements within the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act* and the *Public Health Act 2005* to provide potable water to all consumers within the TRC water supply declared service areas.

4. Policy Statement

- 4.1 TRC commits to implement and maintain a Drinking Water Management System that reflects the Australian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines and preserves the health of the community.
- 4.2 To achieve this Council will:
- a. Use the 'catchment to tap' risk-based approach to identify and manage environmental hazards or hazardous activities within drinking water quality management;
 - b. Continually strive to improve procedures and performance within the Drinking Water Quality Management System, reviewing our practices against industry standards and expectations of our stakeholders;
 - c. Incorporate the needs and expectations of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into drinking water quality management;
 - d. Strive to maintain compliance with all relevant environmental legislation, codes of practice and our Information Notices.
 - e. Ensure all employees are suitably qualified within their area of responsibility and are aware of their environmental obligations, striving to create a positive culture and awareness.
 - f. Develop the appropriate capabilities needed for contingency planning and incident response;
 - g. Undertake regular monitoring of drinking water quality, develop and maintain effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and promote confidence in the management of TRC's water supply systems;
 - h. Participate in appropriate research and development opportunities to improve our understanding of drinking water quality issues and performance;
 - i. Recognise source and catchment protection as a key component of our Drinking Water Quality Management System.

- 4.3 All relevant management and operational personnel involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving drinking water quality management.

5. Responsibility

Council is responsible for the adoption, amendment and repeal of the Policy and the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the development and amendment of any associated procedures and guidelines relevant to the Policy.

6. Review

It is the responsibility of the Manager Water & Waste to monitor the adequacy of this policy and recommend appropriate changes. This policy will be formally reviewed every three years or as required by Council.

This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise amended/repealed by resolution of Council.