

Drinking Water Quality

Policy

Approved by Council: 18/10/2023

To describe Council's commitment to drinking water quality and how this will be achieved.

Background

The *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines* (NHMRC/NRMMC, 2011) prescribe a holistic approach to drinking water quality management. Rous County Council has implemented the Framework for Management of Drinking Water as set out in the ADWG through a Drinking Water Management System (DWMS). This includes formalising Council's commitment to drinking water quality management through a drinking water quality policy.

Policy statement

Rous County Council is committed to managing its water supply effectively to provide a safe, high-quality drinking water that protects public health and consistently meets the National Health and Medical Research Council/National Resource Management Ministerial Council *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines* (ADWG), and consumer and other regulatory requirements.

To achieve this, Rous County Council has implemented a DWMS that is based on the following principles:

- i. Managing water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source water to consumer;
- ii. Using a risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified and managed;
- iii. Integrating the requirements of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning;
- iv. Establishing regular monitoring of the quality of drinking water and effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and to promote confidence in the water supply and its management;
- v. Developing appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability;
- vi. Participating in appropriate research and development activities to ensure continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and performance;
- vii. Continually improving our practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

Rous County Council will implement and maintain a DWMS consistent with the ADWG to effectively manage the risks to drinking water quality.

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

Contact officer

Group Manager Operations

Related documents**Policies**

N/A

Procedures

Drinking Water Management System

Legislation

Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)

Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957 (NSW)

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)

Other

NHMRC/NRMMC (2011) Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, National Health and Medical Research Council/Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.

NSW Health (2005), Drinking Water Monitoring Program.

New South Wales Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies (2018).

File No.: 172		Next review date: 5 years	
Version	Purpose and description	Date adopted by Council	Resolution No.
1.0		21/12/2011	115/11
2.0	Review	21/10/2015	99/15
3.0	Review	21/03/2018	19/18
4.0	Review	18/10/2023	50/23
4.1	Policy transferred to a new template	07/02/2025	