



SHIRE COUNCIL
Blayney

Recycled Water Policy

Policy	27E
Officer Responsible	Manager Wastewater and Urban Services
Last Review Date	16/12/2025

Strategic Policy

BACKGROUND

The use of recycled water is a nationally accepted approach to responsible water and environmental management, and forms part of Council's commitment to water conservation.

Council supports the responsible use of recycled water and is committed to developing and implementing preventive risk management systems to ensure the protection of human and environmental health.

Council is the owner and operator of a wastewater utility business (the sewer fund) comprising pipelines, pump stations and a sewer treatment plant.

As a local water utility, Council is required to comply with the NSW government's Best Practice Management of Water and Sewerage Guidelines, issued under section 409(6) of the Local Government Act 1993, incorporating the pricing principles for recycled water contained in the guidelines under the National Water Initiative (principle 7 - Cost Recovery) (the Guidelines), which provides that prices should recover efficient direct costs, including capital costs.

Compliance with the Guidelines enables Council to achieve sustainable water supply and sewerage businesses and comply with the Australian Government's National Competition Policy and National Water Initiative.

Recycled water is intended to be used for unrestricted municipal irrigation, as defined in the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling in the Town of Blayney. It may also be used for road construction purposes including dust suppression, for hydro-jetting operations, for street sweeping and for street tree watering. It may also supplied to commercial customers by agreement. It may not be used for other purposes unless approved by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

This policy details the requirements for managing Council's recycled water system. This policy only relates to systems that are using recycled water from Council's Sewerage Treatment Plant and that require a Section 60 approval from DCCEEW.

DEFINITIONS

In this policy the following definitions apply:

Point of Supply	The truck filling point at the Sewerage Treatment Plant, or the Master Valve at which the recycled water main discharges into the respective recycled water storage tank.
Recycled Water	water supplied by Council from the RWS, being water from the RWTP.

OWNERSHIP OF RECYCLED WATER ASSETS

The Sewer Fund is the owner of the following assets used in connection with the Recycled Water Scheme (RWS):

- the Recycled Water Treatment Plant (RWTP),
- the 140 KL holding tank;
- the access road, standpipe and water truck filling facilities;
- the recycled water main
- Holding tanks and pumps at sports fields
- Irrigation lines up to and including sprinkler heads.

The income generated by the Recycled Water Business is hypothecated for Sewer Fund purposes pursuant to section 409(3) of the Local Government Act 1993.

PRICING OF RECYCLED WATER

Under the pricing principles set out in the Guidelines, when setting water supply tariffs, Council is required to levy an appropriate cost reflective water usage charge per kL based on the long-run marginal cost of water supply.

The Treated Recycled Water Charge at the Point of Supply will be calculated in accordance with the pricing principles contained in the Guidelines, by Council's Chief Financial Officer, and published in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges on an annual basis.

POLICY

Council will implement and maintain recycled water management systems consistent with the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling to effectively manage the risks to public and environmental health.

To achieve this Council will:-

- a. Ensure that protection of public and environmental health is recognised as being of paramount importance.
- b. Maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant agencies involved in the management of water resources, including NSW Health, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
- c. Engage users of recycled water to ensure that responsibilities are identified and understood.
- d. Operate and maintain recycled water irrigation sites and infrastructure in accordance with the relevant site management plan.
- e. Develop and implement Recycled Water Management Plans that address the key elements of the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling.
- f. Ensure that Council's sewerage treatment plant operators are appropriately trained and experienced, and that they are conversant with the requirements of relevant recycled water management plans.
- g. Ensure all staff who perform works or duties that involves working with recycled water are adequately trained and have undertaken the Recycled Water Induction.

- h. Induct all contractors undertaking works that involve potential exposure to Recycled Water using the relevant SWMS's under the BSC WHS Management System;
- i. Follow appropriate safety protocols in relation to working with Recycled Water as outlined in Councils Pollution Incident Response Management Plan and Work Health and Safety Policy
- j. Inform users of Council facilities supplied with Recycled Water of its use, and the risks associated with exposure to Recycled Water.
- k. Manage Recycled Water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source (RWTP) to the Point of Supply (recycled water user).
- l. Use a risk-based approach in which potential threats to recycled water quality are identified and controlled.
- m. Establish regular monitoring of control measures and recycled water quality, including at the Point of Supply, and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the recycled water supply and its management.
- n. Develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability.
- o. Continually improve practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.
- p. Erect and maintain appropriate signage at all irrigation sites in accordance with AS/NZS 3500.1:2021 Plumbing and Drainage Water services and AS 1319:1994 Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment.

The quality of recycled water shall meet the water quality objectives in the Operational Verification Monitoring Plan.

Council may reduce, interrupt or discontinue supply if: -

- a. the Recycled Water fails to meet quality standards;
- b. any component of Council infrastructure is damaged or breaks down.
- c. maintenance or repairs to any component of Council infrastructure are to be carried out;
- d. an Authority directs that Recycled Water not be supplied; or
- e. the above circumstances are likely to occur if service is not reduced/interrupted/discontinued.

RELATED LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

This Policy has been developed with reference to a number of key pieces of Legislation and associated Regulations and Guidelines, including but not limited to: -

Local Government Act 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)
Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 (NSW)
Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling
Pollution Incident Response Management Plan
Work Health and Safety Policy

End of Policy

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