

## 1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	28/05/2013	0174	28/05/2013
2	26/08/2014	0267	26/08/2014
3	09/06/2020	20/156	17/07/2020
4	09/07/2024	24/182	08/08/2024

## 2 Policy Objective

- 2.1 To provide an organisation commitment to the safe and sustainable management of recycled water.
- 2.2 To provide a basis for the development and operation of recycled water management schemes involving Griffith City Council's wastewater system and treatment facilities.

## 3 Policy Scope

This policy details the requirements on Griffith City Council (GCC) when planning, designing, constructing and dealing with recycled water systems.

This policy only relates to any recycled water system from Council's sewage system and treatment facilities that require a Section 60 approval from New South Wales Office of Water (NoW).

## 4 Policy Statement

Recycled wastewater is increasingly being recognised as a valuable resource in urban water cycle management. There are two distinct applications for the beneficial use of recycled water.

The first is providing an additional (or dual) supply of high quality water in uses where drinking (potable) water is not required such as toilet flushing and watering of gardens. The use of recycled water in these applications can directly reduce demand on natural water supplies. Recycled water schemes such as these (commonly called third or purple-pipe) in new sub-divisions are increasingly being considered and often require increased treatment and disinfection of recycled water to protect public health.

The second type of application is minimising the release of recycled water to the environment by using high quality recycled water for non-potable purposes such as concrete floor washing, vehicle washing, usage during construction works such as road, buildings and applying it to land via irrigation for agriculture, playing fields and other open spaces. Land application schemes have been in place for many years in Australia.

Griffith City Council's aim is to encourage recycled water usage wherever technically and economically feasible and socially and environmentally justifiable. Griffith City Council



supports the responsible use of recycled water and application of a risk management approach that consistently meets Australian Guidelines for water recycling, as well as appropriate regulatory requirements.

Both public health and environmental risks need to be considered in the planning, design, construction and operation of these schemes.

A range of State and Federal Government guidelines have been developed to assist water authorities in the development and management of recycled water schemes. A well-defined policy, development and management framework will be essential in gaining NSW Government (Section 60 Approval) and community approval/support for new schemes.

### **Recycled Water Management Policy**

Griffith City Council will **responsibly** manage recycled water by:

- Ensuring that protection of public health, environment and water resources are of prime importance;
- Working with our employees, the Griffith City community, regulators and other stakeholders to ensure recycled water schemes are planned, designed, constructed and operated consistent with industry best practices.
- Adopting a risk management approach to ensure that potential risks are made explicit, understood, managed and accepted by customers and other stakeholders.
- Regular monitoring and reporting of control measures and recycled water quality to promote confidence in recycled water supply and its management.
- Maintaining and enforcing Council's trade waste policy to protect the quality of recycled water produced.
- Ensuring that Council's staff are appropriately trained, and users of recycled water are educated in the safe and efficient operation of recycled water schemes.
- Ensuring that recipients of recycled water are trained and/or educated in the safe and efficient use of the water.
- Promoting community participation in decision-making processes and the ensuring that community expectations are considered.
- Promoting the use of recycled water within Griffith City Council and the types of recycled water activities that can be safely and appropriately undertaken.

Griffith City Council will **sustainably** manage recycled water by:

- Ensuring schemes proposed are consistent with Griffith City Council's long-term strategic plans.
- Giving due consideration to all relevant Griffith City Council policies throughout the life cycle of a recycled water scheme.
- Assessing all proposed schemes and initiatives consistent with Council's sustainability framework.
- Reporting regularly to stakeholders on the activities of our recycled water supply.

Aiming to recognise and capture the economic value of recycled water over the long term by applying appropriate cost recovery principles in line with Government policies. This will include recognition that some recycled water schemes in Australia had substantial capital investment to use recycled water compared with other sources.

- Agreeing to the level of service to be provided with users of a recycled water scheme as part of the process of formulating agreements with end-users of recycled water.
- Promoting the efficient use of recycled water products including restricting nonessential demand during periods of drought or restriction of supply if required.
- Continuing to substitute recycled water supplies for potable water where appropriate.

### Implementation

Griffith City Council will **support** this Policy by:

- Maintaining robust guidelines for assessing and developing new recycled water schemes.
- Implementing appropriate operations and management procedures for all recycled water schemes.
- Reporting on outcomes of its recycled water management schemes.

### Access and Consumption Charges

There will be charges - Access and Consumption charges shall be set annually in Council's fees and charges.

### Review

The Recycled Wastewater Policy and associated development guidelines will be reviewed on a periodic basis and particularly where new guidelines and/or management information dictates.

### Application of Sustainability Principles

The policy will permit the conservation of the potable water resource allowing more water to remain in the environment.

## 5 Definitions

GCC – Griffith City Council

*Recycled Water* – Water Generated from sewage and treated to a standard that is appropriate for its intended use.

*Risk Management* – The systematic evaluation of the recycled water supply system, the identification of hazards and hazardous events, the assessment or risks (likelihood and consequence of a hazard causing harm) and the development and implementation of preventive strategies to manage the risks.

## 6 Exceptions

None

## 7 Legislation

Local Government Act 1993 – Section 60

## 8 Related Documents

This is a policy document only and is supported by the following guidelines that pertain to the design and management of recycled water schemes:

- Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health & Environmental Risk (Phase1) ( Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council and EPHC, 2006)
- Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (ANEC 2000)
- Sewerage Code of Australia (WSAA, 2002)
- Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation (NSW DEC, 2004)

Griffith City Council:

- Water Strategic Business Plan
- Water Efficiency Strategy
- Sewerage Strategic Business Plan
- Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan

## 9 Directorate

Utilities