

DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Objective

To implement and maintain a Drinking Water Management System consistent with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality to effectively manage risks to the drinking water quality.

Scope

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

Policy

Gilgandra Shire Council is committed to managing its water supply catchment, treatment and supply assets to provide safe, high quality drinking water, which consistently meets the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011)*, other regulatory requirements and consumer expectations.

Gilgandra Shire Council will, in partnership with the community, other stakeholders and relevant agencies:

- Manage water quality from catchment to tap: at all points along the delivery chain, from the source water to the consumer's tap
- Adopt a risk-based approach: in which potential threats to water quality are identified and managed, in accordance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, to minimise any threat to drinking water quality
- Integrate the needs and expectations: of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning
- Establish effective monitoring programs: systematically monitor the quality of drinking water and ensure effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information that promotes confidence in the water supply and its management to consumers
- Develop/Review Contingency and Incident Response Plans: that will be regularly reviewed and updated
- Participate in research and development: maintain awareness of current research and development activities to ensure that Gilgandra Shire Council is up to date with current industry standards
- Contribute to setting industry regulations and guidelines: be an active participant in the development of industry regulation and guidelines relevant to health and the broader water cycle.
- Adopt best practice water quality management: align our water quality systems and processes with the framework's proactive and multi-barrier approach to best practice water quality management

- Continually improve our management practices: by assessing performance against industry standards, corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations
- Continually improve the capability of our staff: by encouraging and supporting participation in training and professional development and ensure all employees are aware of and actively seek to achieve the aims of this policy
- Maintain a long term and sustainable water supply: which recognises global and regional priorities in the management of water

Gilgandra Shire Council will communicate to the public its drinking water quality policy and its implementation.

Relevant Legislation

Public Health Regulation

Associated Documents

Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Framework

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| Responsible Officer: | Director Infrastructure | | |
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