



YOUNG SHIRE COUNCIL

**BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND
CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL
POLICY**

No 101

DATE ADOPTED: 20.5.15

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND	3
2	PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES.....	3
3	POLICY.....	4
4	RESPONSIBILITY.....	5

1 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

This policy deals with the prevention of backflow of water from customers properties back into Young Shire Council's potable water distribution and reticulation systems.

DEFINITIONS

Backflow

Backflow is the unintended reversal of flow in a water pipeline whereby water that has already passed beyond the meter assembly into the customer's pipeline system returns to the Council's water supply.

Cross-Connection

Cross-Connection is a direct or indirect physical connection of a potable water supply to a line that is non-potable e.g., town water supply to recycled water.

Hazard Ratings

High Hazard

Any condition, device or practice within the water supply system and its operation, which has the potential to cause death.

Medium Hazard

Any condition, device or practice within the water supply system and its operation, which could endanger health.

Low Hazard

Any condition, device or practice within the water supply system and its operation, which would constitute a nuisance but not endanger health.

Testable Device

Any backflow Prevention Device that is provided with test taps for the purpose of testing its operation, and a registered break tank; or a registered air gap.

Qualified Person

A licensed plumber who has undertaken accredited backflow training from a registered training organisation.

2 PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Policy is to:

- § Provide clear guidelines to assist Council staff in making determinations relating to protection of the potable water supply via backflow prevention.
- § Provide information to members of the public, plumbers and other stakeholders about the selection and installation of backflow prevention devices and the Council's role in backflow prevention.
- § Ensure that non-complying properties are brought into line with the requirements of this Council Policy, Plumbing Code of Australia and the Australian Standard AS 3500 Part 1.
- § Maintain backflow records/register.
- § Ensure containment devices are provided and that these devices are equal to or greater than the downstream hazard.
- § Ensure annual testing is carried out by a qualified person and is added to the Council backflow register.

§ Investigate non-compliance and ensure enforcement of this policy

3 POLICY

Young Shire Council as the supplier of potable water to the public must ensure that it meets its obligations under the Australia Drinking Water Guidelines and Young Shire Council's Drinking Water Management Plan to provide safe drinking water to its customers. One way of ensuring this is to protect the system from contamination or pollution. With this in mind Young Shire Council is undertaking to make all new and existing water connections compliant with the Local Government Act 1993, Plumbing Code of Australia and Australian Standards.

Young Shire Council ensures the implementation of this policy by installing non-testable rated backflow prevention devices (dual check valves) on all low hazard water services and requiring the customer to install, test and maintain an appropriate backflow device on all medium and high hazard water services.

Council Responsibilities

Council will operate a system of compliance to ensure that customers comply with this Policy.

In the absence of any site specific information, Council will assign a hazard rating to a property based on Council's assessment of the primary activities being undertaken on site. Council may update the rating from time to time. If the customer has more site specific information and requests a review of the hazard rating then Council will review the hazard and may determine that a different hazard rating is more appropriate, and amend its records accordingly.

Council will keep records of all properties backflow hazard rating. Council may ask customers to certify their hazard rating periodically. Council may require that this certification be carried out from time to time by Qualified Personnel.

Council will keep records and ensure that minimum requirements for Testable Devices are carried out. These are:

- All testable backflow devices must be registered with Council and tested on installation.
- All testable devices must be tested on an annual basis and testing is to be carried out by a Qualified Person.
- Council will advise customers of the date when the device must be tested by with test results forwarded to Council within 10 working days of testing the backflow prevention device.

Customer Responsibilities

The customer is responsible for installation of the appropriate backflow prevention devices including containment protection, on their property that has a high or medium hazard rating.

The customer must engage a Qualified Person to install the backflow device. In the case of existing water services the customer must provide certification of the backflow device by a Qualified Person to Council in a timeframe agreed by Council.

In the case of a new water service the customer must provide certification of the backflow device by a Qualified Person prior to Council making water available at the service.

Where it is intended to carry out plumbing work on any property's internal water supply containing a backflow prevention device, the installation shall conform to the Australian Standards, AS 3500.1, Plumbing Code of Australia.

The customer is responsible for the ongoing maintenance and certification of the backflow device. Upon advice from Council of the need to do so, the customer must submit certification of the satisfactory operation of the backflow device to Council within 30 days of the issue of the advice. Where the customer fails to provide the certification by the due date, Council may do one or more of the following:

- test and certify the device and charge a fee to the customer.
- issue reminder notice(s) to the customer and charge a fee to the customer.
- disconnect the water service if Council believes that the hazard presented by the activities on the property presents an unacceptable risk to the water supply and charge a fee for the disconnection/reconnection.

Except with the written approval of Council, the property owner/occupier shall not alter in any form whatsoever the installation or operation of the device referred to in the original approval, including replacement or removal of the backflow devices.

4 RESPONSIBILITY

Young Shire Council's Director, Utility Services is responsible for the implementation and review of this policy. This policy is to be reviewed every four years or when changes in legislation are necessary to adopt and implement.