



Young Shire Council

DRINKING WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT POLICY

NO 89

Date Adopted: 21/8/13

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1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Young Shire Council is committed to the provision of safe and sustainable operation of water services as well as managing and delivering water supply efficiently and effectively. In delivering quality drinking water, all employees involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continually contributing to the improvement of the water quality management system.

Council recognises that our operational capability needs to be supported by a Drinking Water Quality Management System that is consistent with the Framework of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. With the use of this management system, and with collaboration with relevant stakeholders, YSC will effectively manage risks to the drinking water quality supply. This risk based management system is currently under development with this policy the first step in demonstrating Council's commitment to providing safe drinking water.

2. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- A. To provide a safe, high quality drinking water supply that consistently meets standards required by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC), Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 (ADWG), and other regulatory requirements.
- B. To deliver and achieve quality of drinking water that fulfils consumer expectations.
- C. To be an active member of debate on public health issues and industry standards.
- D. To continue to improve and review practices, assessing our performance against corporate objectives and stakeholder expectations.

3 POLICY

Young Shire Council in order to fulfil its objectives in drinking water quality management has developed this policy that in partnership with relevant stakeholders and agencies shall:

- Facilitate understanding of the potential risks to water quality within the Shire and manage these risks within a Quality Management Plan as required under the *Public Health Act, 2010*.
- Adopt a 'continuous improvement' philosophy in managing YSC water.
- Develop, implement and maintain a holistic approach to managing incidents and emergencies within YSC water.
- Ensure information relating to YSC water supply performance is communicated openly to improve management of water quality and safety within the Shire.
- Work with stakeholders and relevant agencies to meet its objectives.
- Integrate the needs and expectations of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning.
- Establish effective monitoring programs and reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and promote confidence in the water supply authority.
- Develop suitable contingency plans and incidents response.
- Maintain awareness of current research and development activities to ensure that YSC water supply is up-to-date with current industry standards.
- Provide regular education and training to ensure that all staff members are aware of their responsibilities for maintaining a safe water supply.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

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

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Resolution No. 320/13