



Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

RECYCLED WATER POLICY

CODE INF 020

1. BACKGROUND

Recycled water is water that has already been used by urban communities or industry and has been treated to a standard that can be reused for a specific application. Recycled Water is a valuable resource that can provide alternative supplies for **non-drinking uses**.

Interest in the recycling of sewerage effluent has grown as climate dependant water sources have become less reliable and are under greater demand. With the recognition of the value of sewerage effluent as a resource, more effluent has been identified as a good potential source of recycled water for a broader range of end uses.

Lachlan Shire Council provides secure, safe, reliable and innovative integrated water services to communities. Integrated systems often rely less on limited natural water sources and produce less pollutant loads to the environment. They thus encourage water conservation and efficient water use and enable the implementation of cost-effective recycling of treated effluent and urban stormwater use options.

Lachlan Shire Council will actively seek to improve and deliver sustainable recycled water services as a key element of the integrated water cycle management (IWCM) within the region.

2. OBJECTIVE

This policy sets out Lachlan Shire Council's commitment to the promotion of the responsible and safe use of recycled water and the application of a management approach that consistently meets the *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling (AGWR)* whilst still protecting public health and the environment.

3. SCOPE

All managers and employees involved in the implementation and supply of recycled water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the Recycled Water Management Plan.

4. RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*

Further Information: ☎ ✉ Email: council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au				Page 1 of 4
Version:001	Commencement Date: August 2017	Last Review Date:	Next Review Date: August 2018	TRIM No.



Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

RECYCLED WATER POLICY

CODE INF 020

- *Public Health Act 2010*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling 2006*

5. DEFINITIONS

Recycled water:	Water intended primarily for human consumption (but excluding bottled water, for the purposes of this policy).
Recycled Water Management Plan:	A recycled water management plan (RWMP) is a documented, risk-based system for managing the production and supply of recycled water. Their purpose is to protect public health, and to ensure that critical recycled water schemes continue to operate.
Stakeholders:	An accountant, group, organization, member, or system that affects or can be affected by an organization's actions, objectives and policies.
Risk:	The likelihood of a hazard causing harm in exposed populations in a specified time frame, including the magnitude of that harm.
Incident response:	Is an organized approach to addressing and managing the aftermath of an issue. The goal is to handle the situation in a way that limits damage and reduces recovery time and costs.
Risk management:	Is the process of identifying risk, assessing risk, and taking steps to reduce risk to an acceptable level. The risk management approach determines the processes, techniques, tools, and team roles and responsibilities for a specific project.

Further Information: ☎ ✉ Email: council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au				Page 2 of 4
Version:001	Commencement Date: August 2017	Last Review Date:	Next Review Date: August 2018	TRIM No.



Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

RECYCLED WATER POLICY

CODE INF 020

6. POLICY

In partnership with relevant health authorities and stakeholders Lachlan Shire Council will:

- Ensure that protection of public and environmental health is recognised as being of paramount importance.
- Maintain and continually improve the Recycled Water Management Plan (RWMP) to adequately manage water quality risks to customers and the public.
- Ensure recipients and users of recycled water are trained and/or educated in the safe efficient use of recycled water.
- Develop and implementation of appropriate contingency planning and incident-response capability.
- Adopt a risk management approach to ensure potential threats to recycled water quality are identified and controlled.
- Integrate the needs and expectations of our users of recycled water, communities and other stakeholders, regulators and employees into planning processes.
- Establish regular monitoring of control measures and recycled water quality and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the recycled water supply and its management.
- Maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant agencies involved in management of water resources, including waters that can be recycled.
- Engage appropriate stakeholders in the development of recycled water systems including scientific expertise, Council staff and community participation.
- Recognise the importance of community participation in decision-making processes and the need to ensure that community expectations are met.
- Manage recycled water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source to the recycled water user.

Further Information: ☎ ✉ Email: council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au				Page 3 of 4
Version: 001	Commencement Date: August 2017	Last Review Date:	Next Review Date: August 2018	TRIM No.



Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

RECYCLED WATER POLICY

CODE INF 020

- Participate in and support appropriate research and development activities to ensure continuous improvement and continued understanding of recycled water issues and performance.
- Contribute to the development of industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle.
- Continually improve our practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.

GENERAL MANAGER

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Further Information: ☎ ✉ Email: council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au				Page 4 of 4
Version:001	Commencement Date: August 2017	Last Review Date:	Next Review Date: August 2018	TRIM No.