

<b>Name of policy:</b>	<b>Drinking Water Quality</b>		
<b>Adoption by Council:</b>	<b>22 May 2024</b>	<b>Minute number:</b>	<b>190/2024</b>
<b>Last review date:</b>	<b>March 2024</b>		
<b>Review timeframe:</b>	<b>4 Years</b>		
<b>Next scheduled review date:</b>	<b>March 2029</b>		
<b>Related legislation:</b>	<i>Public Health Act 2010</i> <i>Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957</i> <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>		
<b>Associated policies/documents:</b>	<b>MidCoast Council Water and Systems Strategic Business Plan</b>  <b>MidCoast Council Drinking Water Quality Management System</b>		
<b>Responsible division:</b>	<b>Infrastructure &amp; Engineering Services</b>		

## Policy objective

The objective of this policy is to ensure safe and high-quality drinking water is supplied to our customers in accordance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

## Policy statement

Council is committed to effective management of drinking water supplies to provide high quality drinking water which consistently meets or exceeds Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, customers' expectations, and regulatory requirements.

## Coverage of the policy

This policy applies to MidCoast Council employees and contractors involved in the supply of drinking water.

## Strategic Plan link

Community Outcome 1: A Resilient and Socially Connected Community

<i>1.4 We protect the health and safety of our communities</i>	<i>1.4.2: Provide safe and sustainable networks of water, sewer, and stormwater systems to meet community needs and health and safety standards</i>
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Community Outcome 2: An integrated and considered approach to managing our natural and built environments

<i>2.1 We protect manage and restore our natural environment and our biodiversity</i>	<i>2.1.3 Improve and maintain water quality for our beaches, lakes, and waterways</i>
<i>2.4 We have an adequate and reliable water supply</i>	<i>2.4.1 Manage all elements of the water cycle to deliver an adequate and reliable water supply that meets community needs now and into the future</i>

## Policy content

MidCoast Council will, in partnership with our customers, NSW Health, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and other stakeholders:

- a) Manage water quality at all points along the delivery path from catchment to customers' taps as described in the Drinking Water Quality Management System.
- b) Adopt a preventative, risk-based approach to the protection of drinking water where all potential risks to water quality are identified and effective measures are taken to minimise any threat to drinking water quality.
- c) Ensure appropriate, timely monitoring and corrective actions are undertaken at critical control points to ensure the continual delivery of safe drinking water to our customers.
- d) Deliver water that meets the health-based criteria described within the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and work towards achieving full compliance with aesthetic criteria.
- e) Monitor the quality of our natural water resources and our drinking water supply and share these results with our customers and regulators and promote confidence in our water supply and its management.
- f) Ensure that effective contingency planning and incident response mechanisms are in place and reviewed regularly.
- g) Engage with our community as we implement *Our Water Our Future 2050*, our road map towards improving the security, reliability, quality, and resilience of our water resources over the long term.
- h) Adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding between NSW Health and MidCoast Council.
- i) Participate in water industry forums and research programs that serve to enhance our understanding of water quality issues, provide opportunities to share operational knowledge, support the efficient operation of water supply schemes, and contribute to the revision of industry regulations and guidelines.
- j) Continually review and improve our practices by assessing performance of our water supply against the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, water industry standards, our strategic plan, and the expectations of our stakeholders.

## Definitions

**A critical control point** is defined as a point, step or procedure at which control can be applied and a hazard can be prevented, eliminated, or reduced to acceptable levels.

**Health-based criteria** sets the accepted physical, chemical, biological and radionuclide characteristics of drinking water that, based on present knowledge, will not result in any significant risk to human health of a person over a lifetime of consumption.

**Aesthetic criteria** provides the basis for what is universally accepted as good quality water. The values are determined by considering water quality guidelines used by other countries and international bodies, assessing any health implications, and then deciding on a point beyond which the quality of water might no longer be considered as good.

#### **References and related documents**

- MidCoast Council Drinking Water Quality Management System
- Critical Control Points: MidCoast Council's Water Supply Systems
- Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Plan
- MidCoast Council Water and Systems Strategic Business Plan
- Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy – Our Water Our Future 2025
- Memorandum of Understanding between NSW Health and MidCoast Council
- *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines* (2011)

#### **Responsible officer**

Manager Water Management and Treatment

#### **Attachments**

Nil