District Council of
Loxton Waikerie

WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

Responsible Officer/s	Chief Executive Officer
Relevant Legislation / Documents	Water Industry Act 2012
Adopted	September 2016
Reviewed	16 July 2025
Next Review	May 2030

A. Purpose

The intent of this policy is to provide consistency, understanding and guidance for the management of the supply of water from council to community groups and any acceptance of donated water to the District Council of Loxton Waikerie (council).

B. Definitions

Donation refers to a gift given freely to council. Council recognises that it has capacity within its current water allocations to supply water through its irrigation license allocations. This policy provides a framework for the supply of water to community groups.

The policy also applies to all donations of water to council, it will set clear guidelines for the acceptance and provision of donated water where irrigators have determine that they wish to partner with council to enhance specified community assets through the donation of water.

The policy applies to all activities involving the use of recycled waster across Council properties or within designated areas, including landscaping

C. Policy

Council has substantial capacity in its water allocation allowing for drought conditions, Council currently has water licences for 1,010ML and the average use each year is approximately 660ML. Any unused or surplus water within the license is sold through a short term lease at the end of each financial year.

The Council is an entity providing 'water retail services'. The Water Industry Act 2012 defines a 'water retail service' as:

- Sale and supply of water to a person for use where the water is to be conveyed by a reticulated system; or
- The sale and supply of sewerage services (the collection, storage, treatment or conveyance of sewage through a reticulated system) for the removal of sewage, even if the service is not actually used.

A retail service includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- Drinking water services;
- Sewerage services;
- Recycled water/ storm water services;
- Other non-drinking water services; and
- Other miscellaneous water and sewerage services.

1. Water supply

Council may enter a contract to supply water through its reticulation system and/or enter a lease to allocate water subject to meeting the following requirements:

- A lease or contract is only entered into with a community based, not for profit organizations, such as community hospitals, schools, sporting clubs.
- A lease or contract will be for a period of up to 5 years.
- The lease amount will be determined on a commercial basis at the time of entering the lease
- All costs associated with the supply, metering, pumping and administration for the water supply are recovered by Council.
- All water supplied is metered.
- All legislative requirements, in particular the Water Industry Act 2012 and the Local Government Act 1999, are met.
- All Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) licensing and contract requirements, if any, being met.

- That in the event that Council's overall water allocation is reduced to less than the full entitlement during the term of any agreement to supply water, then the supply may be reduced accordingly or not supplied at all during such periods.

2. Donated water

Council will willingly accept donated water from the community where legislation permits extra water to be applied, subject to the following conditions;

- that the water delivery infrastructure in the area specified by the donor is capable of the application of the increased water amount;
- that the state water restrictions in place at the time of the donation allow for the increased water to be applied to the area specified;
- that donated water can not be applied until all transfers are completed and approved by the relevant authorities;
- that in the current situation council meet the cost of water transfer fees for donated water;
- that for reasons of transparency and public demonstration of equity, where a donation of water is designated for a particular location and significantly varies from the water allocation of council for similar locations signage (or other appropriate notification) and / or media statements be undertaken to notify the public of the donation.
- Council must ensure that any water donations comply with obtaining any necessary licenses and adhering to industry codes established by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA

3. Recycled Water

Council's commitment to the responsible use of recycled water to reduce reliance on potable water supplies, promote water security, and support regional sustainability objectives. It provides a framework to guide the safe and effective use of recycled water within Council operations and in approved community applications.

Council is committed to the responsible and sustainable use of recycled water as part of an integrated water management strategy. Recycled water may be used for non-potable purposes such as:

- Irrigation of public open spaces and landscaped areas
- Irrigation of street medians and road verges
- Irrigation at the Waikerie Golf Club

All recycled water use must comply with applicable legislation, environmental regulations, and public health requirements.

Council is committed to the following principles in managing recycled water:

- **Understanding Local Conditions**
  Assess and respond to local water availability, climate conditions, and water scarcity risks in all planning and operational decisions.

- **Compliance and Water Quality**
  Meet or exceed water quality standards and ensure all recycled water use complies with relevant state and federal regulations and local government requirements.

- **Innovation and Efficiency**
  Explore and implement innovative solutions to improve water efficiency, including process improvements, water conservation programs, and use of recycled and reclaimed water where appropriate.

- **Integrated Water Management**
  Provide direction and strategy to manage water resources responsibly, including the integration of water sustainability concepts into planning, design, and operations.

- **Environmental Stewardship**
  Demonstrate leadership in environmental protection, including the conservation of areas with high ecological and biodiversity value.

- **Transparency and Accountability**
  Monitor, measure, and publicly report Council's water use and management practices to maintain accountability and support continuous improvement.

- **Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimisation**
  Support practices that prevent pollution, and promote reduction, reuse, recycling, and responsible waste disposal.

All recycled water infrastructure must be constructed and maintained in accordance with applicable engineering and safety standards.

Recycled water systems must be clearly identified with purple piping and appropriate "Do Not Drink" signage, consistent with regulatory requirements.

Cross-connections between recycled water systems and potable water supplies are strictly prohibited.

Council will:

- Integrate recycled water use into planning and operational decisions across relevant departments.
- Provide staff training for the safe and responsible use of recycled water.

4. Responsibilities

Infrastructure Services Officer is responsible for

- assessing the proposed donation for compliance with legislative requirements and the capabilities of the existing irrigation infrastructure;
- ensuring that all transfers are completed and approved by relevant authorities before water is applied;

- once transfers are complete amending the watering program for the specified area to increase the water allocation to the required amount;
- Notifying the Director Infrastructure Services of water donations to ensure that the public are notified of the increased water allocation to a specific area.

Director Infrastructure Services is responsible for ensuring that the water donation is acknowledged, that signage (or other appropriate notification) and / or media statements are made in a timely manner once donations are placed on the watering program.

5. Delegations

Council delegate responsibility for the management of this policy to the Chief Executive Officer, including that of negotiation and finalising any contract or lease arrangements, including scope to determine the lease fee and matters subject to the outcome not varying materially from the intent of this policy and any financial processes involved with any transfer of donated water.

6. Availability

This policy will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Loxton or Waikerie during ordinary business hours at no charge.

Copies of this policy will also be available from Council's website www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au or may be obtained from the Council Office free of charge.

7. Document history and version control

Date	Version	Authorisation	Amendment Details
12/09/16	1	Senior Management Team	This policy supersedes:- • Public Water Donations Policy • Water Supply Policy (both revoked)
14/08/2023	2	Senior Management Team	Reviewing Officer and dates, Transfer to new policy template
16/7/2025	3	Council meeting	• Transfer to new policy template and formatting • Include section on Recycled water