



# WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

<i>Responsible Officer/s</i>	Chief Executive Officer
<i>Relevant Legislation / Documents</i>	
<i>Adopted</i>	12 September 2016
<i>Reviewed</i>	August 2023
<i>Next Review</i>	June 2027

## 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.

## C. Scope

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.

## D. Background

### **Water supply**

Council has substantial capacity in its water allocation, 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.

## E. Principles

### **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.

### **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.

## F. Responsibilities

### **Donated water**

**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.

## G. 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.

## H. 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](http://www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au) or may be obtained from the Council Office free of charge.

## I. Document history and version control

Date	Version	Authorisation	Amendment Details
12/09/16	1	Senior Management Team	This policy supersedes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Water Donations Policy</li><li>• Water Supply Policy</li></ul> (both revoked)
14/08/2023	2	Senior Management Team	Reviewing Officer and dates, Transfer to new policy template