

**WATER CONSERVATION POLICY**

**Intent** To establish a policy for the adoption of water conservation principles and actions for Cairns Regional Council operational activities, properties and public facilities.

**Scope** This policy applies to all Cairns Regional Council activities.

**PROVISIONS**

1. Council will undertake water conservation measures as outlined in the Water Demand Management Strategy 2015 – 2026.
2. All new building and infrastructure projects should be designed to include water efficient fixtures, appliances and irrigation systems.
3. For all new building and infrastructure projects, Cairns Regional Council will consider the opportunity for alternative water supply e.g. rainwater tanks, effluent reuse, stormwater harvesting.
4. When existing fixtures and appliances are to be replaced or upgraded, water efficient fixtures and appliances, fit for the purpose, will be installed.
5. Ensure that employees, suppliers, lessees, contractors, professional peers and community groups are aware of this policy, and where appropriate, their responsibilities in regard to this policy.
6. Where applicable the following minimum standards, under the Australian Government “Water Efficiency Labelling and Standard Scheme” (WELS) apply to the following appliances to be installed in Council facilities –

<b>Appliance</b>	<b>Minimum WELS Star Rating</b>
Clothes Washing Machines	4
Dishwashers	4
Flow Controllers	5
Toilet (lavatory) equipment	4
Showers	3
Tap Equipment	5
Urinal equipment	3

Note: for commercial purposes there may be other fixtures and appliances not covered by the WELS Scheme. In this case the most water efficient options that are fit for purpose should be selected. Non-water using fixtures and appliances may not be covered by the WELS scheme, such as waterless urinals, and may be selected in preference to those products listed under the WELS Scheme.

For details on the WELS Scheme refer to <http://www.waterrating.gov.au/>

7. Cairns Regional Council will respond to incidents such as leakage, pipe breakages, irrigation system malfunction and inappropriate use and any other water wastage incidents as soon as possible in order to minimise water loss.

8. This policy will be reviewed from time to time by Council to reflect changes in community expectations, and changes in state and federal government legislative, policy and guidelines.

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**This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.**

**General Manager Responsible for Review:**

**General Manager Water and Resource Recovery**

**ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 30/11/2006  
CURRENT ADOPTION: 24/11/2021  
DUE FOR REVISION: 24/11/2025  
REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:**



Mica Martin  
Chief Executive Officer