

**General Policy****RECYCLED WATER POLICY**

**Intent** To establish guidelines in relation to the supply and use of recycled water.

**Scope** This policy applies to the supply and use of recycled water produced and supplied from Cairns Regional Council Wastewater Treatment Plants.

**PROVISIONS**

Recycled water produced following treatment of sewage at Wastewater Treatment Plants is a valuable resource which should be utilised in a sustainable manner.

The use of recycled water has the following potential benefits –

- Less treated effluent discharged to receiving waters
- Compliance with EPA effluent discharge license conditions
- Reduced ecological impacts of nutrients or other pollutants
- Reduced potable water demand
- Improved social amenity from greater availability of water
- Maximum use of an available and valuable resource
- Nutrient recycling
- Cost effective fit for purpose alternative to potable water.

Cairns Regional Council therefore supports the use of recycled water, for non potable purposes only, which has been treated to a level that is fit for its intended use. Recycled water can be used for a number of applications such as –

- Irrigation of open spaces
- Industrial uses
- Dual water reticulation to residential and commercial developments (separate potable and non potable supply to each household)
- Agricultural and horticultural uses.

The supply and use of recycled water must be carried out in a sustainable manner with all potential risks being identified prior to the supply of recycled water so as to ensure that there is no risk to public health and the environment.

Cairns Regional Council Water and Waste will supply recycled water to users in accordance with all appropriate local, state and federal regulatory provisions and guidelines and work in partnership with relevant regulatory agencies.

The supply of recycled water to potential users is at the sole discretion of Cairns Regional Council based on advice from the General Manager of Cairns Regional Council Water and Waste.

Where it is deemed a sustainable and environmentally acceptable option Cairns Regional Council will preferentially use recycled water for non potable uses in Council operations and facilities.

Community consultation and engagement with stakeholders is a key component in the planning phases of recycled water schemes. Stakeholders are those parties that are likely to be affected by a recycled water project. As part of the integrated planning process for the implementation of recycled water schemes Cairns Regional Council Water and Waste will develop community engagement processes that are appropriate for the recycled water schemes that may be proposed.



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

**General Manager responsible for review:    General Manager Water and Waste**

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