

RECYCLED WATER POLICY

Intent This policy outlines Cairns Regional Council's commitment to the safe, sustainable and beneficial use of recycled water for low-exposure applications, in accordance with Queensland legislation and public health guidelines.

Scope This policy governs the supply and use of recycled water that has been generated from Cairns Regional Council's Wastewater Treatment Plants.

PROVISIONS

This policy is informed by the *Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008*, the *Public Health Act 2005*, and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* which collectively regulate recycled water to ensure it is safe, reliable, protective of human health, and environmentally sustainable.

To achieve the intent of this policy, Cairns Regional Council will:

1. Apply a risk-based approach to the supply and use of recycled water, identifying and managing all potential risks prior to use, to ensure protection of public health and the environment.
2. Support the use of recycled water for non-potable purposes, ensuring it is treated to a level that is fit for its intended use.
3. Recognise and promote appropriate applications of recycled water, including:
 - Irrigation of public open spaces (e.g. parks, sports fields)
 - Irrigation of golf courses
 - Dust suppression and construction site use
4. Preferentially use recycled water in Council operations and facilities where it is available, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable.
5. Engage with the community and stakeholders to ensure transparency, build trust, and align with community expectations.
6. Undertake appropriate monitoring of recycled water quality to ensure compliance with relevant guidelines and maintain public confidence.
7. Continuously improve recycled water practices through performance monitoring, incident response planning, and participation in research and professional development.



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

Director responsible for review:

Director Cairns Infrastructure Assets

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED:27/09/2007
CURRENT ADOPTION:12/11/2025
DUE FOR REVISION:12/11/2029
REVOKED SUPERSEDED:



Ken Gouldthorp
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER