

Policy

Financial Assistance to the Proponents of Recycled Water Schemes

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Financial Assistance to the Proponents of Recycled Water Schemes

Policy Objective

According to Council's recycled water key performance indicators (KPIs), recycled water reuse should account for 15 per cent of total treated wastewater in the Tweed.

This Policy will explain the framework under which financial assistance may be provided to proponents of recycled water schemes to encourage the development of such schemes.

The areas covered in this Policy are:

- Identification of opportunities for increased water recycling;
- Guidance on seeking Council support; and
- Guidance on assessment of requests for financial assistance.

Definitions

Recycled Water: Wastewater which has been treated at Council's wastewater treatment plants to remove contaminants, producing water of a quality suitable for use without undue risk to the community.

Policy Background

Increasing recycled water reuse is a priority outlined in Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy, which was first adopted in 2006. It is also a key component of Council's Demand Management Strategy, a program that was adopted in 2011 as part of the broader IWCM Strategy and in which the 15 per cent target was outlined.

The 2014 IWCM, reaffirmed Council's commitment to identify opportunities for increased water recycling (Management Option 11c) and the 15 per cent recycled water target (Management Option 7a).

In the first quarter of 2014/15, water reuse levels were at 9 per cent. Unless more water recycling schemes are developed, Council will not achieve its 15 per cent target. Further there are few proponents of recycled water schemes seeking recycled water from Council.

To achieve the target of 15 per cent it will be necessary for Council to financially support new recycled water initiatives so that they are achievable and affordable to proponents and end-users.

Policy

To make recycled water schemes affordable to proponents and end-users, Council may provide financial support for approved recycled water initiatives. All funding decisions will be based on Council's assessment against the criteria outlined in this Policy.

Council may provide full financial support for the planning and approval requirements. Financial support may also be available for infrastructure, which may become the property of the proponent. If granted, this assistance may cover all or part of the total infrastructure costs.

Identification of Opportunities

As part of the implementation of the Demand Management Strategy, Council will review high water users annually to identify opportunities for the replacement of potable water with recycled water.

As part of the implementation of the IWCM, Council will continue to identify opportunities for the use of recycled water.

Guidance on Seeking Council Support

Proponents seeking Council's financial assistance to support the implementation of a recycled water scheme must provide Council the following information:

- Name of scheme;
- Location of the scheme;
- A description of the scheme, including how the recycled water would be used and the volume of recycled water that would be required;
- A list of stakeholders who would benefit from the use of recycled water;
- A list of stakeholders who would be impacted by the development of the proposed recycled water scheme
- The social, environmental and economic benefit/s of the recycled water scheme to stakeholders (including the proponent);
- Whether the use of the recycled water will replace the use of potable water;
- Whether the use of the recycled water will replace water taken from the natural environment; and
- The amount of financial assistance being sought from Council.

Guidance on Assessment of Proposals

This policy provides a framework to guide Council's assessment of proposals for financial support for recycled water schemes.

To ensure the appropriate assessment of funding proposals, each recycled water scheme will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The amount of financial assistance being sought;
- The type of assistance sought (ie planning and approval and/or infrastructure assistance);
- The volume of recycled water which would be used on site;
- The quality of recycled water required by the scheme

- The volume of potable water (ie the highest value water supply) currently used which would be saved as a result of the recycled water scheme;
The volume of water currently drawn from the environment (the second most valuable water supply) which would be saved as a result of the recycled water scheme;
- The economic cost to benefit ratio for Council. That is, the cost to Council per kilolitre of recycled water provided relative to the amount of financial assistance being sought;
- The financial contribution of the proponent towards the recycled water scheme; and
- The social, environmental and economic benefits to stakeholders, including the proponent.

The arrangements under which financial assistance is provided by Council to individual proponents may vary. Such arrangements will be outlined in the individual formal agreements between Council and the proponents.

Related Legislation

Nil

Compliance

There is a requirement for recycled water schemes to be approved under s60 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Forms

Nil.

Review Period

The Policy is to be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the Demand Management Strategy and the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy.

[**Tweed Shire Council website**](#)

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