

## DETECTING A WATER LEAK ON YOUR PROPERTY

Leaks on your property can sometimes be difficult to find, especially if the leak is in a pipe behind a wall, in the roof, or even in your yard.

Here are three steps to help you identify if you have a leak, and find out what to do if you have one.

### **STEP 1 – Complete a water meter-self test.**

If you think you may have a leak on your property, we recommend you complete this simple test to help you find out what's going on

- After checking for visible leaks from taps, toilets and showers turn off all taps and take a reading of your water meter. The water meter will generally be located outside in the ground towards the front of the property. Most are at or below ground level, and have a metal or plastic lid. If you live in a unit or apartment block, there may not be an individual water meter for each residence. Once you have taken the first reading, **DON'T** use any water for at least one hour (don't even flush the toilet). After an hour take another reading of your water meter and pay attention to the red numbers and dials.
- If there has been an increase in the readings, you may have a leak.

### **STEP 2 - Identifying where the leak is.**

If your meter reading increased using the above test, it's time to find where the leak is.

Checking for obvious leaks:

- Taps and sinks** – check to see if any taps are dripping. Dripping taps will often just need a replacement washer.
- Kitchen** - check to see if there is water pooling under the dishwasher or fridge (if it is connected to the plumbing). You should also look for warped or discolored cupboards, bench tops or walls. This is a sign that water is leaking from somewhere close by.
- Bathroom** - check to see if the toilet cistern is continually running. To check this, put a little food colouring in the toilet cistern, if without flushing, the colouring begins to appear in the bowl, the cistern needs to be repaired and you'll need to contact a licensed plumber to help you fix the problem. (Note: After the test, flush your toilet twice to prevent the food colouring from staining the toilet bowl).
- Laundry** - check for water pooling under the washing machine or laundry tub. If you see pooling water in these areas, check the hoses connecting the washing machine to see if they are cracked, frayed, bulging or wet.
- Yard** – if you can see wet patches or bright green areas of grass in your yard, this could indicate that there is a concealed leak in a pipe underground. You should contact a licensed plumber to investigate.
- Around the home** – other things you can look for around the home that could indicate a leak include: Warped or discolored walls and floorboards, damp carpets, drips on the side of the hot water system.

### **STEP 3 – Fixing the leak.**

If the leak is in one of your pipes (the property owner's pipes), you should call a licensed plumber. You will also be charged for the water that your property uses while the leak remains unrepaired. For information regarding Council's policy on Undetected Water Leaks please refer to [GRC 0071 Concealed Water Leaks Policy](#) on the Goondiwindi Regional Council website.

If the leak is in one of Council pipes, please call Goondiwindi Regional Council Customer Service Centre on 0746 717 400 (during office hours).

