



RAW WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

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Policy Type: Strategic
Responsible Officer: Director of Engineering Services
Department: Engineering Services

Version	Decision Number or CEO Approval	Decision Date	Status / History
1	OM-123/17	28 June 2017	Review June 2018
2	OM-136/18	25 July 2018	Review June 2022
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1. BACKGROUND

Council requires an amount of raw water to conduct its business activities. This includes a mix of raw & potable water supplies for the maintenance and appearance of its parks, gardens & open spaces, and for recreational facilities such as the Goondiwindi Natural Heritage & Waterpark, Botanic Gardens and Clarkes Lagoon. To facilitate this, Council owns a large number of surface and ground water licences throughout the Council area.

To maximise the efficiency and effectiveness water licences, Council has the ability to transfer water between licenced extraction points. This policy outlines the way that staff can use this water.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- All high priority surface water is to be fully utilised each water year.
- Eligible Border Rivers high priority water is to be temporarily transferred between Council pumps & uses to maximise allocation usage each water year.
- It is preferable that only high flow water is used in Clarkes Lagoon and Botanic Gardens.
- Water is only put into the Botanic Gardens when the Yambocully scheme pumps. This is due to the inlet being from the Yambocully channel and it being reliant on their pumps.
- High flow allocations are split roughly on total storage volumes between the Goondiwindi Natural Heritage & Waterpark, Botanic Gardens and Clarkes Lagoon, where capacity exists.
- High flow allocations can also be used through the Goondiwindi Water Treatment Plant.
- That well maintained green spaces be provided for the community's health, wellbeing and resilience.
- As water used in any given year varies and is dependent on seasonal conditions, a reserve of general allocation water should be kept available for times of low or no general allocations.
- Should insufficient water be available to provide for all facilities, town supply is to be given highest priority followed by sporting facilities & community centres, then parks, then all other areas.
- Council may elect, by resolution, to sell by temporary transfer, eligible general security water each year. A report is to be provided to Council by February each year outlining actual water usage to date, projected usage for the year and the balance of transferable water in Council's allocations.

3. POLICY PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to provide guidelines for the consistent management and usage of raw water allocations.

4. SCOPE

This policy generally applies to surface water licences on the Dumaresq and Macintyre Rivers, which can be transferred, but can be applied to all water licences.

5. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Ensure Council utilises all its high priority surface water each year.
- Ensure Council maintain sufficient supplies of water to meet community needs both now and into the future.
- Ensure that water is used efficiently and equitably across a broad cross section of community facilities to maximise its benefit.
- All excess eligible water as determined by Council shall be sold by temporary transfer.

6. DEFINITIONS

General Allocation Water	NSW General Security B and QLD medium security water
High Flow Water	NSW supplementary & QLD unsupplemented water
High Priority Water	Urban use water
Raw Water Asset	Council owned raw water entitlement
Water Year	Annual period commencing 1 July and concluding 30 June

7. REVIEW DATE

June 2022

8. ATTACHMENTS

Nil