

WATER CATCHMENT PROTECTION – ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

POLICY TYPE – OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

Effective date: 23rd November 2017

Responsible officer(s): General Manager Customer & Community
General Manager Infrastructure Planning and Operations

Next revision date: 23rd November 2019

Purpose

This Policy supports Central Highlands Water's (CHW) Drinking Water Quality Policy and forms part of CHW's multi-barrier approach to supplying safe drinking water. The Policy aims to ensure that:

- development, in water supply catchments from which Central Highlands Water sources its drinking water supply, does not have a detrimental impact on water quality; and
- there is a consistent approach to the assessment and control of development in open, potable water supply catchments.

Policy statement

Central Highlands Water will:

- continue to work with Councils to ensure that Municipal Planning Schemes contain effective provisions for safeguarding drinking water supplies, such as through local policies, appropriate land zoning and referral triggers to CHW for proposed developments;
- where developments are approved require permit conditions to ensure that appropriate risks are to be managed and works installed to treat and dispose of wastewater are appropriately maintained;
- continue to work with Councils to ensure that Municipal Domestic Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP's) are established and remain compliant with the Ministerial Guidelines – 'Planning permit applications in open, potable water supply catchment areas 2012', the State Environment Protection Policy (WoV) and other relevant requirements;
- ensure that land use and development is evaluated against the relevant CHW Standard Operating Procedures, Guidelines and other related policies referenced below;
- ensure that cumulative development density does not create an unreasonable risk to water quality having regard to the precautionary principle, the abovementioned Minister's Guidelines and other relevant materials;
- provide clear guidance to landowners, interested in developing or undertaking new activities on their land, on ways to mitigate risks to water quality; and,
- where feasible ensure that developments are connected to reticulated sewerage.

Responsible for implementation

General Manager Infrastructure Planning and Operations and General Manager Customer and Community.

Related policies

- Drinking Water Quality Policy
- Drinking Water Risk Management Plan
- Environmental Management Policy
- Standard Operation Procedure 'Water Catchment Planning Permit Process'

Related and referenced documents

- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- Victorian Planning Provisions
- Relevant Municipal Planning Schemes
- Relevant Municipal Domestic Wastewater Management Plans
- Safe Drinking Water Act 2003
- Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015
- Protecting Water Quality in the Moorabool Shire – Water Catchment Protection Policy 2012
- Water Services Association of Australia (2015) Manual for the Application of Health Based Treatment Targets
- Guidelines for Planning permit applications in open, potable water supply catchments (DSE November 2012)
- CHW's Statement of Obligations

(END POLICY)