



Policy:

**Access to bulk water from
Council water mains**

2019

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

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Policy Responsibility	Water and Recycling		
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Document History

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E2012/18908	7/11/2012	Res 12-746 Adopted after close of exhibition (no submissions received)
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Further Document Information and Relationships

Related Legislation	Local Government Act; Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
Related Policies	
Related Procedures/ Protocols, Statements, documents	



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1. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the policy is to:

- 1.1. Set out the conditions and charges for the supply of bulk water for construction purposes and for filling swimming pools.
- 1.2. Mitigate the illegal drawing of water from Council Water Mains and prevent contamination of the water supply.
- 1.3. Direct bulk water carters/tankers to Rous Water for all filling requirements.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that Byron Shire Council protects its water supply system from:

- 2.1. the potential of contamination, and
- 2.2. possible damage to water mains and fittings

In addition the policy proposes to reduce the occurrences of unaccounted water use.

3. APPLICATION

This policy applies to:

- 3.1. Water carters;
- 3.2. Under bore/directional drilling contractors or service providers;
- 3.3. Construction contractors;
- 3.4. Council staff;
- 3.5. Commercial customers; and
- 3.6. Residents.

4. POLICY

It is the policy of Byron Shire Council that the withdrawal of water from Byron Shire Council hydrants or from other access points not authorised by Byron Shire Council is expressly forbidden, unless occurring in compliance with the terms of this Policy as follows:

- 4.1 Bulk water carters/tankers and mobile storage containers including but not limited to those associated with construction and under boring activities and delivery of potable water are directed to comply with Rous Water requirements and filling points.
- 4.2 Water for any purpose other than a metered supply (i.e. residential or commercial properties), shall be supplied from either metered standpipes or by metered hydrant designated by Byron Shire Council. No water is to be drawn from either the Mullumbimby system (a closed and finite supply) or the Billinudgel system (when high flow volumes are extracted customers in this area suffer a loss of service).

5. DRAWING WATER FROM FIRE HYDRANTS OR ACCESS POINTS

- 5.1 This section of the policy shall address three (3) different and unique situations, namely:
 - a) Water being drawn from fire hydrants or access points by Byron Shire Council for construction or maintenance purposes.

- b) Water being drawn from fire hydrants or access points for construction or landscaping by contractors excluding those activities mentioned in 4.1
- c) Water being drawn from fire hydrants or access points for the purpose of swimming pool filling.

Note: Water drawn from fire hydrants by fire services is not regulated.

5.2 The conditions under which water may be drawn from fire hydrants or access points are as follows:

- a) There are no water restrictions in place.
- b) A metered standpipe is available and an appropriate hydrant or access location is identified. Note (from 4.2 above) that no water is to be drawn from Mullumbimby or Billinudgel.
- c) Water may be made available by making application upon a prescribed form and upon receipt of approval from Byron Shire Council.
- d) Approval will not be granted unless an appropriate Traffic Management Plan and/or safe work procedure for the identified hydrant or access location is submitted together with a certificate of currency for Public Liability Insurance.
- e) Council described in 5.1 a) and contractors described in 5.1 b) shall keep accurate daily or monthly records of water consumption and shall return tally sheets or books.
- f) Metered standpipes shall be presented for inspection and testing as requested.
- g) Swimming Pool Builders as described in 5.1 c) shall return metered standpipes to the Byron Shire Council where meters will be read at the conclusion of each job.
- h) Metered standpipe brought to Council's Mullumbimby Office or Byron Depot will be read by authorised staff and an account issued as appropriate.
- i) Training sessions in the use of hydrant standpipes will be conducted by Byron Shire Council; persons authorised to operate standpipes shall avail themselves of such training and will be accredited accordingly.
- j) No individual Annual Agreements to allow drawing of water for specific purposes from specific fire hydrants is permitted.
- k) The use of unmetered standpipes is prohibited.

5.3 Charges shall be as follows:

- a) An initial bond as per Council's fees & charges shall apply to cover cost of equipment; charges shall be applied as per Council's current adopted fees and charges for hire of equipment plus payment for water used at current rates per kilolitre.
- b) Accurate daily meter readings shall be kept and supplied to Byron Shire Council on a monthly basis (with the exception of swimming pools, where meters will be read at the conclusion of each job), bonds will be released upon return of metered standpipe after deduction for any outstanding charges or costs associated with damaged equipment.

5.4 Standpipes or other equipment, other than a Council registered "metered" standpipe observed on any site will be considered an illegal fitting and compliance action taken.

6. EXCEPTIONS TO THE POLICY

The following practices are excluded from compliance with this policy:

6.1. Fire brigades for the purposes of firefighting and training.

7. COMPLIANCE ACTION

Persons (including Byron Shire Council staff) not complying with this policy may be prosecuted under the relevant section of the Local Government Act 1993 - Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Drainage Offences listed below.

7.1. The potential for contamination of the reticulated water supply at the point of access

639 Pollution of public water supply

(1) A person who wilfully or negligently does any act which damages or pollutes (or is likely to damage or pollute) a public water supply, or a source of that supply, is guilty of an offence.

7.2. The potential to damage the water main and any fittings by causing a water hammer at the point of access

635 Damage to council property

A person who wilfully or negligently removes, damages, destroys or otherwise interferes with a pipe, lock, tap, valve, engine or other thing belonging to the council in connection with the supply of water or the provision of sewerage services or drainage is guilty of an offence. Section 639 also applies here.

7.3. Reducing the “unaccounted for” use of water

637 Waste or misuse of water

(1) A person who wilfully or negligently wastes or misuses water from a public water supply, or causes any such water to be wasted, is guilty of an offence.