



Policy

Backflow Prevention

2020

Information about this document

Date Adopted by Council	18 September 2014
Resolution No	14-438
Document Owner	Director Infrastructure Services
Document Development Officer	Manager Utilities
Review Timeframe	4 years
Last Review Date	21 October 2020
Next Scheduled Review Date	21 October 2024

Document History

Doc No.	Date Amended	Details/Comments eg Resolution No.
E2014/43088	18/9/2014	Reported to Council (PDF E2014/56198)
E2014/64964	19/11/2014	18/9/2014 14-438 Resolved to place on exhibition closed 17/11/2014 with formatting changes – no submission received Policy adopted.
E2020/76106	21/10/2020	Policy reviewed and determined to be current. Policy template updated to meet accessibility requirements. Noted by ET.

Further Document Information and Relationships

Related Legislation	Public Health Act 2010 Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011 (NSW). NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Water Management Act 2000
Related Policies	Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Reticulated/Town Drinking Water Policy
Related Standards, Procedures, Statements, documents	AS3500.1 Australian Standard Plumbing and Drainage – Water Services Plumbing Code of Australia Australian Standard AS 2845.1: Water Supply Backflow Prevention Devices National Plumbing Code of Australia NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011

	The Water Directorate Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Guidelines (July 2013) 2012-13 NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Benchmarking Report – Appendix E (Attachment 2)
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Note: Any reference to Legislation will be updated in the Policy as required. See website <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/> for current Acts, Regulations and Environmental Planning Instruments.



1. Objectives

This policy deals with the prevention of backflow of water from customers properties back into the potable water distribution and reticulation systems.

Preventing this flow reversal (backflow) reduces the possibility of contaminants entering the potable water supply.

2. Definitions

Policy acronym	Definition
AS/NZS 2845	Australian/New Zealand Standard for Water Supply – Backflow prevention devices – materials, design and performance requirements.
AS/NZS 3500.1	Australian/New Zealand Standard for Plumbing and Drainage Part 1: Water Services.
Backflow	Backflow is the unintended reversal of flow in a water pipeline whereby water that has already passed beyond the meter assembly into the customer's pipeline system returns to the Council's water supply.
Cross connection	Cross-Connection is a direct or indirect physical connection of a potable water supply to a line that is non-potable e.g., town water supply to a non-potable bore.
Testable device	Any backflow Prevention Device that is provided with test taps for the purpose of testing its operation, and a registered break tank; or a registered air gap.
Non-testable device	A device (valve) that prevents backflow in water pipelines that is not provided with test taps for the purpose of testing its operation. eg Councils standard 20mm residential water meter contains a non-testable backflow device.
Qualified person	A licensed plumber who has undertaken accredited backflow training from a registered training organisation.
Containment device	A backflow device correctly installed adjacent to the water meter at the property boundary and operating correctly.



Policy acronym	Definition
Hazard ratings	<p data-bbox="464 304 890 338">As defined by AS/NZS 3500.1</p> <p data-bbox="464 371 1437 479"><i>High Hazard</i> Any condition, device or practice that, in connection with the water supply system has the potential to cause death.</p> <p data-bbox="464 512 1437 620"><i>Medium Hazard</i> Any condition, device or practice that, in connection with the water supply system has the potential to endanger health.</p> <p data-bbox="464 654 1437 761"><i>Low Hazard</i> Any condition, device or practice that, in connection with the water supply system constitutes a nuisance but does not endanger health or cause injury.</p>

3. Policy Statement

3.1 Overview

This Policy seeks to:

- a) Establish a high level of protection for drinking water quality.
- b) Provide clear guidelines for Council to determine relating to the installation of containment devices for backflow prevention and maintenance.
- c) Provide information to members of the public, plumbers and other stakeholders about the selection and installation of backflow prevention devices and the Council's role in backflow prevention and maintenance.
- d) Ensure that non-complying properties are brought into line with the requirements of this Council Policy, Plumbing Code of Australia and the Australian Standard AS 3500 Part 1.
- e) Assist Council to maintain backflow records/register.
- f) Ensure containment devices are provided and that these devices are adequate.
- g) Ensure annual testing is carried out by a qualified person and is recorded in the Council backflow register.
- h) Investigate non-compliance with this policy.

3.2 Policy

Byron Shire Council as the supplier of potable water to the public must ensure that it meets its obligations under the Australia Drinking Water Guidelines and Councils' Drinking Water Quality Management Plan to provide safe drinking water.



This policy will enable new and existing water connections to become compliant with the Local Government Act 1993, Plumbing Code of Australia and Australian Standards.

Council installs non-testable rated backflow prevention devices on all low hazard 25 mm services and requires the customer to install, test and maintain an appropriate testable backflow device on all other water services.

All new properties with a low hazard rating are required to install a non-testable device (as a minimum) that is usually built into the water meter assembly. This is now regarded as best practice management of water supply systems to ensure public health protection.

Council Responsibilities

- a) Council will operate a system of compliance with this Policy.
- b) In the absence of any site specific information, Council will assign a hazard rating to a property based on the NSW Water Directorate Guidelines and AS 3500.1 for the primary activities being undertaken on site.
- c) Council may update the rating from time to time. A customer may provide more site specific information and request a review of the hazard rating. Council will then review the hazard and may determine a different hazard rating.
- d) Council will keep records of all properties backflow hazard rating. Council may ask customers to certify their hazard rating periodically. Council may require that this certification be carried out by Qualified Personnel.
- e) Council will keep records and ensure that minimum requirements for Testable Devices are met. These are:
 - i. All testable backflow devices are registered with Council and tested on installation.
 - ii. All testable devices are tested on an annual basis and testing is carried out by a Qualified Person.
 - iii. Council will advise customers of the date by which the device is to be tested with test results forwarded to Council within 10 working days of testing the backflow prevention device.

Customer Responsibilities

- a) The customer is responsible for installation and maintenance of the appropriate backflow prevention devices (including containment protection), on their property if it has a high or medium hazard rating.
- b) The device must be installed by a Qualified Person. In the case of existing devices the customer must provide certification of the backflow device by a Qualified Person to Council in a timeframe agreed by Council.
- c) In the case of a new water service the customer must provide certification of the installation and testing of the backflow device by a Qualified Person I.



- d) The customer is responsible for the ongoing maintenance and certification of the backflow device. Upon advice from Council of the need to do so, the customer must submit certification of the satisfactory operation of the backflow device. Where the customer fails to provide the certification by the due date, Council may do one or more of the following:
- i. test and certify the device and charge a fee to the customer.
 - ii. issue reminder notice(s) to the customer and charge a fee to the customer.
 - iii. disconnect the water service if Council believes that the hazard presented by the activities on the property is an unacceptable risk to the water supply and charge a fee for the disconnection/reconnection.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Council's terms and conditions for water supply connection.