

Drinking Water Quality Policy

Version No	V6
Approved By	Board
Approval Date	28 April 2023
Next Review Date	March 2026

Purpose

The Drinking Water Quality Policy formalises the level of service and commitment to drinking water quality management throughout Westernport Water.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees of Westernport Water and contractors or consultants working on behalf of Westernport Water.

Policy Application

Drinking Water in Victoria is regulated by the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* and the Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015. The Act places obligations on water suppliers to provide safe, high quality drinking water. The Drinking Water Quality Policy aligns with WPW's Strategic Framework, regulatory requirements, the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) 2011 and provides clear intent of our commitment to providing safe, high quality drinking water to our customers.

WPW commits to managing drinking water quality to ensure safe, high-quality water is supplied to our customers. WPW employees, contractors and consultants will undertake activities which comply with processes and procedures defined in the Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS).

Policy Statement

WPW is strongly committed to managing its water supply efficiently to provide safe, high quality drinking water compliant with the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*, Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015, and other regulatory requirements. Westernport Water maintains a Drinking Water Quality Management System which reflects the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, to adequately manage the risks to drinking water quality.

To achieve this, Westernport Water will:

- Manage water quality from the source water catchment to our customers tap by utilising a risk-based multiple barrier approach consistent with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines twelve elements framework.
- Continue to develop appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability in which potential threats to water quality are identified and managed.
- Continue to engage with the community, customers, stakeholders, regulators and employees to ensure expectations are met.

- Maintain regular monitoring of the quality of drinking water and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and confidence in the water supply and its management.
- Seek continuous improvement by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations and participating in appropriate research and development activities.

All managers and employees involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the Drinking Water Quality Management System.

Applicable legislation, regulation and standards

WPW's Drinking Water Quality policy responds to the governing bodies' requirements and the principles of good corporate governance.

The following documents must be considered when editing this policy. Any changes made to this document are to be reflected in and aligned to:

- *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*
- Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015
- Water Quality Risk Management Plan

Review Date

This policy will be reviewed where possible every three (3) years.

Responsible Officer

Policy Owner - General Manager Assets & Operations

Responsible Policy Officer - Water Quality Specialist