

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Wudinna Community Water Schemes Policy</h1>	Version No:	5.1
		Issued:	April 2011
		Last Review:	September 2021
		Next Review:	September 2024

Name of Council	Wudinna District Council
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Policy Level	Discretionary
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Next review date:	Policy to be reviewed at least three yearly under the recommendation of the Water Management Committee or as required
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999 Water Industry Act 2012
Related Policies:	Local Government Association Irrigated Public Space Code of Conduct South Australian Reclaimed Water Guidelines (Government of SA, Environmental Protection Agency)
Related Documents:	Water Retail Code – Minor and Intermediate Retailers 2015 Water Industry Retail Licence – 2 February 2013

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1. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- CWMS:** Community Wastewater Management Scheme. Treated household industry effluent wastewater.
- CSW:** Community Stormwater. Harvested and collected from Mt Wudinna, Little Mt Wudinna, Polda Rock, Wudinna Township and Wudinna silos grain shed.
- Community Water:** The general term for water sourced as part of the CWMS and CSW.

2. INTRODUCTION

Wudinna District Council is committed to the effective use of water within the district. This is in recognition of the reducing SA Water ‘mains water’ supply and also the need to conserve water in our dry environment.

Council has developed stormwater harvesting and community wastewater reuse schemes seeking to reduce the district’s reliance on mains water, with the ultimate aim of being self-sufficient for all community open space irrigation needs in the future.

The community’s various open space and reserve areas are managed by Council and also community organisations for the benefit of residents and visitors. In recognising the importance of open space to service the recreational, sporting and social needs of the community, Council makes available water from the stormwater harvesting and

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community wastewater reuse schemes for irrigation purposes. This policy is to provide governance to the water distribution, connections and use for all users.

3. WATER USE OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

Objectives for Community Water under Councils control are:

- a) Parks, Reserves, and Open Space, as identified by Council under its Water Audit, Use and Supply Report (dated 15 April 2010 or as reviewed) as needing irrigation, will be eligible to receive water allocated from the Community Water Scheme;
- b) Water may be made available to private landowners upon application, and subject to the availability of surplus water over and above the needs of Community Parks, Reserves and Open Space;
- c) A balance is achieved between the provision of amenity landscape that is aesthetically pleasing and serviceable for its intended purpose;

In connecting to and using Community Water, it is a Council requirement that users comply with the following guidelines:

Irrigation

- a) Water efficient grass and plant species are used;
- b) Efficient irrigation methods are adopted, which include the maintenance of irrigation efficiency data for all irrigated areas;
- c) Irrigation is at times which will reduce evaporation rates and increase effectiveness of the irrigation;
- d) Users of irrigation equipment are appropriately trained and skilled in using equipment and water saving techniques to ensure maximum efficiency;
- e) Water use is monitored and water wastage is addressed as a matter of urgency; and
- f) To act diligently to ensure that Council and community water resources are conserved and their use is maximised for the benefit of the community.

Other Water Use Purpose

Community Water is a non-potable water source and therefore restricted by Health and Environmental governing bodies in its application.

CWMS Water is reclaimed effluent and therefore is not to be used for any other purpose other than irrigation of reserves and parks, and in line with standing health and environmental regulations guiding its use. This includes the restriction of aerosols from water use, usage times where water will not come into contact with people. The CWMS water is distributed separately to CSW water.

CSW is harvested stormwater, both from the township and reserve areas of Mt Wudinna and Polda. Waters harvested from the reserve areas have a lower risk of oil and general urban pollutants. CSW water may be available to other non-potable uses such as livestock, industrial or horticultural. Allocation of CSW will be considered by Council on a case by case basis, upon application and declaration as to the intended use of the water.

4. WATER SERVICE CONNECTION

It is intended that community water be used to service the township’s key parks, gardens and recreational reserve areas as priority. Surplus water may be approved for distribution to private landowners subject to annual review in line with the water reserves held.

Community water connection applications are to be made in writing and approved by Council individually.

Upon Council approval for a water connection, Council will supply a water meter to the connection point. Council will be responsible for supply line maintenance up to the connection point and meter and the water user will be responsible for all repairs and line maintenance thereafter.

A one off connection fee applies, subject to annual fees review process.

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Assessment will also be undertaken for the requirement of an appropriate non-return valve or device to apply to each connection. This is to ensure that the community water is not affected by back flow from users.

5. WATER SUPPLY

Both CWMS and CSW community water sources are non-potable and supplied for the initial intention of irrigation purposes only unless otherwise specifically approved by Council. Users are to formally acknowledge that water must not be used for other than the approved purpose. Community water must not be used for:

- a) Drinking, cooking or kitchen purposes
- b) Baths, showers or personal washing
- c) Clothes washing
- d) Swimming pools
- e) Washing, packaging or processing of food for sale, distribution or consumption
- f) Primary Production and Agriculture ie: Pork production

All regulations and requirements of the Environment Protection Authority and the South Australian Health Department with respect to the use of CWMS and CSW water types must be adhered to by the user.

6. WATER SALES

Section 155 of the Local Government Act provides that a council may recoup costs associated with the provision of a CWMS service either through a service rate or service charge, or a combination of both. Council also seeks to retain a fund to assist with the ongoing maintenance and development of CSW type water.

Water sales are regulated by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia under a Water Retail Licence issued to Council.

Water users connected to the community water scheme will be charged according to the type and volume of community water used, in accordance with “user pays” principals. This is separate from any charges and levies that may be raised as part of the general property owner’s connection to the CWMS as part of their waste disposal needs.

Council will read all water meters monthly and issue invoices to water users quarterly based on the amount of water used and the type of water used.

The water charge rates are to be reviewed annually by the Wudinna District Council Water Management Committee who will provide recommendation for adoption by Council. The Wudinna District Council Water Management Committee shall also review water storage volumes and recommend user water volume allocations for the ensuing financial year. Water allocations to users shall take into account seasonal conditions and storage levels on hand.

Any repairs or faults in the meter or Council equipment must be reported to Council staff or the Manager Works and Infrastructure Services as soon as possible.

7. WATER COMMITTEE

Council’s Water Committee is to meet from time to time to provide for research and advice on all water scheme issues. This includes the identification, recommendation and oversight of projects, and the provision of recommendations for policy direction. Approval of water connections is by Council resolution only.

The Water Committee is to consider the water reserves available each year at the conclusion of the winter (wet) season and provide recommendations to Council for any quotas, allocation restrictions or service withdrawals as may be considered prudent in the management of community water for the benefit of the community.

8. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

This Policy will be available for inspection at Council’s principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council’s website www.wudinna.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council’s Schedule of Fees and Charges.