

COUNCIL POLICY



Policy name	Town Water Supply Connection
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<p>Abstract</p> <p>Gunnedah Shire Council is committed to the effective management of the drinking water supplies to ensure it is of high quality and safe to drink meeting the expectations of the community and regulatory agencies.</p> <p>This is achieved with a preventative management strategy using a quality assurance program consistent with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. This also includes effective management of Council's water supply storage and reticulation assets in Gunnedah and surrounding Villages through a planned approach to new water service connections.</p>

Dates	<table> <tr> <td>Policy or amendment approved</td> <td>13 December 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Policy or amendment takes effect</td> <td>13 January 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Policy is due for review (up to 4 years)</td> <td>13 December 2027</td> </tr> </table>	Policy or amendment approved	13 December 2023	Policy or amendment takes effect	13 January 2024	Policy is due for review (up to 4 years)	13 December 2027
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Policy is due for review (up to 4 years)	13 December 2027						
Endorsed by	Executive Leadership Team at its meeting held 28 November 2023						
Approved by	Gunnedah Shire Council, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held 13 December 2023 Resolution number: 6.12/23						
Policy Custodian	Manager Waste						
Relevant to	<p>Water Services Staff.</p> <p>Consumers of drinking water in Gunnedah, Curlewis, Mullaley & Tambar Springs.</p> <p>NSW Office of Water</p>						
Superseded Policies	Town Water Supply Connection Policy adopted by Gunnedah Shire Council, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 April 2015 Resolution number: 20.04/15						
Related documents	<p>Drinking Water Management System</p> <p>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines</p> <p>NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems</p>						
Related legislation	<p>DPIE-Water Local Government Act 1993 S552</p> <p>Water Management Act 2000</p> <p>Local Government Act 1993</p>						

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to facilitate effective management of Council's water supply, storage and reticulation assets in Gunnedah and surrounding Villages through a planned approach to new water service connections.

2. Scope

- 2.1 Water operations staff at Gunnedah Shire Council are responsible for maintaining the water supplies of Gunnedah, Curlewis, Mullaley and Tambar Springs and carrying out approved water connection applications. The Manager Water Services or his/her delegated Officer is responsible for the approval of applications for connection to Gunnedah Shire Town Water Supplies.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 Gunnedah Shire Council is an approved Water Supply Utility by the DPIE Water.
- 3.2 AHD- Australian Height Datum.

4. Policy principles

This policy will consider appropriate standards with respect to permissible use, limits for permissible connections, location of connections, infrastructure standards, connection charges, water usage caps, rural residential connections, contamination prevention measures and forward planning.

5. Policy statement

Gunnedah Shire Council is committed to managing its water supply effectively to provide a safe, high quality drinking water that consistently meets the NHMRC/NRMMC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, and consumer and other regulatory requirements.

To achieve this, in partnership with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Gunnedah Shire Council will consider application for connection to the relevant town water supply system under the following conditions:

- Rateable assessments being located within the boundaries of the water supply service area(s) and located within 225 meters of a minimum 100mm water main and in the case of Gunnedah located on the southern side of the Namoi River, with an upper elevation in:
 - Low Zone of 250 metres AHD
 - Mid Zone of 310 metres AHD
 - High Zone of 340 metres AHD
 - And in the pumped rural residential area on the southern side of Gunnedah 340 meters AHD.
 - In the case of Mullaley, properties must be located on the eastern side of Cox's Creek.

- All applications for water supply connection to land in Gunnedah Shire Council area that is within the water benefit areas and is connected to the water supply system will be levied developer headwork's charges as per the current adopted developer servicing plan under Section 64 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Section 306 (3) of the Water Management Act 2000. This includes connection of land with existing residences and/or non-residential buildings if water developer charges have not been paid previously; and may be in addition to costs for shared, special extension of the system outside the general water benefit area.

- All land situated within 225 metres of a Council water pipe main, whether the land has a frontage or not to the public road (if any) in which the water pipe main is laid, if the land is supplied with water, or not actually supplied with water from any water pipe main of Council, may be subject to a special rate or charge relating to the water supply under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 552.

Such rateable assessments that do pay a special rate or charge will be entitled to a water supply connection. The following conditions shall apply to such connections:

- Application for connection is to be made on the appropriate prescribed forms.
- Each rateable assessment will be entitled to one (1) connection only.
- Council will undertake the service connection following payment of the prescribed charge(s) as per Council's adopted Schedule of Fees and Charges.
- The estimated usage is less than 1 megalitre per year.
- All connections must be a minimum size of 20mm, with a ridged perch constructed on both sides at the water meter location. The property owner will be responsible for construction of the ridged pipe on the outlet side of the water meter.
- All water connections will be fitted with an approved water meter to measure flow and connect to Councils AMR (Automatic meter reading) System.

- In the case of designated rural residential areas a water main with fire fighting capability (Min. 100mm) must be located within 225 metres of the proposed land to be connected to the water supply and the main must be extended to the boundary of the said property with a fire hydrant installed at the termination point and an appropriate single water connection installed.
- Property owners must pay all costs in relation to the water main extension and water connections.
- In rural residential areas all water must pass through a registered break tank of minimum ten (10) kilolitres capacity in accordance with the National Plumbing Code AS3500.1.
- The primary use of water is for domestic, commercial or industrial purposes.
- It is understood Council cannot guarantee continuous supply.
- Approved connection to town water supply systems does NOT automatically result in the ability to construct a dwelling on the property. Dwelling construction approval will only be as per permissible conditions set under Council's Local Environmental Plan(LEP)

Council may consider on a case by case basis water connection applications which do not comply with the above provisions. Conditions relating to any approved connections under this section will be determined by Council as part of the consideration process.

6. Accountability, roles and responsibilities

Manager Water Services - Responsible for approval of all applications.

Water Services Coordinator - Responsible for arranging water connection installation compliant with relevant standard conditions.

Water Operators - Responsible for undertaking installations as per instructions and installing the AMR data on Councils billing system.

Water Operators - Responsible for installing AMR system for Council's billing system to access billing data.

6.1 Policy Custodian

Manager Water Services

The Policy Custodian is the officer accountable for managing policy compliance and initiating the policy review process. The Policy Custodian will also have the responsibility for all aspects of policy implementation, unless appropriately delegated to another officer.

These responsibilities include being the primary contact point for advice on the policy or its implementation; establishing and maintaining Council's records in relation to the policy; proposing amendments; and managing the consultation process when the policy is due for review.

7. Acknowledgements

- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

8. Version Control and Change History

Date	Version	Approved by & resolution no.	Amendment
Jan 2015	1	Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 April 2015 Resolution: 20.04/15	
Dec 2023	2	Ordinary Meeting 13 Dec 2023 Resolution 6.12/23	