

Backflow Prevention Policy 2025

POL174



Policy No: POL174
Policy Title: Backflow Prevention Policy
Section Responsible: Water & Sewer
Minute No/Ref: XXXXXXXX
Doc ID: 801643

1. INTENT

The purpose of this Backflow Prevention Policy (Policy) is to safeguard the quality and safety of Council's drinking and non-drinking water supplies. Council is committed to minimising the risk of contaminated water backflow into our community's water system by ensuring that all relevant customer connections are equipped with and properly maintain backflow prevention devices in line with current standards and regulations. This policy applies to all water connections, excluding 20 mm and 25 mm connections supplying a single low hazard residential dwelling. Our goal is to protect public health and maintain the integrity of our water supply for the benefit of our community.

2. SCOPE

- a. The Policy applies to all water connections on the Narrandera Shire Council water supply network, other than 20mm and 25mm connections providing drinking water to a single, low hazard residential dwelling.

3. OBJECTIVE

- a. The Policy aims to protect the quality of Council's drinking and non-drinking water supply by minimising the risk of contaminated water backflow from connections to the water supply.
- b. The Policy specifies Council's requirements for the installation and maintenance of backflow prevention devices on high-medium and low hazard properties.
- c. The Policy also specifies
 - o when testable backflow prevention devices are required to protect the water supply from contamination from a customer's water service and

- outlines backflow prevention requirements for customers with multiple water supplies that include drinking and non-drinking water supplies.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The Policy has been adopted to protect the quality of Council's drinking and non-drinking water supply and the health of our community by minimising the risk of contaminated water backflow from connections to the water supply. This can be achieved by ensuring that our customers install and maintain backflow prevention devices on their property in accordance with current Codes and Standards.

5. PROVISIONS

5.1 General

- a. All customers connected to Council's water supply must comply with the requirements of the Plumbing Code of Australia and the Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard 3500:1 Plumbing and Drainage Part 1: Water Services (AS/NZS 3500:1).
- b. Properties with a water connection within the scope of this Policy must be assessed for potential backflow hazard and shall install appropriate backflow prevention at the boundary for containment purposes, in accordance with Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard 2845.1 - Water Supply Backflow Prevention Devices (AS/NZS 2845.1). The installation of a backflow prevention device is necessary to ensure the public water supply system is protected from backflow of contaminants from connections to the supply.
- c. The customer is responsible for the full cost of complying with this Policy.

5.2 Conditions of Installation

- a. All backflow prevention devices installed to comply with this Policy are the responsibility of the customer. This may include but is not limited to installation, maintenance and annual testing of the backflow prevention device.
- b. Council will maintain a register of testable backflow prevention device installations, annual test records, and may conduct sample audits of installations to ensure ongoing compliance with AS/NZS 3500:1 and AS/NZS 2845.1.
- c. Existing customers connected to the water supply must install a backflow prevention device within three (3) months of a notice to install issued by Council. If Council determines that the backflow prevention device is unsatisfactory and issues a notice requiring the customer to repair, maintain, test, replace or install a backflow prevention device, the customer must comply with the notice within the time specified in the notice.
- d. If the customer fails to install, repair, maintain, replace or test a backflow prevention device as required by a notice issued by Council, then Council may disconnect (in the case of a non-residential property) or restrict (in the case of a residential property or

mixed development) the customer from the water supply system until such time as the customer has complied with the notice so to prevent contamination of the water supply. Council may also impose a fee or charge for administering non-compliance with the Policy.

- e. If the process or activity at a property changes, resulting in a reduced hazard rating, the property owner must have a licensed and backflow-accredited plumber certify the change in hazard rating and then inform Council, who may conduct a site audit to verify the new hazard rating.
- f. The type of device installed shall be in accordance with the hazard rating of the processes conducted, or the water supply installations present on site.
- g. If the hazard rating varies due to multiple processes, the highest hazard rating shall be applied.
- h. Properties identified as having high or medium hazards must install a testable backflow prevention device.
- i. Where hazards are unknown for a commercial, industrial or a mixed development, the hazard rating will default to high, and the installation of a testable backflow prevention device will be required.
- j. Properties that have both drinking and non-drinking water supplies are required to install an appropriate level of backflow prevention on both supply systems. The installed device shall be the same on both the drinking and non-drinking services. These properties include mixed developments and areas serviced by a decentralised wastewater treatment system.
- k. A backflow prevention device must be fitted to all water supplies entering the property, regardless of the supply type or metering arrangement, other than 20 mm and 25 mm connections providing drinking water to a single, low hazard residential dwelling. All devices must be installed on the outlet side of the master water meter(s) supplying the property to achieve site containment. In circumstances where there is no master water meter, the backflow prevention device shall be installed on the water supply where it enters the property boundary. There must be no connections bypassing the backflow prevention device or water meter.
- l. A backflow prevention device must be installed so that the underside of the valve is a minimum of 300 mm above the surrounding surface, unless otherwise specified in the Plumbing Code of Australia.
- m. Where a fire booster service is installed, the device must be installed so that the underside of the valve is a minimum of 750 mm above the surrounding surface.
- n. On a metered standpipe, the device shall be integrated into the design of the standpipe. Metered standpipes require a testable double check valve.
- o. On a separate hydrant and/or sprinkler fire service, the device shall be installed close to where the water service crosses the property boundary, upstream of any booster assembly on or offtake from the fire service.

6. DEFINITIONS

AS/NZS 3500:1	means the current version of the Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard for Plumbing and Drainage. AS/NZS 3500:1 refers to Part 1 (Water Services) of this standard.
AS/NZS 2845:1	means the current version of the Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard for Water Supply-Backflow Prevention Devices. AS/NZS 2845:1 refers to Part 1: Materials, design and performance requirements of this standard.
Backflow	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flow in the direction contrary to the normal or intended direction of flow.• The unintended flow of water from a potentially contaminated source into a drinking water supply system.
Backflow Prevention Device	means a mechanical device that will prevent the reverse flow of water from a potentially polluted source into the drinking water supply system.
Connections	means all service connections to a Council water main, including those from customers' premises or from standpipes.
Containment Protection	means the installation of a backflow prevention device on the water service at the property boundary, to prevent backflow from within the property entering the drinking water supply system.
Council	means Narrandera Shire Council
Cross Connection	means any connection or arrangement between the drinking water supply system connected to the water main or any fixture, which may under certain conditions enable water unsuitable for drinking or other substances to enter the drinking water supply system.
Customer	means the owner/occupier of the property
Decentralised Wastewater Treatment System	means a privately-owned system for treatment and reuse or disposal of wastewater, including treated greywater.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 CUSTOMERS

- a. All backflow prevention devices including Registered Break Tanks and Registered Air Gaps must be installed under the supervision of a licensed plumber.

- b. Only a licensed plumber with backflow prevention accreditation may commission and test the backflow prevention device, including Registered Break Tanks and Registered Air Gaps.
- c. Council, the plumbing regulator for the Narrandera Shire Council local government area, reserves the right to take appropriate regulatory action against the licensed plumber for any incorrect installation that does not meet the requirements of the Plumbing Code of Australia, AS/NZS 3500:1 and AS/NZS 2845.1.
- d. Customers are responsible for the installation, maintenance and annual testing of all backflow prevention devices in accordance with AS/NZS 3500:1 and AS/NZS 2845.1.
- e. Customers must ensure that the required documentation (Backflow Prevention Application, Inspection and Maintenance Report) and any prescribed fee is forwarded to the Council for installed backflow prevention devices.
- f. The Backflow Prevention Device Inspection and Maintenance Report required on commissioning of the backflow prevention device must be completed by a licensed plumber with backflow accreditation and must accompany the backflow prevention device application.
- g. For low hazard connections that require a backflow prevention device, Council requires the registration of the backflow prevention device. Completion of the Backflow Prevention Device Inspection and Maintenance Report is not mandatory for low hazard connections.
- h. The device installation and commissioning test report must be registered with Council prior to service.
- i. Customers are responsible for the provision of zone and individual backflow protection from hazards within their property, as specified in AS/NZS 3500:1.

7.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – NSC

7.2.1 STAFF

Water and Sewer staff are required to ensure the requirement for backflow devices are considered whilst any new connections are being made to a property.

7.2.2 MANAGER

Water and Sewer Manager is responsible for the implementation and review of the policy.

7.2.3 GENERAL MANAGER

Suspected breaches or misuse of this policy are to be reported to the General Manager. Alleged breaches of this Policy shall be dealt with by the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code of Conduct and the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct

8. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government Regulation 2021

- Public Health Act 2010
- Public Health Regulation 2012
- Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011
- Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2017

9. RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- AS/NZS 2845:1 Water Supply – Backflow Prevention Devices, Part 1: Materials, design and performance requirements
- AS/NZS 3500:1 Plumbing and Drainage Part 1: Water Services
- Code of Conduct
- Drinking Water Quality Policy
- Plumbing Code of Australia (Volume 3 of the National Construction Code)

10. VARIATION

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy in accordance with legislation, regulation and award changes, where applicable. Council may also make changes to this policy and the relevant procedures from time-to-time to improve the effectiveness of its operation.

11. PREVIOUS VERSIONS

Reference to a superseded policy number and/or name is also considered a reference to the new policy number. This policy was previously named:

- Not applicable.

POLICY HISTORY

Responsible Officer	Position Title		
Approved by	General Manager		
Approval Date	DD Month 202Y		
GM Signature <i>(Authorised staff to insert signature)</i>			
Next Review	DD Month 202Y		
Version Number	Endorsed by ELT	Endorsed by Council	Date signed by GM
1 Adopted	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY
2 Reviewed	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY

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