

## **1.1. BACKFLOW PREVENTION POLICY**

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To ensure and protect the quality of Tamworth Regional Council's potable water supplies by minimising the risk associated with backflow contamination from connections to the water supply system.

### **APPLICATION:**

This policy applies to all potable water schemes operated by Tamworth Regional Council. Potable water is supplied at

- Attunga
- Barraba
- Bendemeer
- Kootingal
- Manilla
- Moonbi
- Nundle
- Tamworth

Any water supplied by Council from raw water pipelines is not supplied for drinking and is excluded from the provisions detailed in this policy.

### **POLICY:**

In water supply systems, water is normally maintained at a significant pressure to enable water to flow from the tap, shower etc. When pressure fails or is reduced, as may happen if a water main bursts, pipes freeze or there is unexpectedly high demand on the water system, then such reduced pressure in the pipe may allow contaminated water from the ground, from storage or from other sources to be drawn up into the system. Backflow means the undesirable reversal of flow of a liquid, gas or solid into the potable water supply — A backflow prevention device keeps this from happening

Tamworth Regional Council is committed to providing safe and high quality drinking water which consistently meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and other regulatory requirements.

A key component of providing this service is the implementation and delivery of a backflow prevention policy.

To achieve this commitment Tamworth Regional Council will:

- Ensure the appropriate installation, testing, maintenance and certification of backflow prevention devices in accordance with Australian Standard AS3500 part 1.
- Ensure that property owners and plumbers are made aware of the requirements for backflow prevention devices and their applicable responsibilities.
- Verify the certification and accreditation of plumbers involved in the installation testing and certification of devices.
- Ensure that all testable devices are tested annually and maintain a register of test results.

- Issue orders, as appropriate, under the Local Government Act 1993 and associated relevant regulations including denying supply, disconnection, levying fees and charges and carrying out any work at the customers cost.

Where backflow prevention is required in accordance with Australian Standard AS3500 part 1, property owners connected to potable water supplies are required under this policy to:

- Ensure backflow device installation, commissioning, testing and maintenance is completed in accordance with Australian Standard AS3500 part 1.
- Supply to Council a Certificate of Compliance and Backflow Prevention Device and Maintenance Report for all Installations.
- Pay all fees and charges levied by Council and applicable to backflow prevention.