

Metered Standpipe Water Access Policy

Policy Type	Council Policy	Version:	3.0
Responsible Officer	Manager Water and Waste	Date Approved:	16/11/2022
Review Officer:	Manager Water and Waste	Review Due:	16/10/2026
Author:	Senior Compliance Officer	Commencement:	16/11/2022

1. PURPOSE

To provide a framework for the authorised provision of temporary access to and the drawing of water from the Mareeba Shire Council's water service infrastructure via a metered standpipe device.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the authorised provision by Council of access to Council's water service infrastructure via use of an Electronic Key to draw water via a Fixed Metered Standpipe (FMS) at a Fixed Point or via use of a Portable Metered Standpipe (PMS). It does not apply to water drawn from:

- a metered rateable residential or business water service;
- a firefighting system or hydrant during an emergency event.

This policy should be read in conjunction with Council's *Metered Standpipe Water Access Procedures*.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Council is a registered service provider under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* (Qld) (WSSR Act) and owns and operates the water service infrastructure located within the local government jurisdiction.¹

A person may only lawfully connect to and access Council's water service infrastructure to draw water via an approved metered standpipe device and where a valid Water Access Agreement (WAA) is in place with Council. The use of unauthorised standpipe or hydrant devices to draw water from Council's water service infrastructure is not permitted and unauthorised access may result in enforcement actions in accordance with provisions under the WSSR Act.

3.1 APPROVED ACCESS TO WATER

3.1.1 Fixed Metered Standpipe

- 1) Access to Council's water service infrastructure may be provided via use of an Electronic Key to draw water through a Fixed Metered Standpipe (FMS) at an approved Fill Point location as determined by Council – refer to Appendix 1 for geographic Fill Point locations.
- 2) Applications for issue of an Electronic Key must be made in the approved WAA form (*Avdata Water Management System post-paid account key*) and payment of a security bond will

¹ See *Water Supply (Safety Reliability) Act 2008* (Qld) ss 20-22.

apply. Council may at its sole discretion, impose any additional conditions from time to time as may be required.

- 3) the WAA Terms and Conditions of use must be complied with.
- 4) A per-hire fee will apply in accordance with Council's current published Fees and Charges schedule and water drawn will be charged at a per-kilolitre rate in accordance with the water consumption tables contained within Council's Annual Budget Schedule of Charges.

3.1.2 Portable Metered Standpipe

Council undertakes project works which may necessitate the drawing of water from Council's water service hydrant network. This includes but is not limited to works undertaken through Council's day labour operations, work undertaken by contractors and works to service State Department projects and maintenance works.

- 1) Access to Council's water service infrastructure may be provided via use of a Portable Metered Standpipe device (PMS) to draw water through a hydrant point.
- 2) PMS devices must be authorised and issued through Council's Kowa Street depot office.
- 3) Any relevant WAA Terms and Conditions of use must be complied with, and Council may, at its sole discretion, impose any additional conditions from time to time as may be required.
- 4) A daily PMS short or long term rental fee will apply along with any applicable processing fees and a device deposit in accordance with Council's current published Fees and Charges.
- 5) Water drawn through a PMS shall be charged at a per-kilolitre rate in accordance with the water consumption tables contained within Council's Annual Budget Schedule of Charges.

3.2 RELEVANT AUTHORITY

The WSSR Act sets out the requirements for provision of access to Council's water service infrastructure and any applicable penalties for unauthorised access. Relevantly, the WSSR Act provides:

- It is an offence to take water from a firefighting system or a hydrant without the permission of the service provider unless the water is taken for firefighting purposes.²
- It is an offence to interfere with, connect to, or disconnect from, or take water from a service provider's infrastructure without the written consent and approval of a service provider.³

4. REPORTING

No reporting is required

² See *Water Supply (Safety Reliability) Act 2008* (Qld) s 145(1) – maximum penalty 1,000 penalty units.

³ *Ibid* s 191, 192(1), 195 – maximum penalty 1,000 penalty units each offence.

5. DEFINITIONS

Council – means Mareeba Shire Council.

Electronic Key – means an electronic account key provided by Council to an applicant that enables access to a Fixed Metered Standpipe located at an approved Fill Point.

Fees and Charges – means the scheduled fees and charges published by Council for the current financial year.

Fill Point – means a designated geographic location within the Council jurisdiction at which a Metered Standpipe can be accessed with an Electronic Key – refer to Appendix 1.

Fixed Metered Standpipe – means a temporary or permanent water drawing device positioned at a fixed point to include pipework, control and metering equipment and other support equipment provided in a designated location by Council for the purpose of drawing of water from Council's water service infrastructure.

Hydrant – means an apparatus used for the extraction of water under pressure to be released from Council's water service infrastructure.

Hydrant point – means a hydrant connection point for the drawing of water from Council's water service infrastructure.

Portable Metered Standpipe – means a portable standpipe device holding an in-built readable analogue water volume meter and which can be connected to Council's water service infrastructure via a hydrant point.

Water Access Agreement – means an application for *Avdata Water Management System post-paid account key* (Fixed Metered Standpipe) or a completed water access application form (Portable Metered Standpipe) as issued by Council.

Water Service Provider – means a supplier of water or sewerage services to include a local government registered as a service provider under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* (Qld) and that owns infrastructure for supplying water or sewerage services.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

Metered Standpipe Water Access Procedures (MSC)

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 (Qld)

7. REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Manager Water and Waste to monitor the adequacy of this policy and implement and approve appropriate changes. This policy will be formally reviewed every four (4) years or as required by Council.

APPENDIX 1 - Fill Point locations

Emerald End Road, Mareeba



Martin Avenue, Mareeba



Arara Street, Kuranda



Frew Street/Aerodrome Road, Chillagoe

