



Mildura Rural City Council

Water Allocation Policy

Policy - CP023

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Manager Community Futures	Strategic Management Team	Council	May 2021	2021/0112
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1. The purpose of this policy is

To set clear guidelines for the provision of water from Council's water allocation.

2. Policy Statement

Council currently has a water entitlement that is linked to properties throughout both the Lower Murray Water Rural and Urban water districts. Several entities including community organisations, commercial operators, private residents and state government organisations currently use Council's water allocation.

3. Principles

- Water under the direct ownership of MRCC shall remain under Council ownership and shall not be permanently transferred to any other party;
- Council will allocate water annually for irrigation purposes to entities that currently use water from Council's water allocation.
- Existing users of Council's water entitlement shall be provided with an indicative water allocation for the term of their lease or agreement to occupy the land where irrigation is being undertaken. The allocation would be based upon historical usage during the base usage year (2014/2015);
- Should the irrigation season commence below 100 per cent allocation, Council will allocate water to entities based on a pro rata share calculated using the base year (2014-2015). This allocation would be adjusted throughout the year if allocations are adjusted. Council may hold a maximum of 100 per cent water for carryover into the following year depending on present and forecasted water availability;
- Carry over water shall be allocated to Council facilities and entities based on a pro rata share calculated from historical usage (base usage year – 2014-2015);
- Priority shall be given to the irrigation of sports fields, playing surfaces, high quality and significant landscapes. Should insufficient water be available during the irrigation season, the irrigation of non sporting surfaces shall be reduced or cease. This decision would be undertaken in consultation with users however Council reserves the right to determine final allocations;

- Entities utilising Council's water allocation through a pump not owned and operated by Council shall meet the full cost of operating and maintaining pump systems, electricity supply, water licensing and supply;
- Transfer of water temporarily to participating parties is permitted upon approval of the CEO.

Conditions applicable for Community Organisations

- Community organisations that use in excess of the allocation provided by Council during the irrigation season may have that amount deducted in the following irrigation season. They will also be required to pay any fees or charges associated with any overuse. Council reserves the right to refuse future water allocations to defaulting organisations at Council's sole discretion;
- Council may adjust irrigation allocations to community organisations as required depending on operational requirements and priorities across the areas being irrigated using Council's water entitlement;
- Community organisations utilising Council's water allocation through shared pump infrastructure owned and operated by Council shall:
 - where possible, provide separate metering for all water consumption associated with their facility and provide the meter reading to Council on a monthly basis;
 - pay a maintenance fee for the operation and maintenance of pump systems, electricity charges and water charges based upon volumetric usage. Council may assist in funding the cost of supplying and installing water metering where there currently is existing shared usage with Council facilities. Any new applicants must meet all costs associated with meeting these requirements;
- Council may consider new applications from community organisations to utilise Council pump infrastructure for the delivery of water. New applicants to use Council pump infrastructure for the delivery of water to a community organisations must provide a water entitlement for the total water usage required and this entitlement must be temporarily transferred to Council for the duration of the consumption. New applicants must also make their own provision for carryover and reduced allocations in any subsequent year. Any shortfall would not be accommodated in Council's allocation;
- New community organisation applicants for use of Council pump infrastructure for the delivery of water may apply for assistance from Council to convert an existing town water system to a raw water system.

Conditions applicable for private residents, commercial properties and state government organisations

Private residents, commercial properties and state government organisations using Council pump infrastructure must:

- provide separate metering for all water consumption as required by Council and meet the cost of the purchase, installation and maintenance of the meter;
- provide the meter reading to Council on a monthly basis;
- have a separate water entitlement that fully accommodates their annual water requirements;
- pay a maintenance fee for the operation and maintenance of pump systems, electricity charges and water charges based upon volumetric usage;

- observe and comply with any operational requirements of Lower Murray Water Authority.

4. **Who is responsible for implementing this policy?**

Manager Community Futures.

5. **Definitions**

Council Facilities	Facilities operated and managed by Council
Community Organisations	Not for profit community based organisations
Entities	Community organisations, commercial operators, private residents and state government organisations
Water Entitlement	The legal right of a user to access a specified amount of water in a given period
Carry Over	Un-used water brought forward from the previous irrigation season
Irrigation Season	Period of the financial year
Water Allocation	Amount of water allocated for irrigation purposes in the designated irrigation season

5.1 **Community organisations that use water from Council's water allocation**

- Nangiloc Bowling Club
- Red Cliffs Tennis Club
- Merbein Bowling Club
- Mildura Lawn Tennis Club
- Mildura Racing Club
- Red Cliffs Croquet Club
- Mildura Horse Complex
- Nicholls Point Tennis Club
- Mildura Bowling Club
- Red Cliffs Bowling Club

6. **Legislation and other references**

6.1 **Legislation**

- *Water Act 1989*, and
- National Competition Policy.

6.2 Documents

N/A

6.3 Risk Assessment Reference

Risk Category	✓	Risk Category	✓
Asset Management	✓	Financial Sustainability	✓
Committees		Human Resource Management	
Compliance – Legal & Regulatory	✓	Leadership & Organisational Culture	
Contract Management		Occupational Health & Safety	
Contract Tendering & Procurement		Organisational Risk Management	
Corporate Governance		Project Management	
Environmental Sustainability	✓	Public Image and Reputation	✓