

# Balonne Shire Council

## Water Meter Policy

Resolution Date: 15 November, 1996

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### 1.00 Provision of Water Meters

A water meter will be supplied by Council on all new connections to Council's metered water services and the fee for this will be included in the Water Connection Fee.

This policy should be read in conjunction with Council's Local Laws Nos. 660 to 681.

#### 1.01 Multiple Unit Premises

Where there are multiple unit premises on a single rated parcel of land Council shall provide a single connection and single water meter of sufficient size to accommodate the multiple unit premises. However where existing multiple unit premises are connected to the reticulation system at a number of locations, one meter per physical water connection to the main will be provided.

(Should an owner of multiple unit premises require separate meters for each unit, this would have to be arranged as part of the private internal plumbing at the expense of the owner).

The connection fee shall be a multiple of the single connection fee and the number of units. *(For example: The connection fee for 2 flats would be twice the normal fee for a single dwelling)*

### 2.00 Relocation Requests

If an owner requires the location of a water meter to be changed a written request shall be made to Council. The decision on approval of relocation and the financial responsibility, if relocated, will be made by Council.

### 3.00 Installation Standard

Water meters shall be installed in compliance with the manufacturers specifications and instructions, Australian Standard 3500.1-1992 National Plumbing and Drainage Code Part 1: Water Supply as it relates to water meters and Council's Standard Drawing - Standard Domestic Water Meter Installations.

#### 3.01 Selection of Above Ground or Below Ground Type

Above ground/below ground installation of water meters shall be as follows:-

##### House with front fence

- # All meters to be above ground.
- # Services located in driveways or gateways are to be offset and installed above ground. Care is to be taken to position the meter so as not to interfere with gate operation.
- # Only where physical constraints prevent offsetting of the meter, shall the

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meter be installed below ground.

### House with no front fence

- # Normal installation is to be above ground.
- # Where the meter would be in an exposed position (driveways, lawns etc) it should be offset so as to be located within a garden area or adjacent to trees/shrubs letter boxes, or other structure.
- # Where no garden or structure is within 2 metres of the meter point, the meter is to be installed below ground.
- # Where physical constraints prevent offsetting of the meter, the meter is to be installed below ground.

## **4.00 Testing of Water Meters**

Any person who is dissatisfied with the reading indicated by the meter attached to their water supply may, by lodging the appropriate form and fee with Council, request that the meter be tested.

The fee for testing water meters shall be determined by Council from time to time and recorded in the Register of General Charges.

If the test determines that the meter is inaccurate, the testing fee shall be refunded and the water meter will be replaced at no cost to the owner or occupier.

If the test determines that the meter is accurate the testing fee shall be retained by Council.

A meter will be deemed to be accurate if the reading is within 5% of the actual quantity of water passing through it.

### 4.01 Meter Registering Inaccurately

If any water meter supplied by the Council is found to be inaccurate, the Council will estimate the amount of water supplied. The estimate shall be the lesser figure calculated by the following methods:-

- (a) average daily consumption for the previous period; or
- (b) average of the reading recorded during the corresponding period in the previous three years.

### 4.02 Council May Disconnect Meter For Test

The Council may at any time disconnect any meter in use for the purpose of determining the accuracy of the working of such meter or for maintenance of such meter.

## **5.00 Meter Reading**

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The Council will read all water meters in its towns at least twice per year, except for water meters installed on the St. George river water supply, which shall be read when Council deems it necessary.

### **6.00 Excess Water Charges**

Refer to details of charging methodology in Council's Revenue Policy.

### **7.00 Unmetered Water Supply**

The owner may request Council to install a water meter on Council's unmetered water service. All installation and maintenance costs will be at the owner's expense. The above conditions will apply.

### **8.00 Damage to Meters**

The cost of repairs or replacement of meters damaged by careless or deliberate acts for which the owner is responsible, will be payable by the owner.

#### ***Distribution:***

***All Councillors;  
C.E.O. (original);  
File:  
Resident Engineer;  
Assistant Resident Engineer;  
Manager Corporate Services;  
Rate Section;  
Chief Health Surveyor;  
Town Works Supervisor;  
Resident Town Officers;  
Plumber;  
Water Officers.***