

Fluoridation Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Fluoridation Policy is to ensure compliance with NSW Health's legislation regarding the fluoridating of existing water supply systems and to ensure the safe and effective management and operation of Riverina Water's fluoridation processes.

Policy Statement

Riverina Water County Council (Riverina Water) is committed to continue its current fluoridation obligations and requirements under the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957, the NSW Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies, and as directed by NSW Health.

Scope

Supported by NSW Health and endorsed by Council Resolution #69/316 (25th June 1969), Riverina Water is committed to continuing its fluoridation programme noting that such programme is limited to the following integrated drinking water supply systems:

- Wagga Wagga including Ladysmith system
- North Wagga and associated rural systems
- Southern Trunk Main and associated rural systems
- Western Trunk Main and associated rural systems

The specific water treatment plants approved and regulated by NSW Health to add fluoride to the above-mentioned drinking water supply systems are listed below, and comprise of Riverina Water's integrated water supply network:

- Wagga Filtration (River) Water Treatment Plant
- East Wagga Aeration (Bore) Water Treatment Plant
- West Wagga Aeration (Bore) Water Treatment Plant
- North Wagga Aeration (Bore) Water Treatment Plant
- Bulgary Aeration (Bore) Water Treatment Plant
- Urana Filtration (River) Water Treatment Plant
- Gardiners Crossing/Walla Walla (Bore) Water Treatment Plant

Definitions

DWMS – Drinking Water Management System

1. Principles

To achieve this commitment, and in partnership with NSW Health and other relevant agencies, Riverina Water will:

- 1.1 Retain regular monitoring of the quality of drinking water and effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and promote confidence in the water supply and its management to consumers, public and to NSW Health.
- 1.2 Adhere to the NSW Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies.
- 1.3 Ensure the safety of the public and staff with respect to the management, operation and maintenance of fluoridation processes and equipment.
- 1.4 Maintain an appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability.
- 1.5 Ensure that staff and contractors involved in the fluoridation of drinking water are appropriately trained and understand their responsibility for ensuring safety to the public, customers and the workplace.

2. Policy Implementation

Consistent with Riverina Water's Drinking Water Management System (DWMS), Riverina Water will implement this Policy by:

- 2.1 Maintaining Riverina Water's Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWMS)
- 2.2 Implementing appropriate operations and management procedures for water supply
- 2.3 Reporting on the supply of fluoridated drinking water to NSW Health and NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment
- 2.4 Actively engaging with key stakeholders (customer and regulators) and with industry peak organisations (eg NSW Water Directorate)
- 2.5 Ensuring relevancy and currency of appropriate fluoridation training for staff
- 2.6 Promoting awareness of staff responsibilities and accountabilities with regards to water quality
- 2.7 Actively seeking capital costs from NSW Health for replacements and upgrading existing fluoridation facilities

3. Non Compliance

Non-compliance with Acts, Regulations and Standards, Guidelines and Procedures associated with Riverina Water's fluoridation program may lead to:

- 3.1 NSW Health's direct intervention into Riverina Water's management and water supply operations
- 3.2 Compromising safety to Riverina Water's customers and its staff
- 3.3 A breach under the Code of Conduct and as such, any suspected or known non-compliance will be reported to the CEO.

4. References

- Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957:
<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/1957/58>
- Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Regulation 2017:
<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2017/419>
- NSW Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Documents/code-of-practice.pdf>
- Riverina Water County Council's Resolution 69/316 (previously known as Southern Riverina County Council)
- Further background reading:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/documents/fluoridation-questions-and-answers-nsw.pdf>

Policy number	2.05
Responsible area	Engineering
Approved by	Riverina Water Board – Res 25/073
Approval date	26 June 2025
Legislation or related strategy	Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957 Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Regulation 2017 NSW Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies NSW Public Health Act 2010 NSW Public Health Regulation 2012 Riverina Water Drinking Water Management System (DWMS)
Documents associated with this policy	Riverina Water Drinking Water Management System (DWMS)
Policy history	Riverina Water Board – Res 23/037 27 Apr 2023 Riverina Water Board – Res 20/127 16 Dec 2020 Council Resolution #69/316, 25 th June 1969 – previously known as Policy 2.5

This Policy and associated management plans will be reviewed every 2 years, or in response to changes in legislation, guidelines or as management information dictates.

END OF POLICY STATEMENT