

METERING OF FIRE LINES POLICY (MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE)

1 Scope:

This policy applies to properties in the Rockhampton Regional Council declared water supply area requiring water connections for fire fighting purposes.

2 Purpose:

To ensure fire lines are metered in order to identify and eliminate avoidable system leakage and non fire related water consumption through those services.

3 Related Documents:

Primary

Nil

Secondary

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

AS/NZS 2845.1:2010 Water Supply - Backflow Prevention Devices

Water Meter Policy

Water and Sewerage Service Private Works Application Form

4 Definitions:

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply:

Approved Certifier	A person (including an employee or contractor of Council) who performs or supervises fire protection work and has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A fire protection occupational licence issued under the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991</i> (QBCC) that authorises the licensee to personally carry out the work; or ▪ A contractor's licence issued under the QBCC Act that authorises the licensee to personally carry out the work; or ▪ A licence, registration or authorisation under an Act, other than the QBCC Act, that authorises the person to personally supervise or carry out the work (for example, a licence issued under the <i>Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002</i>).
Council	Rockhampton Regional Council
Fire Line	A water service specifically and solely used for fire fighting purposes. This designated fire service could be a stand-alone service or may be a designated part of a split service.
FRW	Fitzroy River Water

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5 Policy Statement:

Under section 144 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*:

"A water service provider must not make a charge for water taken for a fire fighting system or a service provider's hydrant for fire fighting purposes.

However, the service provider may fix either or both of the following to any private firefighting system -

- (a) A meter;
- (b) A seal."

FRW will meter fire lines through a combination of retrofitting existing fire lines with appropriate meters and through the mandatory fitting of meters to new fire line supplies.

5.1 New Fire Lines

Where a new fire line is required for a hose reel, hydrant or sprinkler system:

- The property will be supplied by a single water connection with a certified metered bypass (as required) located prior to the property boundary.
- Diameter of fire lines will be determined and certified for each project by an approved certifier, in line with the fire safety regulation.
- The property owner will be required to cover the cost of this installation under a private works arrangement.
- No charge will be levied by Council for any water used for the purpose of fire fighting, but an annual access charge will be levied, for fire lines connected to the water supply system.

5.2 Existing Fire Lines

Where a property already has a dedicated fire line which is supplied by a single metered connection, there will be no additional action required.

Where a property already has a fire line which is supplied via a separate or unmetered connection:

- Council may arrange for the installation of a single metered connection to be located prior to the property boundary.
- Diameters of fire lines will be determined and certified for each project by an approved certifier, in line with fire safety regulations.
- The property owner will not be charged any fees for the installation of this connection, nor compensated for any interruption to the lines during installation.

5.3 Access Charge

The water access charge for a fire line will be determined on the basis of a 20mm water connection. This will be subject each year to Council's Revenue Statement, adopted in conjunction with budget.

5.4 Meter Reading

Council's Water Meter Policy will apply to water meters on fire lines.

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5.5 Water Consumption Adjustment for Firefighting

Where water is consumed for firefighting purposes, the following applies:

- The consumer will contact Council within seven working days of a fire to notify that fire hose reels, hydrants and/or sprinkler systems have been used for fire fighting purposes.
- Council will arrange for the water meter to be read as soon as possible after being notified of such use.
- No charge will be levied for the water consumed between the last meter read date and the meter reading after the fire notification.

6 Review Timelines:

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

- 6.1 The related information is amended or replaced; or
- 6.2 Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Council.

7 Responsibilities:

Sponsor	Chief Executive Officer
Business Owner	General Manager Regional Services
Policy Owner	Manager Fitzroy River Water
Policy Quality Control	Corporate Improvement and Strategy

EVAN PARDON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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