

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 firefighting purposes.

2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is 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

3.1 Primary

Nil

3.2 Secondary

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

AS/NZS 2845.1:2022 Water Supply - Backflow Prevention Devices - Australian/New Zealand Standard

AS 2419.1 - Fire Hydrant Installations - Australian Standard

Revenue Statement

Water Meter Policy

Water and Sewerage 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: (a) A fire protection occupational licence issued under the QBCC Act that authorises the licensee to personally carry out the work; or (b) A contractor's licence issued under the QBCC Act that authorises the licensee to personally carry out the work; or (c) 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 2018</i>).
Council	Rockhampton Regional Council
Employee	Local government employee: (a) The Chief Executive Officer; or (b) A person holding an appointment under section 196 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>.

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Fire Line	A water service specifically and solely used for firefighting purposes. This designated fire service could be a stand-alone service or may be a designated part of a split service.
QBCC Act	<i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991</i>

5 Policy statement

Under section 144 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* a water service provider is unable to charge for water taken from a firefighting system or a service provider's hydrant for firefighting purposes. However, the service provider may fix a meter and/or a seal to any private firefighting system:

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

5.2 Existing fire lines

Where a property has an existing dedicated fire line supplied by a single metered connection, no additional action is required.

Where a property has an existing fire line 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.
- The diameters of fire lines are determined and certified for each project by an approved certifier, in line with provisions of the Queensland Development Code.
- The property owner is not charged any fees for the installation of the meter, nor compensated for any interruption to the service during installation.

5.3 Access charge

The water access charge for a fire line is determined on the basis of a 20mm water connection as detailed in Council's Revenue Statement.

5.4 Meter reading

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

5.5 Water consumption adjustment for firefighting

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

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

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6 Review timelines

This policy is reviewed when any of the following occur:

- (a) The related information is amended or replaced; or
- (b) Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer.

7 Document management

Sponsor	Chief Executive Officer
Business Owner	General Manager Regional Services
Policy Owner	Manager Water and Wastewater
Policy Quality Control	Legal and Governance

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