

POLICY NO EP09 Public Health Warnings (Sewage Spill) Policy

DEPARTMENT:	Environmental Health
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Environmental Health Officer
LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	Ensure sustainable management of natural and built resources is respectful to our unique location
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	Public Health Act 1997 Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure the health of the public and environment is maintained at legislated levels or above
POLICY INFORMATION:	Adopted 21 October 2013 – Minute 10/13.14.7.269 Amended 21 August 2014 – Minute No 08/14.11.9.234 Amended 18 September 2017 – Minute No 09/17.12.6.209

POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Break O'Day Municipality is subject to extreme weather events, torrential rain may cause sewerage spills into recreational waters. Council is committed to providing a quality living environment for its residents, ratepayers and visitors and recognises the importance of notifying the public of any potential health hazard.

2. WHEN A SPILL OCCURS

If TasWater receives a report from an Environmental Health Officer or the Director of Public Health, or itself identifies that the quality of water is likely to become a threat to public health, TasWater must take action in accordance with the Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007 to prevent the threat by-

- (a) Restricting or preventing the use of water
- (b) Erect warning signs
- (c) Give warnings and information to the public about the safe use of water or the risk of using the water

Council's Environmental Health Officer will liaise with TasWater to ensure suitable temporary signage is put in place to warn recreational users and swimmers, and that water samples are taken to check water quality. Signage is to be kept in place until water samples indicate water is again satisfactory for recreational purposes.

3. TAKING OF SHELLFISH

All enquiries in respect of taking wild shellfish from waters within the municipality are to be directed to the State Health Department warnings as issued from time to time by the Director of Public Health.

4. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or earlier in the event of major changes to legislation or related policies, procedures or if deemed necessary by the General Manager.