

POLICY NO AM20 WATER REFILL STATION POLICY

DEPARTMENT: Infrastructure Services

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Manager Infrastructure & Development Services

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: Adopt environmental sustainability principles in undertaking Council activities

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Local Government Act 1993

OBJECTIVE: To provide potable Water Refill Stations in high demand public places within the Break O'Day Municipality to help reduce the environmental impact of drinking bottled water and the number of plastic bottles going to landfill.

POLICY INFORMATION: Adopted 16 March 2020 – Minute No 03/20.13.3.42
Amended 17 April 2023 – Minute No 04/23.14.3.85
Amended 16 March 2026 – Minute No 03/26.14.3.716

POLICY

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Manager Infrastructure & Development Services is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

2. INTRODUCTION

Council recognise the negative impact that discarded plastic bottles have on the environment and natural resources; and the benefits in avoiding the generation of waste from single use, disposable packaging, such as from bottled water.

Bottled water consumes in its production and distribution resources and energy. The impact of 'end of use' litter and plastic pollution affecting natural waterways and the ocean is well documented.

To reduce the environmental impact of discarded water bottles Council is seeking to provide readily available and alternative source of potable drinking water, through the strategic placement of Water Refill Stations in high demand locations within the Break O'Day Area.

Under this policy, Council will assess all requests for the installation of Water Refill Stations against the following criterion.

1. Proposed Installation Site
2. Compliance with relevant legislation, standards and best practice positioning guidelines.
3. Public safety and accessibility.
4. Availability to connect to potable water supplies.
5. Materials of Construction.
6. Asset Life-cycle cost.

3. POLICY APPLICATION

Council will only consider installing a Water Refill Station that demonstrates an installation will meet or exceed the policy objective and criterion.

4. CRITERION

4.1 Proposed Installation Site

To promote the use of Water Refill Stations, stations will only be considered where a proposed installation is in a prominent area and is not obscured by the surroundings.

Appropriate sites are:

- high pedestrian traffic areas, such as town shopping precincts and high use playgrounds.
- open spaces where there are opportunities to do physical activity.
- open spaces where there are planned BBQ facilities and picnic tables.

The limitation on the number of units for any one prominent area is one refill station.

Water Refill Stations have high asset life cycle costs. Giving consideration to an installation does not mean that an installation will be approved.

Council will consider only two types of stations:

- Full stations in shopping precinct areas.
- Where installed adjacent to a toilet block, park or reserve a suitable spring loaded or push tap set up and which may incorporate a dog bowl in the set up.

4.2 Public Safety & Access

Water Refill Stations shall be designed for public safety and access and inclusion (AS 1428) that give consideration to Site Location, Site Set-out, Safety & Hygiene and drainage/soakage trench requirements.

4.3 Potable Water Supply

Water Refill Stations shall only be connected to existing reticulated potable town water supplies.

Where the quality of a town water supply has variable water clarity, odour, temperature, and/or taste, water filtration may be required.

4.4 Materials of Construction

Water Refill Stations shall be constructed from materials that are resistant to vandalism and corrosion (coastal climate) and which can be cleaned with ease. Stations by design shall be durable with a useful operational life of 15 to 20 years.

4.5 Asset Life Cycle Cost

A whole of life cycle cost analysis shall be prepared for each proposed Water Refill Station installation and provided to the Council.

5. MONITORING & REVIEW

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