



Council Policy

Policy Title:	Effluent Reuse (Evans Head)
Policy Number:	12.2
Focus Area:	Transport and Infrastructure
Responsibility:	Infrastructure and Environment
Meeting Adopted:	23 June 2015 - 230615/14

OBJECTIVE

This policy is to provide a framework for the reuse of effluent from the Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant.

POLICY

1. Statement of Intent

Richmond Valley Council recognises the need for consistent arrangements for effluent reuse.

In that respect Council considers effluent reuse agreements should provide the following:

- opportunities for beneficial reuse of effluent
- clearly outline responsibilities for establishment, maintenance, and operation of infrastructure
- determine ownership and responsibility with respect to quantity and quality of effluent.

2. Principles of Reuse Agreements

The following principles will be utilised by Council to guide its reuse agreements:

- Consistency;** agreements for similar uses will be similar, while agreements for dissimilar uses will be equitable.
- Relevance;** where possible, reuse agreements will be based on the severity and likelihood of the risks involved.
- Resources;** in determining relative contributions, the availability of resources will need to be considered.
- Practicality/Effectiveness;** reuse agreements should be undertaken with a view to obtaining maximum benefit without causing undue stress on either party.

- (e) **Public Benefit;** consideration of reuse options will include a consideration of the greatest public benefit.

3. Framework

The reuse policy sets out the responsibilities of Council and the party which can reuse the effluent (“the reuser”).

Council will be responsible for:

- Installation and maintenance of all infrastructure to the boundary of the property on which the reuse is to occur, and may provide a short length of pipe on private property to the nearest storage if impractical to do otherwise.
- Assisting the reuser in applying for funding directly related to the reuse proposal;
- Providing technical advice in relation to the reuse scheme;
- Providing assistance with the design of the reuse system.
- All monitoring in accordance with the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) licence conditions.
- Supplying the effluent at an agreed quality and standard. Typical quality standards will include:
 - STP discharge limit; or
 - DEC guidelines for irrigation of effluent (uncontrolled public access); or
 - DEC guidelines for irrigation of effluent (controlled public access); or
 - Reuse specific quality requirement.
- Agree to a cost structure for the supply of effluent, taking into account the life cycle cost of Council’s infrastructure, the benefit to Council, and the community benefit.

The reuser will be responsible for:

- Installation and maintenance of all infrastructure on the private property.
- Any monitoring in excess of the STP licence conditions.
- Sustainable operation of the reuse system.
- Constructing and operating the scheme in accordance with the design approved by Council.
- The effluent will become the property of the reuser at the boundary of the property.

Contravention of any of the above requirements may result in Council terminating supply of effluent to the reuser.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by Council at the time of any relevant legislative changes, compliance requirements or at least every four years.