

<b>POLICY</b>			
<b>FIXED STANDPIPES FOR PUBLIC USE</b>			
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<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: General Manager</b>			

The primary purpose of the water supply system is to have water available at all times to connected premises, and to have water available if needed for fire fighting. The provision of fixed public standpipes is a secondary benefit, but is of particular value in times of drought, to enable stock and domestic storages to be replenished.

There are currently twenty or more fixed standpipes in the township and rural areas covered by Riverina Water. Each standpipe is controlled by a local custodian, who collects the payments for water purchased and controls the key to the standpipe. The local council is usually the nominal customer and is responsible for payment to Riverina Water.

The flow rate available from any standpipe needs to be limited to ensure that the supply is not drawn down too quickly and that water hammer is not induced into the system during operation. Most standpipes can produce around 200 litres per minute, although some have been upgraded to around 300 litres per minute, where the local reticulation allows.

Our practice has been to require the local council to meet the installation cost of new standpipes or upgrades, but not any headworks or infrastructure charge. In a recent instance Lockhart Shire declined to contribute to an upgrade and further suggested that Riverina Water deal direct with the custodians on all standpipes.

This would create practical difficulties compared to the more local control, and the potential for unaccounted for water losses could increase. It is considered that the arrangement and co-ordination with the custodian is best handled by the local council.

The cost of installing (or upgrading) the standpipes (typically \$3000) could be met directly by Riverina Water, however as there is no headworks cost recoupment or availability charge, the price of water sold through standpipes should really be increased to be equitable with other consumers. It is also highly desirable that the standpipes not proliferate in number, as the extra demand on our system and the maintenance and administrative difficulties could easily become excessive.

**RECOMMENDED** that:

- i) the cost of future installations and upgrades of fixed standpipes be met by Riverina Water, provided the local council attends to vehicle access and standing requirements;
- ii) the appointment of custodians and responsibility for water dispensed remain with the local councils;
- iii) the price of water sold through standpipes be reviewed with the next annual management plan, to reflect equitably with other water consumers. and
- iv) Council advise our constituent Councils of Council's decision.

### **FIXED STANDPIPES FOR PUBLIC USE**

02/116      RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Vidler and Georgiou that:

- i) the cost of future installations and upgrades of fixed standpipes be met by Riverina Water, provided the local council attends to vehicle access and standing requirements;
- ii) the appointment of custodians and responsibility for water dispensed remain with the local councils;
- iii) the price of water sold through standpipes be reviewed with the next annual management plan, to reflect equitably with other water consumers; and
- iv) Council advise our constituent Councils of Council's decision.