

ENVIRONMENT

4.3 WINGECARRIBEE ACHIEVES CONTINUOUS REDUCTION IN WASTE GENERATION AND DISPOSAL TO LANDFILL

Adoption Date:	12 July 2017
Council Reference:	MN 310/17
Policy Owner:	Manager Environment and Sustainability
Next review date:	July 2019
File Reference:	5450/28.7
Related Policies/Legislation:	Environment Policy Council Event Policy
Related Documents:	Planning a Public Event – Procedure Manual Portable Water Refill Station Procedure
Superseded Policy	Bottled Water Free Policy 2010

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- avoid the use of bottled water in Council operations
- provide alternatives to bottled water
- reduce waste and resource use.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council recognises the negative impact bottled water has on the environment and natural resources. Council also recognises the priority to avoid generating waste from single use, disposable packaging, such as from bottled water, where there is another option available. Bottled water requires resources and embodied energy for its production and distribution. There is also an impact of litter and plastic pollution affecting waterways.

Council aims to be a leader in the community by promoting and providing alternatives to bottled water. Council will provide alternatives to bottled water at every available opportunity across all of Council's functions as a retailer, employer, function holder and meeting facilitator.

Council will promote alternatives to single use, disposable bottled water by encouraging people to bring reusable water bottles and providing reusable cups where possible. Council will also encourage waste minimisation by providing recycling facilities to maximise resource recovery where this is logistically feasible.

Council encourages private stall holders at Council public events to embrace this initiative. Council's portable water bottle refill station can be used for outdoor events and is available for community run events.



Alternatives to Bottled Water Policy

Council will monitor the need for extra permanent public water bottle refill stations. There may be some circumstance where Council needs to provide bottled water, for example, in times of emergency and employee/public safety, or when alternative potable water sources are not logistically available.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council staff and Council's operations as a retailer, employer, function holder and meeting facilitator.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities for implementing this policy are shared between Councillors, Executive and staff as follows:

Councillors:

- Provide leadership in supporting this policy at Council meetings, functions and events.

Executive:

- Integrate the policy across business areas.
- Encourage improvements in resource conservation.

Staff:

- Implement this policy when planning and delivering Council meetings, functions and public events. Provide information to stall holders on alternatives to bottled water.
- Implement this policy in the operation of Council facilities.
- Investigate new infrastructure options as they arise to support alternatives to bottled water.
- Develop, review and maintain effective procedures to support the policy implementation.
- Maintain the portable water bottle refill stations in accordance with the relevant procedures.
- Manage bookings of the portable water bottle refill stations in line with the relevant procedure and current user agreement forms.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The success of this policy will be measured by provision of alternatives to bottled water and a reduction in the use of bottled water within Council operations. Indicators of this include:

- the number of Council facilities that do not have an alternative to bottled water
- regular review of the opportunities and need to provide additional refill stations in public spaces
- the number of Council events where alternatives to bottled water are provided.

APPROVED BY:

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL

12 July 2017

