

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- a) Set out how GWMWater will maintain public health and safe-guard water supplies by identifying hazardous connections to the reticulation system and mandating they have the appropriate backflow prevention device fitted.
- b) Ensure that backflow prevention containment meets compliance requirements as referenced in:
 - The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011), Chapter 3.3.1, Preventative Measures and Multiple Barriers.
 - AS-NZS3500.1 Plumbing and Drainage.
 - The Plumbing Code of Australia 2011, Section 4, 4.1-4.6 (and as amended).

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all property owners connected to GWMWater's reticulated water supply system.

3 POLICY

- a) All water service connections to GWMWater reticulation require backflow prevention in accordance with AS/NZS 3500.1 - Plumbing and Drainage, and the Plumbing Code of Australia.
 - b) The property owner is responsible for arranging a suitably qualified person to conduct the installation, maintenance, servicing and annual testing (where applicable) by of the backflow prevention containment device(s) within their property in accordance with AS/NZS 3500.1 - Plumbing and Drainage, and the Plumbing Code of Australia.
 - c) The property owner must arrange a suitably qualified person to conduct annual servicing and testing of backflow prevention containment devices. Test results forms must be provided to GWMWater within 14 days of the test date.
 - d) GWMWater will notify property owners during the 'Consent to Connect' process of GWMWater requirements under (a) and the property owner's responsibilities under (b).
 - e) GWMWater will review existing connections at its discretion and notify property owners of GWMWater requirements under (a) and the property owner's responsibilities under (b).
 - f) GWMWater will develop and maintain a database of water service connections and corresponding backflow prevention devices.
 - g) Where GWMWater deem a connection to be a non-compliant backflow prevention risk, GWMWater may:
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Management Policy
Backflow Prevention Containment
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- Notify property owners of a need to comply with (b) as a condition of service.
 - Install a compliant backflow prevention device at the property owner's
 - expense.
 - Terminate the service.
- h) Without limiting the requirements of AS/NZS 3500.1 - Plumbing and Drainage and the Plumbing Code of Australia, the minimum acceptable backflow prevention is defined according to hazard and connection type as follows:

Connection Type	Hazard	Acceptable Device
Dedicated fire service connection	Low	Single Check Meter
Urban and rural, potable and non-potable (regulated) connections.	Low	Dual Check Meter*
	Medium	Testable Double Check Valve
	High	Testable Reduced Pressure Zone Device Registered break tank Registered Air Gap
Reclaimed water ('purple pipe') connection	All	Dual Check Meter

* Where low hazard urban and rural connections do not meet this minimum standard, the meters may remain in service until their replacement at the discretion or direction of GWMWater.

The Manager Water Regulation is responsible for carrying out this policy.

4 RELATED LEGISLATION

- a) *The Water Act 1989* (and as amended)
- b) *Water Industry Act 1994* (and as amended)
- c) *Water Industry Regulations 2006* (and as amended)
- d) *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* (and as amended)
- e) AS/NZS 2845 Water Supply – Backflow Prevention Devices (and as amended)
- f) AS/NZS 3500 Part 1 Water Services and Part 5 Cold Water Plumbing (and as amended)
- g) Plumbing Code of Australia 2011

5 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The integrity of GWMWater's reticulated water supply system is maintained by minimising the risk of backflow contamination from connections to the system.

6 DOCUMENTATION

- Backflow Prevention Containment Policy - Combined Water Corporations
- Backflow Prevention Containment Procedure
- Backflow Non-Compliance Procedure

7 DEFINITIONS

Backflow - The unplanned reverse flow of water or mixtures of water and contaminants into the reticulated water supply system.

Backflow Prevention Containment Device AS/NZS 3500.1 - A device to prevent the reverse flow of water from a potentially contaminated source, into GWMWater's reticulated water supply system.

Cross connection - Any connection or arrangements between the system, connected to the water main or any fixture that may enable non-drinking water or other contamination to enter the system.

The reader is directed to the corporation's [standard definitions](#).
