

Infrastructure Committee

15 June 2017

Report for Agenda Item: 1

Department: Property and Infrastructure

QLDC Water Meter Policy Update

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek adoption of an updated QLDC Water Meter Policy.

Recommendation

That the Infrastructure Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Adopt** the updated QLDC Water Meter Policy;
3. **Authorise** officers to make further minor changes to the QLDC Water Meter Policy without further recourse to the Council, where this is necessary to:
 - i. Fix identified minor errors and/or omissions.
 - ii. Ensure continuity with other proposed provisions.

Prepared by:
Myles Lind



Manager, Asset Planning

29/05/2017

Reviewed and Authorised by:
Peter Hansby



General Manager –
Infrastructure

31/05/2017

Background

- 1 Council's current Code of Practice for Subdivision and Land Development was adopted on 3 June 2015.
- 2 The Code of Practice for Subdivision and Land Development sets out the requirement for a policy on water metering.
- 3 Council's current Water Metering Policy was adopted on 27 August 2015.

- 4 Council has since received a number of water pressure complaints from customers where water meters have been installed under the policy and have become blinded or blocked due to algae in the water supply.
- 5 This proposed update to the policy allows for a non-fouling, water meter manufactured by Kamstrup to be included in Appendix A of the policy – Accepted Meters for Water Supply.
- 6 The updated Water Meter Policy is included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Comment

Options

- 7 This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 8 Option 1: Do nothing – do not adopt the updated policy
 - 9 Advantages: None.
 - 10 Disadvantages: Customers will continue to be exposed to the risk of water pressure issues related to blinded or blocked water meters until full water treatment processes are install prior to 2028.
- 11 Option 2: Adopt updated policy as recommended
 - 12 Advantages: Council will have a process and capability for capturing and storing data on water usage to manage water demand.
 - 13 Customers will have a reduced risk of water pressure issues related to water meters blinding or blocking.
 - 14 Disadvantages: None.
- 15 This report recommends **Option 2** for addressing the matter.

Significance and Engagement

- 16 This matter is of low significance as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The significance level has been determined by assessment of its importance to the QLDC community interest, inconsistency with existing policy and strategy, and the impact on the Council's capability and capacity.

Risk

- 17 This matter relates to the strategic risk SR1 – Current and future development needs of the community (including environmental protection), as documented in the Council's risk register. The risk is classified as high. The likelihood of it occurring is high due to the potential non-compliance with technical requirements.

- 18 A mitigation action has been identified as a sub task in the corporate risk mitigation activities. The sub task is 'a documented process for contracts and asset data capture'. The purpose of this process is to mitigate the risk by providing guidance to QLDC staff and the developer community when constructing assets that may be vested in Council.

Financial Implications

- 19 Potential decrease in on-going maintenance costs associated with water meter cleaning and replacement, supporting improved data capture of customer demand to enable optimisation of future expenditure.

Council Policies, Strategies and Bylaws

- 20 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
- Asset Management Framework
 - QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice
 - QLDC Water Supply Bylaw
 - QLDC Trade Waste Bylaw
- 21 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy/policies.
- 22 This matter is not included in the 10-Year Plan/Annual Plan
- This document does not require additional funding and has no impact on current budgets. The on-going review of best practice is part of business as usual.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions

- 23 The recommended option:
- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by adopting current national standards and best practice;
 - Can be implemented through current funding under the 10-Year Plan and Annual Plan;
 - Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
 - Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Consultation: Community Views and Preferences

- 24 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are Council officers who are involved with the approval of future development and on-going operation and maintenance of assets vested in Council and the development community including developers, engineers and surveyors.
- 25 The Council has internally reviewed the documentation with technical experts from within the Property and Infrastructure team.

Attachments

A – QLDC Water Meter Policy