

3.0 Recreational Water Areas



These procedures apply regardless of day of week or time of day.

Mission Statement:

The Townsville City Council has varying responsibility for natural artificial recreational water areas and a commitment to the health and safety of the community and environment. In order to maintain the health and safety of the public who use these areas for recreational purposes, the Townsville City Council must be aware of the water quality and be able to respond to any situation that may detrimentally effect the standard of water quality. There is much that staff can do to prevent adverse effects on water quality, from conditions on development approvals to standard operating procedures that prevent water pollution/contamination. All staff is encouraged to consider the water quality of our water bodies in any decisions made with in Council.

Priorities

- 1 AVOIDANCE OF SITUATIONS THAT WILL DETRIMENTALLY EFFECT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS;
- 2 MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE MONITORING PROCEDURES;
- 3 IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO CHANGING WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS;
- 4 COMMUNICATION.

Authority to Act

The Manager Health Services has the authority to initiate any actions necessary to determine the extent of pollution, access staff, initiate clean-up procedures and protect the health and safety of the community and environment.

Response Procedure

These procedures will be in response to water quality parameters exceeding the standards set out in the ANZECC Guidelines 2000 or in response to any emergency situation contributing to water pollution.

- 1 Engineering Services and Environmental Services Departments will continue to perform comprehensive sampling and analysis programs for recreational swim areas.
- 2 Should officers of either departments become aware of a problem eventuating or being identified, as a result of routine monitoring, the officer will

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immediately advise the Manager Health Services and the Manager Citiwater by telephone. The respective Managers will notify their respective Directors. The Director Environmental Services will notify the following:

- Chief Executive Officer;
- Manager Public Relations;
- Chairperson Environmental Services Committee;
- Chairperson Engineering Services Committee.

3 Should an officer of Council become aware of a problem through a complaint process or verbal report from a member of the public or other organisation, the complaint or verbal advice will be acted upon immediately. The officer receiving the advice will not treat the issue as a routine complaint but will immediately advise the responsible officer verbally and follow through with written advice. The following responsible officers are to be advised:

Manager Health Services or as delegated, The Principal Environmental Health Officer.

4 The Manager Health Services will immediately request an officer of Health Services to inspect the situation and conduct the appropriate sampling. The officer will report directly back to the Manager Health Services and follow up immediately with a written report.

5 The Manager Health Services will make all necessary arrangements through the Process Engineer (Citiwater) to have Citiwater Laboratory staff available to analyse the samples immediately.

6 Citiwater Laboratory staff will advise the Manager Health Services of the results as soon as possible by telephone and facsimile. Manager Health Services will then decide, based on the officer's report and the analytical report as to whether the recreational swim area will remain open to the public.

7 Should the analytical report support closure of the recreational swim area, the Manager Health Services will arrange for the immediate erection of signs directing the public to cease using the area. The Manager Health Services will immediately advise the Director Environmental Services and the Manager Citiwater. Note that should the pollution be due to a sewerage spill, the Emergency Procedure Manual (Sewerage Spills) will apply. The Manager Citiwater will advise the Director Engineering Services.

8 The Director Environmental Services will immediately advise the Chief Executive Officer, Chairperson Environmental Services, Public Relations Manager and the Mayor.

9 Should the cause of the change in water quality not be evident, the Manager Health Services will direct an officer of Health Services to continue investigating the problem. At this point, the Manager Health Services shall inform the Manager Environmental Management Services. The Manager Environmental Management Services will assist or direct the ongoing

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investigation into the source of pollution. At the completion of investigation, a report will be submitted to the Manager Health Services.

10 The Manager Health Services will direct staff of Health Services to continue sampling and monitoring on a daily basis or as directed, until the water quality parameters are back to normal or safe standards. The signs warning the public will remain erected until the water quality is of an acceptable standard. The Manager Health Services will make the decision as to when the signs can be removed and will inform the Director Environmental Services.

11 The Manager Health Services will keep the Director Environmental Services and Manager Citiwater, informed at all times. The Manager Citiwater will keep the Director Engineering Services informed at all times. The Director Environmental Services will keep the Chief Executive Officer, Public Relations Manager and the Mayor informed of all developments.

12 At the completion of the exercise, the Manager Health Services will provide a complete explanatory report of the incident, response/remediation and likely causes. The Manager Health Services will provide all necessary information to the Environmental Protection Agency.

To avoid primary contact symptoms it is recommended that at least 24 hours be allowed after an event before clearance for swimming be approved. The Rock Pool should be emptied and if empty should not be refilled before clearance has been given. Signs should be erected at all public or dog swimming areas to stop any contact and provide an explanation of potential symptoms. Brochures should be made available to all visitors who are unaware of public media announcements.