




INGLEWOOD RESERVOIR PIPELINE – WATER SUPPLY POLICY

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Signed by Chief Executive Officer

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This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

1 PURPOSE

Outlines Council's position in relation to the provision of water to community facilities via the Inglewood Reservoir to Recreation Reserve Pipeline.

2 SCOPE

This policy shall apply to:

- Loddon Shire Council
- Inglewood Reservoir Advisory Committee
- Inglewood Sports Centre Section 86 Committee of Management and its user groups
- Potential future users of the pipeline.

3 POLICY

3.1 Background

In 2009 Council installed a 1.7km pipeline from the Inglewood Reservoir to the Inglewood Sports Centre.

The purpose of this pipeline is to supply water to the sports center to be used on its playing surface i.e. tennis, football, cricket and pavilion surrounds.

This pipeline was installed to achieve the following:

- to provide the Inglewood Sports Centre with an alternative water supply, other than that provided by Coliban Water
- to reduce the costs associated with watering playing surfaces at the Inglewood Sports Centre
- to reduce the risk of no water being available to water playing surfaces during periods of drought
- to ensure the risks associated with playing sports on hard surfaces are minimised
- to reduce the risk of sport and recreation opportunities not being available due to the lack of reliable water supply.

3.2 Principles

This policy has been developed based on the following principles:

- Users will be charged an appropriate fee for water as stipulated in Council's annual fees and charges schedule.
- Total annual water availability will be dependent on availability of supply and community priorities.
- The income received will be used to maintain and replace the pipeline and to maintain and upgrade reservoir infrastructure.
- If the Inglewood Reservoir drops below 20% capacity, supply access will cease.
- The Inglewood Reservoir is not a guaranteed water supply.
- New connections to the water supply will be recommended by the Inglewood Reservoir Advisory Committee and this recommendation must be approved by Council.
- The cost of new connections will be met by the applicant.
- Users of water from the pipeline will be not for profit community organisations.
- Priority will be given to organisations, based on the need of water to reduce the risk of injury i.e. football, tennis and cricket.
- Emergency services will be given priority access to the water as required to deal with bushfires and other emergency events.
- Current and future users of the water and pipeline will be required to enter into a formal agreement with Council prior to accessing water from the pipeline.

3.3 Objectives

The objective of this policy is to identify the following:

- who is able to access this water
- what is the process for accessing the water
- who is responsible for the replacement and maintenance of the infrastructure including the pipeline, tanks and pumps
- the rate to be charged to users of this water
- the process for monitoring and charging for water use
- what the purpose of the money received from charges is to be used for.

3.4 Monitoring and charges

- Users of water from the pipeline will be charged at a set rate per kilolitre of water as stipulated within Councils annual fees and charges schedule.
- Annual water usage by any one group will be capped as stipulated in a formal water use agreement.
- Meters will be read every three months and an invoice will be issued by Loddon Shire Council to user groups accessing water from the pipeline.

3.5 Established users

Users, including established users, will be responsible for all ongoing maintenance and renewal activities for services to their properties from the tapping point on the pipeline.

3.6 New connections

- Applications for new connections will be made to the Inglewood Reservoir Advisory Committee. A formal application form will be provided for this purpose.
- Recommendations on new connections will be made to Council by the Inglewood Reservoir Advisory Committee.
- Council officers will make the final decision on new connection applications.
- All costs associated with new connections will be met by the applicant organisation; these costs include but are not limited to meter supply and installation, all plumbing works and materials, as well as any pumps, tanks and approvals that may be required.

3.7 Income

Income received from groups accessing the water will be deposited in a reserve account to fund minor maintenance, major repairs and capital works at the Inglewood Reservoir and to the pipeline.

3.8 Authority

- Ultimate authority and responsibility for the Inglewood Reservoir Pipeline rests with Council. Accordingly, Council can use income from the water charges for purposes not outlined in this policy, if it is determined financially prudent to do so.
- Council has the authority to impose restrictions and termination of supply at any time with regard to water availability or capped supply limits.

4 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS OR ABBREVIATIONS USED

Term	Definition
Pipeline	Refers to the pipeline extending from the Old Inglewood Reservoir to the Inglewood Sports Centre.

Formal water use agreement	Refers to individual formal agreements entered into between Council and specific user groups accessing water from the “Old Inglewood Reservoir to the Inglewood Sports Centre”.
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5 HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights Act. Loddon Shire Council is committed to consultation and cooperation between management and employees. The Council will formally involve elected employee Health and Safety Representatives in any workplace change that may affect the health and safety of any of its employees.

6 REVIEW

The Manager Recreation and Community Development will review this policy for any necessary amendments no later than 3 years after adoption of this current version.