

Policy No. PP:039

Hydrants – Conditions of Use Policy

1 INFORMATION ABOUT THIS POLICY

POLICY INFORMATION

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Policy Responsibility Engineering Manager	
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DOCUMENT HISTORY

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FURTHER DOCUMENT INFORMATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

Related Legislation	Local Government Act 1993 Local Government Regulations
Related Policies	PP007 Water Connections Policy PP006 Backflow Prevention Policy
Related Procedures, Protocols, Statements and Documents	

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3 PURPOSE

To protect Council's infrastructure from illegal water access, potential contamination of the potable water supply, damage to firefighting infrastructure and service disruption to nearby residents.

4 DEFINITIONS

Hydrant – a valve installed on Goldenfields Water's urban pipelines that enable access to water for firefighting purposes

Standpipe – A piece of equipment that connects to the hydrants and brings the water supply up to above ground level

5 HYDRANT INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

As a County Council, Goldenfields Water is required to install hydrants in its urban water mains as may be necessary for the ready supply of water to extinguish fires, and to maintain the hydrants in effective working order as per the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Goldenfields Water has hydrants located at approximately 60 metre interval spacing within their urban townships.

6 ILLEGAL USE OF COUNCIL HYDRANTS

A person (other than a fire service during emergency conditions) may only draw water from a County Council water supply or a standpipe with the prior approval of the County Council (*Local Government Act 1993*, s68(1)).

The *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) establishes a number of offences relevant to the unauthorised use of hydrants. The maximum penalty for each offence is 20 penalty units (\$2,200.00). These are as follows:

- failing to obtain an approval or carrying out an activity otherwise than in accordance with an approval (LG Act, ss626(3), 627(3)).
- wilfully or negligently damaging, destroying or otherwise interfering with a pipe, lock, tap, valve or other thing belonging to the County Council in connection with the supply of water (LG Act, s635).
- wilfully or negligently wasting or misusing water from a public water supply, or causing any such water to be wasted (LG Act, s637(1)).
- wilfully or negligently doing any act which damages or pollutes (or is likely to damage or pollute) a public water supply, or a source of that supply (LG Act, s639(1)).

7 IMPACTS OF HYDRANT USE

Hydrants are designed to rapidly expel water from the pipeline system to extinguish fires. The rapid expulsion of water from the system often has detrimental impacts to the water supply infrastructure and surrounding customers including:

- Damage to hydrant valves from incorrect use,

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- Damage to water pipelines from pressure related water hammer
- Reduced water supply to surrounding customers
- Stirring sediment and causing discoloured water for nearby residents
- Potential contamination of the water supply system

As such, it is the preference for hydrants to only be utilised during emergency conditions.

8 ALTERNATIVES TO HYDRANTS ACCESS

Goldenfields Water provides different options for contractors and members of the public to access water. These include:

- Bulk water refill stations which provide high flow rate filling options,
- Community operated standpipes, and
- Temporary connections

More information and the location of these services can be found on Goldenfields Water's website.

9 APPROVAL TO ACCESS HYDRANTS

If the community standpipes and bulk fill stations are not a suitable means for water access an alternate connection may be requested by submitting an application for a temporary water service connection.

Council will assess the application and determine whether there is a suitable location for water supply using either a temporary connection or approving hydrants access.

For approved hydrant access, Goldenfields Water will determine specific hydrants that may be used with due consideration given to the potential impacts on the surrounding area. Goldenfields Water will supply a portable metered standpipe with appropriate backflow prevention devices.

Fees and Charges will apply.