



PRESS RELEASE

RIVERINA WATER COUNTY COUNCIL RECEIVES CERTIFICATION IN HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point)

I am pleased to advise that Council has been successful in obtaining certification under a risk management and quality management approach to water quality. The basis of this approach Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system has been adopted internationally by the food industry. This approach compliments the quality approach recommended by the 2004 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Certification has been received after Council had our HAACP Program audited by NCS International which certified that our program complies with Codex Alimentarius Alinorm: 97/13A (HACCP).

Council is very proud of this achievement, Councillors and staff have all contributed to this achievement. **Council is the first NSW Water utility to gain HACCP certification.** Following is a copy of the forward to our "Water Quality Management System HACCP Manual" which gives some background to the process of HACCP Certification.

Riverina Water County Council is rightly proud of its almost 70 years of providing a quality water supply to its many urban and rural customers.

Water, as we know, is vital to sustaining life. Just as important as having sufficient water, is the requirement that water is of a quality that suits its end purpose. Riverina Water, over its long history, has provided a reliable, safe water supply. In more recent years its performance in supplying a safe water supply has been measured in terms of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

As our water supply system has grown in size and complexity it has become more difficult for employees to fully understand how their efforts at work, the infrastructure they build and maintain, and the many environmental variables interact. It is important that this interaction is managed in such a way that we can be confident that our customers continue to receive a safe and high quality water supply.

HACCP provides a methodology that assists in understanding and assessing the risks associated with supplying drinking water, developing control measures and documenting a management system that when implemented will give confidence that our customers will continue to receive a safe and high quality drinking water.

About the same time as Riverina Water committed to a HACCP approach to water quality, the 2004 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines were introduced. A significant change from previous guidelines was the introduction of a “Framework” for managing water quality. Our decision to introduce the HACCP methodology ties in very well to the concept of the “Framework” recommended in the drinking water guidelines.

This Water Quality Safety Plan is the result of the efforts of many people particularly:-

- *Our Water Quality Officer, Nicole Vonarx, who has led this very important project with dedication and enthusiasm.*
- *All the staff that contributed to the many team and project meetings with their wealth of experience*
- *The assistance from outside agencies such as DNR, DEUS, and NSW Health*
- *Dr Annette Davison and Dr Daniel Deere of Water Futures who have provided outstanding guidance to Riverina water throughout this project*

G.W. Pieper
GENERAL MANAGER

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