

Policy

Assistance with Water Consumption Costs associated with Home Haemodialysis Machines

2022



Liverpool
Plains
Shire Council

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Further Document Information and Relationships	
Related Legislation*	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Related Policies	Council's Revenue Policy Debt Recovery Policy Hardship Policy
Related Documents	Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines

*Note: Any reference to Legislation will be updated in the Policy as required. See website <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/> for current Acts, Regulations and Environmental Planning Instruments.

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1. Purpose

Implement an affordable fee structure in relation to water usage costs for Liverpool Plains Shire Council urban water supplied to consumers undergoing Home Haemodialysis treatment.

2. Commencement

This Policy is effective from the date of resolution by Council and shall remain in force until repealed by resolution of Council.

3. Scope

This policy relates to those who utilise home haemodialysis with the associated reliance on higher town water usage from dialysis machines as part of their treatment.

4. Definitions and Interpretation

Term	Definition
Act	Local Government Act 1993
Council	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Consumers	Ratepayer and their tenants
Haemodialysis	A treatment to filter wastes and water from blood when kidneys are no longer healthy enough to do this work adequately

5. Background

Even with the best management, chronic kidney disease sometimes progresses to end stage kidney disease (or kidney failure). In the end stage of kidney disease, kidney function will need to be replaced by either a kidney transplant or dialysis.

Dialysis has a number of options, which include home dialysis (either peritoneal dialysis or home haemodialysis) and centre-based haemodialysis (assisted hospital visits).

This policy relates to those who utilise home haemodialysis with the associated reliance on higher town water usage from dialysis machines as part of this treatment. It is intended that the policy recognises the increased cost burden for this treatment process and provides a system of charging that still recognises Council's requirement to achieve Best Practice cost recovery when providing urban water service to the community.

Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines require Council to achieve ongoing full cost recovery for their water supply and sewerage services.

Councils are required to charge for water based on an Annual Access Charge (determined by water service size) and a stepped Usage Charge (based on cost/kL)

which is increased at a determined threshold/s. The increased rate above the threshold should send a strong pricing signal to encourage consumers to use water wisely.

Dialysis machine use can generate a significant amount of water usage (in the order of 120kL per annum) that can be attributed to the treatment process undertaken by the dialysis machine in a residential household situation.

6. Policy Statement

This policy provides financial relief for their water usage to those undergoing home haemodialysis within the urban water service.

6.1 Pricing

The following Home Haemodialysis Residential Rate shall apply:

- Annual Access Charge will be as per Council's fees and charges for a 20mm Residential Water Service.
- Usage Charge will be maintained at the rate as per Council's fees and charges for the first Usage Step Rate with no increase thereafter until a total threshold of 500kL during one Rating Year is reached. The applicable higher usage rate as per Council's fees and charges will be applied for water usage above the 500kL threshold.

6.2 Process

- a) Consumers wishing to utilise the water pricing regime for Home Haemodialysis Residential Rate shall register with Council on the supplied form. The form is required to be signed and submitted by the Ratepayer.
- b) Consumers will need to re-register every two (2) years to maintain the Home Haemodialysis Residential Rate for Water Service concession.
- c) If a current registration is not held for a Home Haemodialysis Residential Rate the applicable normal Residential Rate will be applied to the premises.
- d) An appropriate Backflow Device must be installed on the premise to be eligible for application of the Home Haemodialysis Residential Rate.
- e) Consumers who relocate (within the Liverpool Plains Shire Local Government Area) during any given Rating Year shall notify Council of the new location to apply the Home Haemodialysis Residential Rate which will be applied to the new location. The old location will revert to the normal Residential Rate for Usage Charges.
- f) Consumers who relocate (outside of the Liverpool Plains Shire Local Government Area) shall notify Council that the Home Haemodialysis Residential Rate is no longer required.