

PowerWater

**Connection Code
for
Water Supply and Sewerage
Services**

Foreword

Power and Water Corporation (Power and Water) is licenced to provide water supply and sewerage services in major and minor urban centres throughout the Northern Territory. Copies of Power and Water's licences are available on the Utilities Commission Website at www.utilicom.nt.gov.au .

Power and Water has published a Customer Contract that defines the rights and obligations of both Power and Water and its customers and the levels of service provided, including those for water supply and sewerage services.

This document is the Connection Code for new connections, upgrade of connections and increased loads on Power and Water's infrastructure as described in Section 52 of the *Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act*.

Power and Water has also published a Trade Waste Code and Metering Code. Together with this Connection Code and the Customer Contract, these publications provide customers, developers, engineers, contractors and suppliers with the necessary guidance to enable Power and Water to deliver safe, sustainable, quality water supply and sewerage services.

A person undertaking any activity that may impact on Power and Water's infrastructure or services is required to comply with this Connection Code.

This Connection Code sets out:-

- A proponent's rights and obligations relating to development activity;
- Power and Water's rights and obligations relating to development activity; and
- Power and Water's approved technical, procedural and charging requirements.

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Definitions

The *Act* means - *the Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act*.

Connection Code means - this Connection Code for new connections, upgrade of connections and increased loads on Power and Water Corporation's infrastructure as described in Section 52 of the *Act*.

Connection means – A physical connection from a lot, property, building or area to Power and Water's infrastructure.

Development Activity means – any works or proposal to undertake works that may impact on the existing or future infrastructure or services of Power and Water. This includes but is not limited to:

- subdivision works (consolidation or creation of new lots);
- building development works (new buildings or extensions to existing buildings);
- changes in land use;
- rezoning of land;
- new connections or upgrade of connections;
- new or amended plumbing fixtures;
- increased or decreased hydraulic loads for premises;
- works and structures located in public road reserves including elevated encroachments (awnings), subsurface encroachments (underground car parks), surface or pavements works, landscaping and planting;
- works and structures located in or adjacent to Power and Water easements including elevated encroachments (awnings), subsurface encroachments (underground car parks) surface or pavements works including landscaping and planting;
- works and structures located within 1.5m of a property sewerage connection;
- any ground drilling works;
- road construction, ground compaction or filling, land clearing;
- erection of signage; and
- works to other utility services such as Telstra, Gas, Electricity.

Gifted means - to be provided free of cost to Power and Water for ownership, operation, maintenance and renewal.

Hydraulic Load or **Load** means - ;

- in the case of water supply: the water demand profile drawn from Power and Water's infrastructure; and
- in the case of sewerage: the sewage discharge profile discharging to Power and Water's infrastructure.

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Infrastructure means - water supply and sewerage infrastructure.

Proponent means - a person or an entity who owns land, or is authorized by the landowner, and is proposing a development activity that may impact on Power and Water's infrastructure

Introduction

Background

Power and Water owns and operates in excess of one billion dollars of infrastructure (at current replacement cost). Over the years, as urban areas have grown, Power and Water, the Northern Territory Government and private developers have funded this infrastructure. Infrastructure is expensive to construct, repair and replace. Power and Water's infrastructure is designed and maintained to achieve useful lives that extend up to 100 years. It is important that Power and Water has sound asset management policies and practices in place to optimise the useful life of its infrastructure. Power and Water continually seeks to improve the efficiency of its infrastructure and offer further connections to proponents as urban areas continue to grow. To support Power and Water's ability to provide reliable and sustainable services, and to comply with legislative requirements, Power and Water has developed this Connection Code.

Legal Basis

This document is the Connection Code for new connections, upgrade of connections and increased loads on Power and Water's infrastructure as described in Section 52 of the *Act*.

This Connection Code also covers Power and Water's requirements in relation to other activity as referred to in Section 52 (5) of the *Act*:

"A person undertaking any activity that may impact on the infrastructure or services of a licensee must comply with the licensee's Connection Code for connections, upgrade of connections and acceptance of increased loads"

Activity in this Connection Code is referred to as development activity.

Purpose

This Connection Code sets out the technical, procedural and charging requirements of Power and Water, in relation to development activity. It is intended that this Connection Code will encourage orderly, well designed and cost effective connection, augmentation and extension of Power and Water's infrastructure.

This Connection Code includes:-

- a description of development activity that shall be submitted for assessment by Power and Water;
- technical requirements (such as design guidelines / standards and technical bulletins);

- procedural requirements (such as the process to be followed to obtain the assessment and subsequent approval from Power and Water to carry out development activity); and
- charging requirements to ensure that the impact of development activity does not impose additional costs on existing customers or Power and Water.

Objectives

This Connection Code seeks to facilitate assessment and approval of new connections, upgrade of connections, increased loads and other development activity likely to have an impact on Power and Water's infrastructure.

Power and Water's technical, procedural and charging documents have been developed taking into account the following objectives:

- To optimize the strategic use of spare capacity within Power and Water's infrastructure;
- To ensure the hydraulic capacity of infrastructure is not exceeded; and
- To ensure existing or future infrastructure is not hindered or compromised by development activity;
- To ensure operational and maintenance requirements associated with Power and Water's infrastructure are not hindered or compromised by development activity;
- To ensure Power and Water's customer service levels are not hindered or compromised by development activity;
- To ensure any new infrastructure, that is to be gifted to Power and Water is designed and constructed to Power and Water requirements; and
- To minimize risks to proponents of development activity.

Application and General Principles

Application

Power and Water is committed to promoting the orderly development of the Northern Territory. This Connection Code seeks to facilitate growth in the Northern Territory through access to affordable water supply and sewerage services.

This Connection Code only applies within areas where Power and Water hold a water supply and/or sewerage license as defined under the *Act*.

A proponent of development activity shall comply with this Connection Code.

In some cases, a proponent may request a variation from Power and Water's standard requirements. Such variations will only be considered where the proponent can justify the need for assessment of the variation. A proponent must demonstrate that a

variation, if granted by Power and Water, will achieve equivalent or improved outcomes for Power and Water.

Power and Water may, from time to time, amend any existing technical, procedural and charging documents or develop and publish new technical, procedural and charging documents. Where appropriate, stakeholders, eg. the development industry, customers; will be consulted during any such review or development of technical, procedural and charging documents.

Quality Assurance

Power and Water emphasizes the importance of quality assurance throughout the development activity process. It is the proponent's responsibility to ensure that adequate quality assurance processes are in place to produce planned outcomes.

General Principles

This Connection Code introduces the following principles to promote orderly development activity:-

- Power and Water shall apply its technical, procedural and charging requirements in a fair, equitable and consistent manner;
- Power and Water may request that property water connections and property sewer connections meet current standards whenever land is subdivided or when an increase in hydraulic load is proposed. When applying this principle Power and Water shall consider economic, social and environmental impacts;
- Power and Water may apply conditions and requirements that are specific to a particular project and that may not be included in a technical, procedural or charging document. Power and Water shall endeavour to advise the proponent of such requirements as early as possible; and
- Power and Water's technical, procedural and charging requirements shall be developed to ensure that development activity does not impact on existing customers.

Rights and Obligations

A Proponent's Rights and Obligations

A proponent has a right to apply for a new connection, upgrade of connection or acceptance of increased load, to Power and Water's infrastructure.

A proponent shall notify Power and Water of a proposal to undertake any development activity and shall obtain assessment and approvals from Power and Water prior to commencing development activity. Significant penalties exist under the *Act* for non-compliance.

A proponent shall comply with Power and Water's technical, procedural and charging documents and also with any specific advice or requirements that Power and Water may issue.

A proponent shall engage accredited professionals to undertake design, construction, supervision or certification functions as part of any development activity.

Any person or entity acting on behalf of a proponent shall, when requested by Power and Water, provide written authority from that proponent prior to any consideration, assessment or approval by Power and Water relating to development activity.

Power and Water's Rights and Obligations

Power and Water shall, upon receipt of an application for new connection, upgrade of connection or acceptance of increased load to Power and Water's infrastructure, or upon receipt of notification of development activity, provide

- preliminary advice to the proponent ;
- approval (including conditions); or
- rejection of the proposal.

Power and Water may, if it becomes aware of development activity of which there has been no notification by the proponent, serve a written notice on the proponent requesting that this Connection Code (or any other Code, standard or legislation held by Power and Water) is complied with in a specified period of time.

Technical Requirements

Power and Water has developed and approved the following technical documents that apply to development activity and with which a proponent must comply. Ancillary to these technical documents are a number of related documents that provide further guidance to a proponent of development activity.

Technical Documents

Guidelines for Developers and Consulting Engineers for the Provision of Water and Sewerage Infrastructure in Subdivisions October 1993

This document sets out the design criteria to be applied by a proponent when designing infrastructure that is to be gifted to Power and Water or is to be connected to Power and Water's infrastructure.

Water and Sewerage Hydraulics Master Specification 1999

This document is a generic construction specification for the creation of infrastructure that is to be gifted to Power and Water.

Water and Sewage Infrastructure Products Manual 2001

This document identifies those strategic products which Power and Water have approved for use in the creation of infrastructure to be gifted to Power and Water.

Power and Water Standard Drawings 2001

A series of drawings that illustrate acceptable designs for frequently used installations (e.g. property connections, fire hydrants and access chambers) for infrastructure to be gifted to Power and Water.

Power and Water Technical Policies

A series of technical policies that provide specific design principles or methods relating to infrastructure to be gifted to Power and Water or connected to Power and Water's infrastructure:

- Multi-metering of Water Supply in a Multi-unit Development Aug 2000
- Metering of Water Supplied to Fire Sprinkler Systems Nov 2000

Power and Water Customer Information Handouts

A series of documents that provide advice to proponents to assist in meeting Power and Water's technical and procedural requirements

These include:

- Customer Information Handout 1
Checklist and notes for water / sewer services drawings for developments / subdivisions;
- Customer Information Handout 2
Checklist for design of water / sewer services for extensions and subdivisions;
- Customer Information Handout 3
Checklist for design of water / sewer services for building development;
- Customer Information Handout 4
Misc water / sewer charges for development activities;
- Customer Information Handout 5
Disinfection of water mains - Using Sodium Hypochlorite with a water truck;
- Customer Information Handout 6
Minimum trench details for live tapplings of watermains;
- Customer Information Handout 7
Backflow prevention for developments;
- Customer Information Handout 8
Pre-treatment guidelines for tradewaste generating process;
- Multi-metering of Water Supply for Existing units;
- Multi-metering of Water Supply for New units; and
- Metering of Water Supplied to Fire Sprinkler Systems.

Related Documents

Power and Water Trade Waste Code (as approved by the Minister responsible for essential services in accordance with the *Act*)

This document sets out a proponent's rights and obligations relating to tradewaste discharge to Power and Water's sewerage system.

Power and Water Metering Code (as approved by the Utilities Commission in accordance with the *Act*)

This document sets out a proponent's rights and obligations relating to metering of water drawn from Power and Water's water supply system.

Water Services Association of Australia (WSSA) Water Supply and Sewerage Codes 2002

These Codes have only recently been released by WSSA and may only be used as a general guide to supplement Power and Water's approved technical documents. These Codes have not been endorsed as an alternative to any Power and Water approved technical documents. Power and Water intends to review these Codes with a view to officially incorporating their use in development activity in the future.

Procedural Requirements

Power and Water has developed and approved the following procedural documents that apply to development activity and with which a proponent must comply.

Procedural Documents

General Procedures for Development Activity 2003

This document sets out the general procedures to be applied to development activity.

Guidelines for Developers and Consulting Engineers for the Provision of Water and Sewerage Infrastructure in Subdivisions October 1993

This document sets out the general procedures to be adhered to by proponents when designing infrastructure that is to be gifted to Power and Water.

Power and Water Customer Information Handouts

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These include:

- Customer Information Handout 1
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- Customer Information Handout 8
Pre-treatment guidelines for tradewaste generating process;
- Multi-metering of Water Supply for Existing units;
- Multi-metering of Water Supply for New units; and
- Metering of Water Supplied to Fire Sprinkler Systems.

Power and Water Application Forms

A series of application forms that facilitate a proponent's application for connection to Power and Water's infrastructure.

These include:

- Water Supply Meter / Service Application
An application form for a new or upgraded water supply meter or service;
- Sewerage Service Application
An application form for a new or upgraded sewerage service; and
- Tradewaste Discharge Application
An application form for a new or varied tradewaste discharge.

Charging Requirements

General

Power and Water has a range of charges for related services associated with development activity including but not necessarily limited to:

- connections;
- recoverable works; and
- administrative services.

Charges for related services are those referred to in a pricing order (a determination of financial charges made under Section 60 of the *Act*) approved by the Minister responsible for economic regulation.

Existing approved charges are summarized in the following document:

- Customer Information Handout 4
Misc water / sewer charges for development activities.

Developer Capital Contributions

Developer capital contributions form part of the Water Supply and Sewerage Services Extension Policy (WASSEP) and are set out in the following charging document:

- *Power and Water Authority Water and Sewerage System Extension Policy (WASSEP)*,

Developer capital contributions are aimed at the following two main groups of proponents:

- Proponents who are about to develop a property which will result in an increased load on Power and Water's infrastructure; and
- Proponents who already own property that is not directly connected to Power and Water's infrastructure and who are thinking of making such a connection.

Security

Power and Water may require a proponent to lodge security, in the form of a financial bond, at any stage during proposed development activity. Application of security will be assessed by Power and Water taking into account the risk to Power and Water's infrastructure, services and other liabilities.

Contacts

The Land Development Section administers this Connection Code on behalf of the Water Services Branch of Power and Water.

The Land Development Section may be contacted at:

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