

Policy title:	RURAL CONNECTIONS TO THE NIMBIN WATER SUPPLY POLICY
Policy number:	6.1.7
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote the sustainable and efficient use of the existing Nimbin water supply. 2. To provide clear direction as to which properties are able, or not able, to connect to the Nimbin water supply.
Link to community vision/service:	Integrated Water Cycle
Program Area:	Infrastructure Services
Policy created: 14/6/16	Council reviewed:
Last reviewed by staff:	TRIM Ref: ED15/34545 & ED16/27487

Definitions

'Existing property' means a property created prior to 9 February 2016.

'Nimbin rural water supply network' refers to infrastructure that forms part of the Nimbin water supply, as at 9 February 2016, and that is located outside the village of Nimbin.

'Village of Nimbin' refers to the area of Nimbin zoned RU5 Village in Lismore Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Background

Historically, Council has allowed numerous properties to connect to a raw water trunk main laid within the road reserve of Gungas and Tuntable Falls Road, Nimbin. Over time, this has included allowing rural residential subdivisions to be serviced from branches from this main.

Due to operational difficulties associated with connections to this trunk main, in recent decades Council staff have applied a moratorium on any additional connections to this trunk main, or its branches. This has led to an anomaly where some properties are unable to connect to the water supply, even though neighbouring properties are already connected. Council is planning to undertake an upgrade to the Nimbin water supply to address water quality problems currently being encountered. This planned upgrade will also remove the operational constraints that have prevented further connections to the water supply network. Consequently, it is intended to enable existing rural properties that have direct access to the water supply to connect with this supply.

However, the current Nimbin water supply has a finite capacity, with a recent assessment indicating the secure yield of the water supply is able to meet projected demands with some moderate capacity for growth. While further augmentation of the water supply may be possible in the future, it is considered appropriate that the current reserve capacity of the water supply be primarily used to service growth within the zoned village, rather than any further expansion of the rural water supply network.

Policy Position

1. Existing properties that have direct frontage to an existing water main that forms part of the Nimbin rural water supply network shall be able to connect to, or remain connected to, the Nimbin water supply.
2. The above provision does not apply to properties on Gungas Road, located north of 396 Gungas Road.
3. Should a property that is connected, or is able to connect, to the Nimbin rural water supply network be subdivided; no additional connections to the water supply shall be permitted as a result of this subdivision.
4. While this policy remains in force, there shall be no further expansion to the area currently served by the Nimbin rural water supply network.
5. Council will not levy water availability charges from rural properties that are able to connect to the Nimbin water supply, but that remain unconnected.
6. Properties that connect to the water supply shall be levied connection fees, water availability charges and water consumption charges in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges and Revenue Policy.
7. Connection of additional properties to the Nimbin rural water supply network will only be allowed following completion of the project known as Upgrade to the Nimbin water supply – Stage1.

The plan below shows those properties that have an existing connection to the Nimbin rural water supply network, and those additional properties able to make a connection under this policy.

