

COUNCIL PROVISION OF RECREATION/COMMUNITY FACILITIES POLICY

Policy Number:	5.1.3
Approved by	Council
Date Approved/Effective	13 December 2019
Date of Next Review:	2020
Related Policies:	Committees
Applicable to Unit(s):	Community Wellbeing / Built Environment / Leisure Services
Responsible Officer:	Manager Leisure Services / Manager Community Wellbeing
Statutory Reference:	<i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>

OVERVIEW

Wellington Shire Council recognises that facilities enable social inclusion, leisure and recreation opportunities and that the delivery of services impacts on the quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors to the region.

For this reason, Council will provide support to recreation/cultural/community facilities where:

- Council owns or controls the land;
- Council owns or controls other assets on the land;
- In cases where it has specific legal agreements;
- Facilities are under control of Committee of Management appointed pursuant to the provisions of the *Crown Land Reserves Act 1958*;

THE POLICY

For the purposes of this policy, recreation and community facilities will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- public halls;
- galleries;
- recreation reserves;
- childcare centres
- kindergartens
- senior citizens centres
- libraries;
- museums
- neighbourhood/community houses
- playgrounds;
- stadiums;
- boating facilities;
- aquatic centres;
- other sporting and cultural facilities.

Council provision for the support to recreation and cultural facilities is based on a four-tiered (or similar) hierarchy:

- Level 1 - regional, state significance facilities;
- Level 2 - district significance facilities;
- Level 3 - local significance facilities;
- Level 4 – local facilities.

Facility usage

In determining uses for the facility, Council strongly encourages the Committee of Management and users/hirers of the facility to refer to the four (4) priority areas and 11 focus areas of the Healthy Wellington Plan 2017-2021

Priority area 1: Improve mental wellbeing with a focus on:

- 1a. Increase resilience
- 1b. Improve social connection and inclusion
- 1c. Decrease harm from alcohol and other drugs
- 1d. Decrease harm from gambling

Priority area 2: Improve gender equality with a focus on:

- 2a. Improve gender equity
- 2b. Decrease violence against women and their children
- 2c. Increase sexual and reproductive health

Priority area 3: Improve healthy living with a focus on:

- 3a. Increase physical activity & healthy eating
- 3b. Decrease smoking

Priority area 4: Address climate change with a focus on:

- 4a. Increase capacity for climate change adaptation
- 4b. Improve community resilience and municipal relief and recovery planning in the event of extreme weather and or a natural disaster

Responsible Serving of Alcohol (liquor licensing requirements)

It is the responsibility of all users/hirers of a facility that they obtain the most appropriate liquor license from the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation for the purpose for which alcohol is to be consumed and / or sold, whether that be directly, or indirectly.

The liquor license is to be provided to the Committee of Management prior to any acceptance of booking.

Governance

Council will provide training and support to committees of management, clubs, and organisations managing such facilities to assist with the maintenance, management and programming of these facilities to ensure use is maximised for the community.

Operating subsidy

Council may provide an annual financial operating subsidy to the management committee, club or organisation which must be used to go towards the costs of operating or maintaining the facility. Subsidies are provided to recreation reserves, public halls, and indoor sports centres located on

Council owned or managed land or crown land.

Direct management

In some instances, Council directly manages a recreational or cultural facility. In these cases:

- Council is either the land owner or the appointed land manager.
- Council is directly responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of community facilities to support the delivery of core services.
- Council promotes equitable use amongst groups/community through effective ongoing engagement of the key users.
- Council managed facilities can include leisure facilities, public space, galleries and libraries.
- Discounted hire fees apply for community groups

Accessibility

Council aims to ensure that everybody in the community has the same opportunities to access and use facilities. Where Council directly manages facilities, it will include improving accessibility of these facilities as a priority in planning and long term budgeting and will monitor progress through its audit program. Council will also support committee managed facilities to plan for improvements to accessibility of their facilities and will promote best practice for accessible buildings and facilities.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.

Related Documents

Type:	Details:
Procedure	Operating Subsidy Payment Procedure Committees of Management Facilities Maintenance Seasonal and Casual Hire Agreements Procedure Alcohol and Council Owned Properties Know Your Obligations
Strategy	Nil