

	LEISURE AND RECREATION
POLICY	Council will promote or create opportunities for the development of a diverse range of quality leisure and recreational programs and services, which are broadly accessible, equitably distributed and designed to meet local community needs.
Council Adoption Date:	
Related Policies:	
Responsible Officer	
Procedure Reviewed:	
POLICY PROCEDURE	<p>The effectiveness of Local Government in relation to leisure and recreational development opportunities is enhanced by partnerships and strategic alliances with other spheres of government, non-government agencies, private enterprise and community stakeholders, including recreation and sporting clubs.</p> <p>Community involvement in the development and management of leisure and recreational opportunities encourages a sense of ownership and local identity and contributes to community self-determination. Community involvement may be in the form of volunteering, collaboration, partnerships, participation and/or consultation.</p> <p>Cost-sharing arrangements for the provision of leisure and recreational opportunities are preferable to those, which are wholly funded by Council.</p> <p>Commonwealth, State and private funding assistance for leisure and recreational facilities and programs should be actively sought and used effectively.</p> <p>Multi-use of Council-owned facilities is to be actively encouraged.</p> <p>Council values the significant role of volunteers and their contribution to leisure and recreation development.</p> <p>Quality leisure and recreational experiences can enhance the quality of life and contribute to the health, well-being and sense of belonging by encouraging participation within our diverse</p>

	<p>community.</p> <p>Access to Councils services, programs or facilities and to those of any other organisations to which it provides facilities or funding, should be provided without prejudice.</p> <p>The interdependence of social, cultural, economic and environmental policy, as contained within the concept of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD), is accepted as fundamental to leisure and recreational development and underpins Council’s approach.</p> <p>Over time, Council’s role has evolved to include the provision and maintenance of land, buildings and equipment together with staffing and program support. Input from the community has varied from hands-on assistance to construct local clubrooms and maintain local sporting grounds, through the management of major facilities. Council’s Administration periodically reviews the organisation’s role in the provision of leisure and recreational opportunities to determine specific strategies and models for guiding its level of support.</p> <p>Significant resources are tied up in leisure and recreational facilities, with the associated obligations for ongoing maintenance and management. The decreasing pool of public funding, together with an increasing demand for quality opportunities, will influence Council’s position. Areas involved may include fees, for the use of public facilities and programs, sponsorship and investment partnership with the private sector. Additionally, Council may need to consider its level of support for non-Council owned community-based facilities and programs.</p> <p>Council will work in partnership with Territory and Commonwealth Governments in delivering services and facilities which embrace the principles of the Leisure and Recreation policy.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create an awareness of Council’s role in planning for and supporting the development of a range of quality leisure and recreational services, facilities and programs which contribute to the well-being of the local community. • To promote and facilitate community involvement in the planning, development and management of leisure and recreational opportunities. • <p>Council will demonstrate leadership by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, providing, developing, facilitating and collaborating in the provision and development of leisure and recreational facilities and opportunities;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and developing collaborative partnerships which enhance quality leisure and recreational opportunities and development within the Town; • Striving to attain an equitable distribution of, and access to, quality leisure and recreational facilities and opportunities; • Realising the economic development potential associated with quality leisure and recreational opportunities and development within the Town; and • Establishing priorities for the provision of quality leisure and recreational opportunities and development through research and analysis of relevant information and trends and the identification of residents and other needs. <p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT</p> <p>Council will build on and support community efforts, which enhance and increase the diversity of leisure and recreational opportunities available for residents and visitors to the Town.</p> <p>Support will be provided in accordance with resource availability, through the provision of: a wide range of volunteer support services; community grants; facilities; advice and expertise; funding; assistance with external grant applications and legislative requirements; staff time; resources; materials and publicity for approved projects.</p> <p>Council’s support may (but not necessarily) include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision or co-funding of land and/or buildings for use by clubs, special interest groups or other services and, in some instances, the associated maintenance; and • Facilitation of provision and development by others. <p>Council will utilise its capacities to realise appropriate zoning and adequate planning to accommodate relevant leisure and recreational opportunities and associated activities within the Town.</p> <p>Council will act in accordance with the requirements of relevant Acts, regulations codes or licenses, eg, Development Act, Disability Discrimination Act, Liquor Licensing Act, Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act and the Trade Practices Act.</p> <p>In consultation with the community, Council will represent the specific needs of the local area to other spheres of government, wider networks and public forums, especially for adequate levels of leisure and recreational service provision within the Town.</p> <p>Council will act as an advocate to secure major events and leisure and recreational opportunities for the Town.</p>
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	<p>It will join with other Councils to provide a strong and united voice at Territory and national levels for the common leisure and recreational concerns and aspirations of local communities.</p> <p>INFORMATION PROVISION</p> <p>Council will research, prepare and/or distribute quality information on leisure and recreational issues and opportunities. It will encourage community involvement and work collaboratively with other agencies providing similar information.</p> <p>Council will work collaboratively with other Territory and Federal government agencies and programs, in particular the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs to promote an understanding within the community of the value and significance of Leisure and Recreation.</p> <p>Council will be cognisant of the various demographic, social, cultural and economic attributes of the local community when preparing and/or distributing information.</p> <p>Council will have regard to relevant legislation and any other legal requirements in determining the terms and conditions under which it will make available any information contained in its data bases and other records,</p> <p>SERVICE PROVISION</p> <p>Council will recognise the diversity of local communities and their needs within the Town and will reflect this in a flexible approach to leisure and recreational program planning and service development in accordance with available resources.</p> <p>Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage active community participation in the planning and development of local leisure and recreational programs and services. It will strive to ensure that they are accessible, coordinated and regularly monitored and evaluated to meet changing local needs and program objectives, and that the accountability requirements of funding bodies are met; • Plan and develop leisure and recreational services and programs that are complementary to those provided by other spheres of government and non-government agencies; and • In consultation and collaboration or partnership with others, seek to provide leisure and recreational services which encourage community development, when it can be demonstrated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no other agencies better placed to provide the service in an accessible and affordable manner;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council would be competitive with comparable providers; and - The provision of such services by Council enhances other Council objectives such as economic development. <p>Council will determine whether it will provide such services directly, in partnership, as a broker or by engaging contractors.</p> <p>Council will provide, co-provide or facilitate service provision pertaining to leisure and recreational facilities in relation to public benefit and merit.</p> <p>Council's approach to service provision will be influenced by the identified community needs and the extent of available resources.</p> <p>Council may choose to explore options for generating a return on its investment in leisure and recreational provision.</p> <p>Council's role in relation to leisure and recreational service provision may change over time, through periodic reviews.</p> <p>The concept of sustainable development has a number of components, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reconciliation of economic, environmental and social systems so that development of one does not degrade the other; • A concern for future generations; and • An understanding of the relationship between local and global impacts.
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