
COMMUNITY GARDENS

Policy Number: POL16/137 • **Adopted:** 24/08/2005 • **Amended:** 10/02/2009, 26/03/2013, 18/04/2017 • **Minute Number:** MIN05.1164, MIN09.162, MIN13.259, MIN17.301 • **File:** 32328E • **Produced By:** Finance Corporate & Community Services Group • **Review Date:** 1/12/2020

1. PURPOSE

To define Council's role in the provision of Community Gardens.

2. STATEMENT

Community Gardens embrace the philosophy of permaculture in a community supported setting. Ideally a garden should aim to imitate nature in its diversity and provide a wide range of non-commercial plant produce in a context that also assists in the rehabilitation of soils, habitat and water quality. Depending on the community management of these gardens, a site may consist of individual or shared garden plots, including fruit and vegetable growing options.

3. PROVISIONS

3.1. Eligibility

For a community group to be eligible to establish a proposed Community Garden, it must first meet the following criteria:

- a) Demonstration of support by the local community/Community Consultative Body.
- b) No other Community Garden located within the local community (i.e. with the Town/Village).
- c) Incorporated community group with APRA approved Public Liability Cover of \$20 million that indemnifies Council and where necessary the Crown.
- d) The proposed Community Garden meets the site selection criteria.
- e) Proposed Group must will meet Council standard and head Volunteer of group will work under the Volunteer Parkcare Policy to care for and maintain property.
- f) Minimum number of members for Group will be decided upon by Council staff.

3.2. Site Selection Criteria

A site proposed for the Community Garden development must meet the following selection criteria:

- a) Council owned/managed reserve.

- b) Consistent with the relevant Plan of Management for the reserve.
- c) The Community Garden must not occupy more than one third (1/3) of the reserve area.
- d) Close proximity to supporting infrastructure such as public amenities, water and car parking.
- e) Visual prominence affording casual supervision.
- f) Council has the right to remove and/or demolish abandoned garden after one year.

3.3. Management Framework

Following development consent, a Community Garden will be licensed (at a minimal fee) to an incorporated community group with APRA approved Public Liability Cover of \$20 million that indemnifies Council and where necessary the Crown. This community group will be required to manage safe access in/around the site and if necessary allocation of garden plots. Management of the site will also be required to follow Council's Environmental Sustainable Development guidelines.

The incorporated community group will be responsible for funding and servicing all supporting infrastructure on the site. No funding for fencing or provision of irrigation systems, water (including connection and usage), structures (i.e. garden sheds, etc.), plants, mulch, etc will be provided by Council. Prior to the erection/installation of any infrastructure, written approval or Development Consent will be required from Council.

3.4. Provision of suitable land

Council's contribution to development of a Community Garden will be through the provision of its managed land. Provision of this land will be subject to Development Consent and meeting the terms of a licence.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

- a) Upon Council receiving a request wide community consultation will be undertaken in the local area before approval is granted for a Community Garden.
- b) The Finance Corporate & Community Services Group will administer this policy.

5. REVIEW

To be reviewed within one year of the election of a new Council.

6. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

Natural Capital – Where possible avoid the use of acid sulphate soils and encourage water saving management.