

POLICY



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Policy Title: COMMUNITY GARDENS POLICY
Stream: COMMUNITY & CUSTOMER SERVICES
Branch: COMMUNITY SERVICES
Policy Objective:

The purpose of the Community Gardens Policy is to provide Council with a consistent and streamlined approach in responding to community garden requests on Council owned or controlled land.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this policy a community garden is defined as a piece of land operated collectively by a group of people for the purposes of community food production.

There are a number of different structures of community gardens. The most common types are:

- community gardens with individual allotments allocated to individual members;
- communal gardens where the entire garden is run collectively as a shared enterprise; and/or
- community gardens that integrate both allotment and shared gardens.

Key Principles

Community is responsible for the management of community gardens. The key principles guiding this policy are that community gardens:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of the community;
- Foster a sense of community;
- Are successful through improved sustainability;
- Provide increased opportunity for social connectedness and intergenerational exchange; and
- Provide skills development and learning opportunities.

Logan City Council's Role:

Council has adopted a community development approach to facilitating community gardens. This approach enables garden groups to self govern and deliver successful and sustainable gardens.

Council's role as a key stakeholder is to facilitate and promote community gardens that are sustainably managed by the community. Council will not take a lead in establishing gardens or providing funding for the establishment of gardens.

Logan City Council in its role and responsibilities will:

- Facilitate community gardens through provision of advice for interested groups;
- Assist in identifying and supporting community garden groups in their application for grants, funding and other resources;
- Connect local garden groups together to encourage relationship building, encourage knowledge and skill sharing, and strengthen community cohesion;
- Promote community gardens through Council's website, newsletters and events; and
- Provide a streamlined and consistent approach to the assessment of community garden requests on Council owned and leased, Crown land in trust, parks and open spaces.

Community Garden Requests on privately owned and controlled land

To assist the community with their inquiries for community gardens on privately owned or controlled land, Council will refer the garden group to utilise the information and guidelines made available in the *A guide to community gardening in Logan* document.

Community Garden Requests on Council owned or controlled land

Council intermittently receives requests from individuals, groups and organisations to develop community gardens on Council owned or controlled land.

Council's Community Garden Assessment procedure is outlined in detail in related document titled Community Garden Assessment Procedure.

Key considerations, as part of the assessment procedure include the following:

- a) Ensuring all requests are from an incorporated association, or auspicing incorporated organisation with \$20,000,000 Public Liability Insurance.
- b) Council receiving a request prepared and submitted using *Community Garden Application on Council Owned or Controlled Land Form*.
- c) Convening of an Internal Assessment Team to undertake a Community Garden Assessment of the request.
- d) Completion of a Community Garden Assessment, with the request being considered to have met the criteria, a public notification process will occur.

- e) Finalisation of a public notification process, Council will then make a final determination.
- f) For a supported/approved request, any relevant and required lease documentation and/or conditions will then be formulated and executed.

Related Policies/Legislation/Other Documents:

DOC ID	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOCUMENT NAME
#5985665	INTERNAL	Remissions to Community Organisations and Community Service Obligations
#6061206	INTERNAL	Licence or Lease of Parkland to Sporting Clubs and Other Organisations
#7418113	INTERNAL	Community Garden Assessment Procedure
#7418117	INTERNAL	Community Garden Application on Council owned or controlled land form
#7418110	INTERNAL	A guide to community gardening in Logan