

POLICY



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Policy title: **COMMUNITY GARDENS POLICY**

Directorate: COMMUNITY 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.

Policy scope:

This policy:

1. Applies to all phases of a community garden development, from pre-lodgement requests, ongoing support through the application stages to decommissioning on Council owned and/or controlled lands.
2. Outlines how Council, as a matter of general practice, undertake an assessment of community garden requests.
3. Advises that a community garden will not occur without Council endorsement.

Definitions:

TERM	DEFINITION
Community garden	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 growing a range of produce that may include fruit and vegetables, herbs, plants or flowers, and may facilitate community activities or workshops to build community. There are a number of different structures of community gardens. The most common types are: (a) community gardens with individual allotments allocated to individual members (b) communal gardens where the entire garden is run collectively as a shared enterprise; and/or (c) community gardens that integrate both allotment and shared gardens.

Policy statement:

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

- (a) develop, connect and build the community through collective action and strengthen community cohesion
- (b) improve the health, wellbeing and ecological footprint of the Logan community

- (c) allow community garden groups to develop methods and strategies to be financially sustainable
- (d) provide increased opportunity for social connectedness and intergenerational exchange
- (e) provide skills development and learning opportunities.

1. Logan City Council's role:

Council has adopted a community development approach when supporting community garden groups. This approach uses community development principles to empower and work alongside community garden groups to ensure sustainability.

Council's role as a key stakeholder is to provide support, recommendations and advice to groups seeking to establish a community garden. Council will not take a lead in establishing or managing community gardens.

Logan City Council in its role and responsibilities will:

- (a) facilitate community gardens through provision of advice for interested groups
- (b) assist in identifying and supporting community garden groups in their application for grants, funding and other resources
- (c) connect local garden groups together to encourage relationship building, encourage knowledge and skill sharing, and strengthen community cohesion
- (d) promote community gardens through Council's website, newsletters and events
- (e) 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.
- (f) review Council's Community Garden Toolkit on an annual basis
- (g) the Council is not responsible for ongoing fees or management of returning a community garden site to its original pre-leased condition if a lease has been terminated.

2. Community garden requests on privately owned and controlled land

To assist the community with their enquiries for community gardens on privately owned or controlled land, Council will refer to the 'Community Garden Toolkit'.

3. 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 Toolkit'.

4. Eligibility requirements

Eligibility requirements include:

- (a) Applicants demonstrate proof of being an incorporated association, or auspiced by an incorporated organisation
 - (b) Applicants have \$20,000,000 public liability insurance.
5. Application and submission process

- (a) Application has a pre-lodgement meeting with a Council staff member
- (b) Council ensures all requests will be from an incorporated association, or auspicing incorporated organisation with \$20,000,000 public liability insurance
- (c) Community garden requests are submitted using the Garden Application Form and Garden Management Plan

- (d) Council will first convene a Garden Assessment Panel that undertakes a community garden assessment of the request:
 - (i) If the application is progressed, with the request being considered to have met the criteria, a public notification process will occur
 - (ii) If the application is not progressed, with the request being considered not to have met the criteria, written feedback will be provided and applicants may discuss alternative options with Council.
- (e) Finalisation of a public notification process occurs, Council will consider feedback and work with the community to ensure any concerns are addressed
- (f) Following the assessment panel and public notification, the application progresses to Councils Lease Advisory Group for final determination:
 - (i) If the application is approved, Council staff will meet with the applicants and complete any relevant lease agreements
 - (ii) If the applicant is not approved, written feedback will be provided and applicants are encouraged to discuss alternative options with Council staff.
- (g) Once the application has been approved and the lease agreement has been executed, applicants can begin developing their community garden.

Related policies/legislation/other documents:

DOC ID	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOCUMENT NAME
5985665	Policy	Community Service Obligations
8460911	Policy	Licence or Lease of Council Owned or Controlled Land to Sporting, Recreational and Community Organisations
11960243	Internal	Community Garden Toolkit
11719684	Internal	Community Garden Application on Council owned or controlled land form
8474200	Policy	Remission to Sporting, Recreational and Community Organisations