

1. BACKGROUND

Community Services is fundamental to the Coonamble Shire Council Local Government Area and focuses on the community and people and that Council offers, supports, and delivers on these services. In 2011, Council formed the Community Services division, and this policy provided a number of policy principles. In addition, a change in September 2016 to *the Local Government Act (1993)*, Chapter 3, Section 8A which provides several guiding principles for councils to exercise subsequently changed the structure of the policy to reflect these changes.

2. PURPOSE

The Community Services policy details the Council's commitment to community service planning, facilitation and service provision to the quality of life and well-being of the Coonamble Shire residents and its continuous improvement.

3. POLICY OBJECTIVE

- 3.1 Council recognises that an effective provision of community services should aim at meeting the needs of residents based on the social justice principles of participation, access, rights and equity.
- 3.2 Council recognises the role of Local Government in maintaining and improving the quality of life of the community through the coordination and planning of community services; as well as acting as an advocate, catalyst and in providing development support for community-based services.
- 3.3 Council recognises that the demand for community services will increase at a rate exceeding the capacity of local government and community resources to supply those services, thus economic constraints must be recognised.

4. LEGISLATION

This Policy relates to the legislative provisions of the *Local Government Act (1993)*, Chapter 3, Section 8A.

5. SCOPE

This Policy relates to the community services and programs that the Council offers, supports, and delivers. The Community Services Policy will be implemented through the Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2032* and Council's *Delivery Program 2017-2020*.

6. POLICY

6.1 Community & Social Planning

Through community and social planning, Council will strive to understand and respond to the social needs of the community. Social planning processes will be used to document aspirations and needs and to establish priorities for community service provision.

6.2 Community Services Establishment and Maintenance

Council will employ community services staff to work with communities in the establishment and maintenance of services and programs. Community services involves working with communities to build their capacity to become self-reliant, connected and resilient through programs and services.

6.3 Community Services & Support

Council will encourage community-based management and, where possible and appropriate, offer support to community groups and services managed by community members in order to encourage groups in delivering high quality, viable services.

6.4 Advocacy

Council will raise the awareness of community services needs in the Coonamble Shire and be consultative and proactively engage with State and Federal Departments through the participation of interagency meetings.

7. REVIEW

Review of this policy will incorporate relevant legislation, documentation released from relevant state agencies and best practice guidelines.

The standard review will be every three (3) years from the effective date. The Executive Leader of Environment, Strategic Planning and Community will be responsible for the review of this policy.

DEFINITIONS

Nil.

Title: Community Services Policy		
Department: Environment, Strategic Planning and Community		
Version	Date	Author/Comments
0.1	October 2011	Approved by General Manager
1	8 February 2012	Adopted by Council: Minute No. 9690
2	25 May 2017	Approved by General Manager Review – amendment to 3. <i>Legislative Provisions</i> to reflect amendment to Chapter 3 of Act- September 2016.
2.1	20 November 2020	Review by Executive Leader Environment, Strategic Planning and Community.
3	9 December 2020	Updated policy adopted by Council: Minute No. 2020/253
<p>This policy may be amended or revoked at any time and must be reviewed at least three (3) years since its adoption (or latest amendment). The Executive Leader of Environment, Strategic Planning and Community will be responsible for the review of this Policy. Review of this policy will incorporate relevant legislation, documentation released from relevant state agencies and best practice guidelines. Review Date: 20 November 2023</p>		
Amendments in the release: Amendments include new Council template and to strengthen the community services function.		
Section Title	Section Number	Amendment History
Background	1	Introduction of a Background section to explain the circumstances which led to the creation and adoption of the policy.
Scope	5	Introduction of a Scope section to provide context of its application and links to the Council's <i>Community Strategic Plan 2032</i> .
Policy	6	Policy edits to strengthen the community services function on Council offering, supporting, and delivering on these services.
Annexure Attached: Nil.		
Hein Basson General Manager		