



## Policy

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### COMMUNITY GARDEN

Strategic Outcome:	Sustainable natural and built landscapes	
Policy type	Strategic	
Date of Adoption:	17 April 2024	Minute Number:
Date for Review:	19 April 2028	
Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate Services	
Document Control:	Replaces the Community Garden policy adopted 16 November	
Delivery Program Link:	<i>3.1.2 Facilitate all age healthy lifestyles and ageing in place.</i>	

#### 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Community gardens provide a space where people can get together and grow fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. They help make our communities more sustainable and provide an opportunity to share gardening knowledge and experience.

Berrigan Shire Council wishes to support existing community gardens and encourage the development of new gardens.

#### 2. PURPOSE

This policy sets out how Council will support the establishment of community gardens initiated by community groups and encourage, where appropriate, the development of community gardens on appropriate private and Council controlled land.

#### 3. SCOPE

This policy is designed to facilitate the establishment of community initiated and managed community gardens on Council owned and managed land.

Excluded from this policy are nature strip gardens where the garden beds are established on a nature strip and managed collectively or individually by residents or community groups.

#### 4. OBJECTIVE

This policy is developed to assist the Council with the Delivery Program Objective:

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*3.1.2 Facilitate all age healthy lifestyles and ageing in place.*

### **5. DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this policy, community gardens are defined as places where residents and community garden volunteers meet and undertake a range of activities associated with the day-to-day development and management of the garden.

### **6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **6.1 Background**

Community gardens provide a range of physical, social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits. Benefits which include:

- educational opportunities,
- the promotion of community connections, and
- the sharing of knowledge, skills and local resources.

Community gardens can be divided into either shared or individual plots, however most gardens consist of a combination of both catering for a range of community needs.

For the purpose of this policy the type of community garden: kitchen garden; demonstration garden; sensory garden; memorial garden for example, will be determined by the community group developing and managing on a day-to-day basis the community garden.

#### **6.2 Council role and responsibilities**

Council understands that community gardens provide a broad range of benefits to individuals, as well as the wider community.

In support, Council will.

- Assist the development of community gardens through the provision of advice for interested community groups or individuals, which will include advice about insurance and risk management.
- Promote existing community gardens through Council's website, newsletters and events.
- Construct and install signage for community gardens on Council owned and managed land.
- Investigate, on request from Community groups, new opportunities to designate land for use as a community garden.



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- Provide a consistent approach to the assessment of community garden applications on Council controlled or managed land by developing a set of procedures that will include the following Site Selection Criteria for Community Gardens.

### 6.3 Site selection

#### 6.3.1 Location

Appropriate sites include community land owned by Council or Crown Land with an appropriate Plan of Management in place.

These are sites that are usually established for community use such as park lands, open spaces and community facilities that have outside areas. Priority will be given to sites located in higher density areas and near existing community facilities or community organisations that might be able to support or partner the project.

#### 6.3.2 Safety

Sites should have no major safety or health concerns; and have good passive surveillance (for example, can be easily seen from nearby houses or community facilities). Sites must also undergo a risk assessment with hazards identified, including the secure nature of the site. Where possible hazards should be eliminated, or where not possible, additional control measures adopted.

#### 6.3.3 Accessibility

Sites should be accessible for a range of user groups. Sites should allow disabled access, have vehicle access (e.g., for delivery of mulch and soil) and accommodate groups wanting to visit the garden.

#### 6.3.4 Solar access and water

Sites need to be suitable for growing vegetables and receive full sunlight - ideally for at least 5 -6 hours per day.

Sites with easy access to water or buildings nearby from which rainwater can be collected

#### 6.3.5 Size

Sites which are large enough to accommodate garden beds, composting systems, rainwater tanks, seating areas, shelter for gardeners and for community workshops and demonstrations.

#### 6.3.6 Soil contamination

Sites may need to be checked for soil contamination. If high levels are present, then advice will need to be sought from experts on whether it is suitable for growing food.



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### 6.3.7 Multiple use

Sites where a community garden can be integrated without conflicting adversely with other land uses and where the community garden can still be used by non-gardeners for passive recreation and educational workshops.

## 7. RELATED LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

### 7.1 Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Crown Lands Management Act 2016*

### 7.2 Council policies and guidelines

- Governance Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Social Justice Framework

## 8. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

All Records must be kept in accordance with Council's Records Management Policy (currently under development) and destroyed as per the General Retention and Disposal Authority: Local Government Records (GA39).

## 9. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This policy (procedure) will be evaluated and reviewed at least once every four (4) years as per Council's Governance Policy (currently under development) or as required.

## 10. DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A number of legislative instruments require Councils to have the policy available for inspection at Council's principal office (i.e. Policies made under Part 3, of the Local Government Act 1993). Each document should therefore state the ways in which the policy is available including any relevant fees and charges for access to such policy. An example of the required statement is provided below:

This policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours as per the requirements of section 18 (c) of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* and section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Access to the policy in digital format is free and is available on Council's website <https://www.berriganshire.nsw.gov.au/>



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Printed copies of the document are available at Council's principal office (address noted below) and are subject to Council's Fees and Charges.

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### 11. VERSION CONTROL

Version Number	Date	Summary	Responsible Officer
1.0	16 November 2016	New Policy document	Social and Strategic Planning Coordinator
1.1	17 April 2024	Minor review	Director Corporate Services

### APPENDICES