

COUNCIL PROVISION OF RECREATION/COMMUNITY FACILITIES POLICY

Policy Number:	5.1.3
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	December 2022
Date of Next Review:	December 2023
Applicable to Unit(s):	Communities, Facilities and Emergencies Built Environment Leisure Services
Responsible Officer:	Manager Leisure Services Manager Communities, Facilities and Emergencies
Related Policies:	Committees Policy
Related Documents:	Risk and Maintenance Subsidy Payment Procedure Committees of Management Facilities Maintenance Procedure Seasonal and Casual Hire Agreements Procedure Alcohol and Council Owned Properties Know Your Obligations Land Use Agreements Procedure Community Managed Facilities Strategy 2020-25
Statutory Reference:	<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>

OVERVIEW

Wellington Shire Council recognises that facilities enable social inclusion, leisure and recreation opportunities and that the delivery of these services impacts on the quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors to the region.

For this reason, Council may support recreation/cultural/community facilities where:

- Council owns or controls the land;
- Council owns or controls other assets on the land;
- In cases where it has specific legal agreements;
- Facilities are under control of Committee of Management appointed pursuant to the provisions of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*; or
- It can be demonstrated that there is significant community use and value from a site that is owned by the community or privately.

THE POLICY

For the purposes of this policy, recreation and community facilities will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- public halls;
- galleries;
- recreation reserves;
- childcare centres
- kindergartens

- senior citizens centres
- libraries;
- museums
- neighbourhood/community houses
- playgrounds;
- stadiums;
- boating facilities;
- aquatic centres;
- other sporting and cultural facilities.

These facilities may be operated in the following ways:

- Council staffed (Council staff are fully responsible for management, operations and maintenance of the site and are located on site).
- Direct managed (Council staff are responsible for grounds and facility maintenance and taking booking but are not located on site).
- Committee managed (a volunteer committee of management operates the site and is responsible for management and maintenance). This committee may be appointed via the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* or they may be an independent association.

In all instances, facilities are expected to be offered to the community in a fair, accessible and safe manner.

Council provision for the support to recreation and cultural facilities is based on a four-tiered (or similar) hierarchy:

- Level 1 - regional, state significance facilities;
- Level 2 - district significance facilities;
- Level 3 - local significance facilities;
- Level 4 – local facilities;
- Level 5 – local passive facilities.

This policy is guided by the Wellington Shire Council Community Managed Facilities Strategy 2020-2025.

Facility usage

In determining uses for the facility, Council strongly encourages the Committee of Management and users/hirers of a facility to refer to the Healthy Wellington Plan 2021-2025, Link: [Strategies and Plans \(wellington.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/strategies-and-plans)

Responsible Serving of Alcohol (liquor licensing requirements)

It is the responsibility of all users/hirers of a facility that they obtain the most appropriate liquor license from the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation for the purpose for which alcohol is to be consumed and / or sold, whether that be directly, or indirectly.

The liquor license is to be provided by the hirer to the Committee of Management or relevant Council officer prior to any acceptance of booking.

Governance

Council will provide training and support to committees of management, clubs, and organisations managing such facilities to assist with the maintenance, management and programming of these facilities to ensure use is maximised for the community.

Risk & Maintenance subsidy

Council may provide an annual financial risk and maintenance subsidy to the management committee, club or organisation which must be used to go towards the costs of maintaining the facility and ensuring that risks are appropriately managed. Subsidies may be provided to recreation reserves, public halls, and indoor sports centres located on Council owned or managed land or crown land.

Direct management

In some instances, Council directly manages a recreational or cultural facility. In these cases:

- Council is either the land owner or the appointed land manager.
- Council is directly responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of community facilities to support the delivery of core services.
- Council promotes equitable use amongst groups/community through effective ongoing engagement of the key users.
- Council managed facilities can include leisure facilities, public space, galleries and libraries.
- Discounted hire fees apply for community groups

Accessibility

Council aims to ensure that everybody in the community has the same opportunities to access and use facilities. Where Council directly manages facilities, it will include improving accessibility of these facilities as a priority in planning and long term budgeting and will monitor progress through its audit program. Council will also support committee managed facilities to plan for improvements to accessibility of their facilities and will promote best practice for accessible buildings and facilities.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	MAJOR / MINOR UPDATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	Not applicable	No changes applicable at this review