

Community Garden Policy

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Contents

Policy Statement	3
1. Principles	3
2. Considerations	3
3. Policy procedure	4

Policy Statement

To provide a systematic process for community members to apply for Council assistance in starting community gardens on Council owned land and for Council's deliberation and decision making regarding such proposals.

In responding to requests for support of community garden proposals, Council adheres to the following principles, considerations and procedures.

1. Principles

1. Community gardens increase opportunities for Council and local community members to work collaboratively to improve individual health, recreational and neighbourhood amenities through the establishment of community garden spaces in appropriate locations of the City;
2. The importance of establishing a clear consistent process for community members interested in developing community garden spaces particularly on Council owned and managed public land;
3. Integrating community garden outcomes with other key outcomes and directions as adopted in Council's 20-year City Plan;
4. Maximising learning opportunities and appropriate assistance for community capacity and confidence, cooperative planning, problem solving and decision making particularly those contributing to the responsible management of public open space;
5. Providing positive interaction opportunities between Council and community gardeners.

2. Considerations

1. Availability of land suitable for community gardening e.g. open space areas, easements, nature strip verges etc.
2. Community or Council demand for particular land for purposes other than community gardening;
3. Suitability of land for community gardening with regard to previous land uses, possible contamination, topography, drainage, microclimate and the existence of services such as stormwater pipes and infrastructure, underground and above ground cables, structures and easements;
4. Attitudes of neighbours to a proposed community garden;
5. Capacity of the relevant community garden group to self-organise, start and manage a community garden over the long term with minimal Council support and assistance;
6. Continuing public and safe access across public land areas occupied under licence as community garden areas;
7. The need for Council planning, OH&S and safety procedures and legal instruments to be applied in the development and maintenance of community garden areas on public land managed by Council.

3. Policy procedure

1. Formation of a community garden group (i.e. a number of households or residents);
2. Submitting a Community Garden Application form to advise Council in the first instance of a community group's interest;
3. On-site meeting with relevant Council staff to discuss the community garden proposal;
4. Continuing liaison between a Council appointed officer and community garden representative(s);
5. Adherence to Council's Community Garden Guidelines and supporting resources developed especially for community groups proposing community garden spaces in Randwick;
6. Development Application preparation and obtaining necessary approval from Council or an explanation as to why an approval cannot be provided;
7. Subject to receiving Council approval, preparation of a community garden Plan of Management by community garden members, incorporating design and setting out governance, administration, OH&S and safety responsibilities and procedures for the group;
8. Legal incorporation of the Community Garden group and taking out of Public Liability insurance;
9. Licence Agreement between Council and the incorporated Community Garden group for the conduct of a community garden on public land or land managed by Council;
10. Ongoing management, implementation and maintenance of the community garden as agreed between Council and community garden group.

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