



**CORANGAMITE
SHIRE**

Community Planning Infrastructure Projects Policy

Corangamite Shire

November 2019

Council Policy



Community Planning Infrastructure Projects

Introduction

Council acknowledges the contribution of community based organisations and the work they invest in the development of local communities. Council also recognises that many communities are continually striving to improve the substance and appearance of their townships and associated infrastructure in addition to works planned and delivered by Council. This policy has been developed to provide a framework for Council to assist and support community organisations with the development and ongoing management and maintenance of new infrastructure or renewal of existing assets.

Purpose

This policy aims to formalise Council's involvement in community projects identified in Corangamite Shire Township Community Plans where those projects involve the construction of new assets or renewal of assets.

It also aims to establish a shared understanding and common agreement regarding project standards and future maintenance responsibilities and will guide the planning, design, development and ongoing management of the asset.

Scope

This policy applies to the construction and management of infrastructure identified in Corangamite Shire Township Community Plans, whether that infrastructure is located on Council owned land, Council controlled land, Crown Land, Road Reserve managed by others, private or other land tenure.

Definitions

Infrastructure - new assets or renewal of community assets including but not limited to buildings/structures, barbeques, rotundas, gardens, tree plantings, park furniture, property landscaping, public art works, footpaths, and other civil infrastructure.

References

Community Initiated Projects Policy (INFRA 37-03)
Recreation Facility Development Policy (INFRA 06-02)
Asset Management Policy (INFRA35-01)
Trails Management Policy (INFRA 07B-03)
Public Halls Management Policy (INFRA 09-04)
Disposal of Assets Policy (INFRA 42-00)

Policy Detail

The community planning process has identified a number of projects within Corangamite Shire townships which are considered to be a priority for that community. The following information details Councils involvement with and expectations of the community groups with regards to realising these projects.

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1. Council Interest

In most instances Council will have a vested interest as the project will be developed on Council owned or controlled land, or will be allocated funding as a part of Council's budget process. In other instances, Council may merely be a resource for the community group with regard to the project development, implementation or outcomes.

Depending on the significance of the project, Council may request periodic updates on the project, a representative to be on the Project Control Group or it may offer to manage the project itself in conjunction with the community group.

In the instance Council is the auspice agency for any funding agreement with the State Government or other entity, it must bank all revenue and account for expenditure associated with the project in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy. Where Council makes a contribution to the project as a part of its annual budget, this must also be administered in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

Council expects that any infrastructure will be of a high quality and that asset design will be considered in accordance with relevant legislation and industry standards.

2. Planning

Where the project involves infrastructure development or renewal, whether on Council owned land or not, Council will provide high level technical advice and, where relevant and resources permit, administrative support e.g. grant writing, detailed design

Where the project is to be located on Council owned or controlled land it is expected that detailed design and appropriate approvals are sought before the project commences. The detailed design plans should be developed in accordance with the prescribed standards or relevant regulations for that infrastructure and approved by Council.

If the community group wishes to deviate from the design standards recommended by Council, it should provide detail of the proposed project design and seek Council approval to proceed. This approval will need to be considered against a risk assessment and ultimately endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer.

The standard of agreed design will need to be discussed in conjunction with maintenance costs associated with the life of the asset. Refer 5 Management & Maintenance.

Council officers and community groups should engage in conversations related to these projects early in the planning phase so as to manage the likely requirements of the project delivery and expectations for the ongoing management and maintenance for the life of the asset.

3. Construction

The community group will need to ensure it has relevant insurances – works insurance, public liability insurance, and employees - where applicable and provide a copy to Council to be retained on file. It is the responsibility of the community group / project control group to ensure any works undertaken by contractors or the community group, relating to the project, complies with all Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation.

It will be the responsibility of the community group / project control group to ensure the project is delivered in accordance with the agreed design.

It is expected that appropriately qualified contractors will be appointed to undertake relevant items of work e.g. electrician, plumber, builder.

In the instance of projects requiring a building permit, the works will be inspected by Council's building department to ensure the construction is in accordance with relevant regulations and before a Certificate of Practical Completion or Occupancy will be granted.

It is also recommended that Council's project contact or project manager meet with community representatives and /or the contractor to inspect the final works in accordance with relevant regulations or approved design standards.

4. Project Management

Depending on the size and components of the project, it may be either that a Project Control Group is required to oversee the project construction or Council will manage the project directly.

In the first instance the community group will be responsible for establishing and administering the Project Control Group. The Project Control Group will be responsible for overseeing the management of the project through to its completion and will monitor the scope of works, budget, timelines, variations and any other matters that arise.

Where Council directly manages the project it will do so with regular feedback to the community group.

Where the community group directly manages the project it will do so with regular feedback to Council.

5. Management & Maintenance

The ongoing management and maintenance of any new infrastructure will be subject to planning and discussion prior to the commencement of the project. Council expects that any infrastructure will be of a high quality and able to be realistically maintained within the respective party's resource capacity. Council will include all assets located on Council owned or controlled land on its asset register for the purposes of insurance provision.

In general, in the instance that:

- A. A project located on Council owned or Council controlled land is delivered in accordance with Council's prescribed standards of design the infrastructure will be maintained as a part of Council's recurrent operating budget.
- B. The project is delivered outside Council's recommended standards; the community group will be responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of the infrastructure or part thereof as agreed to by Council. This will include but be not limited to:
 - utility costs
 - routine maintenance
 - audit requirements
 - insurances
 - renewal or upgrade

Council notes there are some assets already on Council's asset register or are acknowledged as Council's responsibility.

In the event the community group disbands or determine they no longer wish to be involved in the operations of the infrastructure they will be responsible for arranging for an alternative organisation to assume ongoing operational responsibilities for the relevant asset.

In the event an asset is abandoned by the community group it is expected:

- Council will be notified immediately should a replacement organisation be unable to be sourced to undertake ongoing operations
- Council will discuss and consider the future of that asset including:
 - the benefit to the community
 - the views of the township progress / action association
 - the capacity of Council to fund ongoing maintenance and operations
 - the cost to decommission or remove the infrastructure.
 - the cost of reimbursement for removal of the item.

6. Agreement to terms

A formal agreement will be developed between Council and an incorporated community association for the implementation and ongoing management of a project asset on Council owned or controlled land. The formal agreement should be agreed to and signed off by relevant parties prior to works commencing. Council will consider arrangements with unincorporated associations on a case by case basis.

7. Financial acquittals

At the conclusion of the project the community group must provide an acquittal to account for all funds expended as part of the project. The acquittal must include a copy of all paid invoices, receipts or bank statements evidencing payment, in-kind labour and total project cost.

Any funds remaining at the completion of a project must be declared to Corangamite Shire and/or any other funding bodies.

In the event that external funding e.g. State Government or philanthropic funding, has been secured as part of the project, this will need to be acquitted as per the relevant funding guidelines. The responsibility of funding acquittals will be:

- Completed by Council if Council has been responsible for securing the funding.
- Completed by the community group if the community group has been responsible for securing the funding. A copy of the funding acquittal should be submitted to Council for record keeping purposes.

The use of any leftover funds must not be used for unrelated, unauthorised or unspecified purposes without prior approval in writing by Corangamite Shire.

Reference to linked Procedure or Guidelines, if applicable

1553299 Template Community Projects Checklist

Review Date

November 2022

It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)*.

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