

### 9.3 Facility Hire Subsidy Program Policy

SF/3497

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#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents for consideration the reviewed and updated *Facility Hire Subsidy Program Policy*.

#### BACKGROUND

The purpose of the *Facility Hire Subsidy Program Policy* (refer **Appendix 1**) is to provide guidance in the application of the schedule of Fees and Charges for the use of Council owned and operated facilities.

The policy ensures the schedule of Fees and Charges are applied in a way that recognises the contribution of Friends and user-groups to the operation of the Council's facilities and the delivery of community services.

It also ensures the schedule of Fees and Charges are applied in a transparent and formalised way.

#### DISCUSSION

The policy is being reviewed in accordance with Council's Administration Policy *Management Guidelines Policy*.

References to the *Local Government Act 1989* have been removed from the Policy and updated with *Local Government Act 2020*.

The policy was endorsed by the Council's Leadership Team at its May 2022 meeting.

Section 77 of the *Local Government Act 2020* allows the Council by resolution to determine a fee, charge, fare or rent in relation to any property, undertaking, good, service or other act, matter or thing.

This policy is designed to meet community expectations that Council resources are distributed fairly, procedures are reasonable and decisions are consistent. The policy and associated procedures also ensure the program is as clear and transparent as possible.

**COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS**

**Community**

- A connected, involved and inclusive community.

**Livability**

- Vibrant public spaces and places.

**Leadership**

- Good governance.
- High performance culture.
- Engaged and informed community.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

In accordance with the Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that, due to operational nature of the Policy, that community engagement be undertaken at the ‘consult’ level under the International Association for Public Participation’s IAP2 public participation spectrum as detailed in the table below:

<b>Level of Public Participation</b>	<b>Promise to the community</b>	<b>Techniques to be used</b>
Consult	We will provide information and consider feedback prior to making a decision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feedback invited via Council’s website</li> <li>▪ Policy presented in a public report to the Council.</li> <li>▪ Feedback invited via social media</li> <li>▪ Policy to be published on Councils website.</li> </ul>

Community engagement on the Council Policy *Facility Hire Subsidy Program Policy* will open Thursday 26 May 2020 and close 5pm Thursday 23 June 2022.

Community feedback will be invited via the Council’s website and social media channels.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no material financial implications with the development of the policy. The implementation of the policy will be accommodated within the existing budget allocation.

**LEGISLATIVE OR STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

It is considered that the report is consistent with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

**OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

**CONCLUSION**

Feedback relating to the Policy will be presented in a report to the Council Meeting on Wednesday 29 June 2022.

**Recommendation:**

- 1. That the Benalla Rural City Council *Facility Hire Subsidy Program Policy* be endorsed for public exhibition.**
- 2. That the Benalla Rural City Council *Facility Hire Subsidy Program Policy* be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting on Wednesday 29 June 2022.**