

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT GENERAL POLICY

Intent

This policy outlines Council's commitment to the development and maintenance of an enterprise risk management framework.

Scope

This policy applies to all elected representatives and staff who are involved in the identification and management of risks associated with Council achieving its goals, objectives and operational activities.

Reference

Legislation

Local Government Regulation 2012

Other

Australian AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management – Guidelines

Provisions

Douglas Shire Council recognises that as a public authority it is exposed to a broad range of risks which, if not managed, could adversely impact on the organisation achieving its strategic objectives. Therefore, Council will implement a systematic risk management methodology to identify and address, where practical, areas of potential risk within Council. Any methodologies adopted will be consistent with *Australian Standard AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management – Guidelines*.

The intent of this policy is to create an environment where Council, management and staff assume responsibility for risk management, through consistent risk management practices.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- Align Council activities to and support business objectives identified in Council's Corporate and Operational Plans;
- Maintain and improve reliability and quality of service provided by Council, within Council's controls and capabilities;
- Minimise or eliminate adverse impacts from Council's services or infrastructure on the community, visitors and the environment;
- Capitalise on opportunities identified for Douglas Shire Council;
- Safeguard Council's employees, contractors, committees, volunteers, assets, financial sustainability, property, reputation and information;
- Promote risk management principles as a strategic tool to ensure better informed decision making throughout Council; and
- Embed a culture of risk management across the Council.

Principles

The following principles will be adopted to ensure that the objectives are achieved:

- Apply a risk management framework which is consistent with the current *Australian Standard AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management – Guidelines* for making decisions on how best to identify, assess and manage risk throughout all departments of Council;
- Prioritise identified risks and implement treatments progressively based on the level of risk assessed and the effectiveness of the current treatments;
- Integrate risk management with existing planning and operational processes, including the Corporate Plan;
- Take into account relevant legislative requirements and political, social and economic environments in managing risks;
- Create a culture of risk awareness throughout the organisation through training, induction, promotion and risk review and reporting mechanisms; and
- Ensure resources and operational capabilities are identified and responsibility for managing risk is allocated.

Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Risk	A risk to the business is any action or event that has an effect of uncertainty on objectives of Douglas Shire Council. It is measured in terms of consequence and likelihood. Risk also arises as much from the possibility that opportunities will not be realised as it does from the possibility that threats will materialise or that errors will be made.
Risk Management	Risk management for Council refers to the culture, processes and structures developed to effectively manage potential opportunities and adverse effects for any activity, function or process undertaken by the Council. Managing risk is achieved through the systematic application of policies, procedures and practices to identify, analyse, evaluate, treat, monitor and communicate risk.
Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)	Enterprise risk management encompasses all the major risk categories (including financial, environmental, health and safety, fraud, information technology, compliance, security and business continuity) and includes the coordination, integration, consolidation and consistency of reporting by the various Council functions with identified risks.
Risk Register	The risk register lists identified and assessed risks.

Roles and Responsibilities

Council	Council is responsible for adoption of this policy and retains the ultimate responsibility for risk management and for determining the appropriate level of risk that it is willing to accept in the conduct of Council business activities. Council will review the effectiveness of the risk management systems.
Chief Executive Officer	Council’s Chief Executive Officer is responsible for identifying, evaluating and managing risk in accordance with this policy through a formal enterprise-wide

	<p>risk management framework. Formal risk assessments must be performed at least once a year as part of the business planning and budgeting process.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer will report to Council annually on the progress made in implementing a sound system of risk management and internal compliance and control across Council's operations.</p>
Management Team	<p>Council's Management Team will perform the function of the Risk Management Committee which has oversight of developing the risk management framework and monitoring risk treatment.</p> <p>The team will ensure the risk management framework identifies high-level strategic risks and aligns with the Internal Audit Plan. The Management Team will ensure that the results of its reviews are provided to Council for update of the Council's risk profile as appropriate.</p> <p>The Management Team will also ensure periodic reviews of the risk management framework are carried out by Internal Audit pursuant to the Internal Audit Plan.</p>
Coordinators / Team Leaders	<p>Council's Coordinators and Team Leaders are responsible for the accuracy and validity of risk information reported to the Council. In addition, this will ensure clear communication throughout the organisation of Council's position on risk.</p>
Employees including casual staff, contractors and volunteers	<p>All employees are responsible for management of risks within their areas of responsibility as determined under any risk treatment plans.</p> <p>Employees will be responsible for the timely completion of activities contained within these risk treatment plans. Awareness sessions will be conducted routinely to ensure that employees are familiar with risk management and how it is applied within Council.</p>
Risk Monitoring	<p>Council utilises a number of functions, including Internal Audit, to perform independent and objective monitoring over its risk areas, including if necessary, conducting reviews over Council's operations and risk areas by external agencies.</p> <p>The scope of the work undertaken by all of these functions and the reviews by external agencies will be considered in conjunction with Council's risk profile at least annually. This will assess the independent monitoring of key risk areas within Council's risk profile.</p>

Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed when any of the following evaluations occur:

- Audit reports relating to risk management activities being undertaken by Council indicate that a policy review from a legislative, compliance or governance perspective is justified;
- Relevant legislation, regulations, standards and policies are amended or replaced; and
- Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer or through a resolution of Council.

Notwithstanding the above, this policy and Council's risk management framework will be reviewed at least annually by Council's Management Team to review its effectiveness and to ensure its continued application and relevance

This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Manager Responsible for Review: Manager Governance

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 29/04/2014

CURRENT ADOPTION: 25/06/2019

DUE FOR REVISION: 1/05/2023