

# CULTURAL POLICY

## POLICY STATEMENT

Council recognises the contribution that the arts and culture make to our City's quality of life, sense of identity and economic well-being. This policy will provide a framework for Council to co-ordinate and manage Broken Hill's cultural resources, as well as enabling a cohesive and strategic approach to ongoing cultural development.

The specific objectives of this policy are:

1. to communicate a cultural vision for the City
2. to outline the principles that represent the cultural identity of the City
3. to identify the key result areas related to maintaining and developing the cultural identity of the City
4. to provide a policy context for the Council's *Cultural Plan*

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## 1. APPLICATION

This policy provides a context and framework for all of Council's cultural planning and implementation activities.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

### **Community**

This refers to the geographical area for which this policy and Council's cultural plan are developed. Primarily, it is defined as the City of Broken Hill and the diverse communities which comprise it. However, some areas of the policy and plan also refer to the Far West Region because of the regional roles of services such as the Library's Outback Letterbox Library and the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery.

### **Culture**

Culture is "the cumulative expression of community identity through the natural and built environment; heritage and shared languages; through the arts and crafts; recreation and leisure activities and the many other ways by which creative identity is expressed, interpreted and acknowledged".

### **Cultural Assets and Resources**

These are those places, buildings, facilities, knowledge, skills and works of art which provide a foundation on which people can draw for a community's cultural development e.g. art galleries, museums, local historians, artists, poets.

### **Cultural Development**

This is the proactive planning and provision of services to improve community vitality and liveability. This includes the long-term development of a community's cultural assets and resources.

### **Cultural Diversity**

The term can have two meanings. On the one hand it denotes the availability of a diverse range of cultural forms, practices and resources in a community. On the other, it recognises the differences and variety of the people that give a community its distinctiveness. This includes recognition of ethnic and indigenous cultures and their impact upon and contribution to local history, culture and traditions.

### **Cultural Framework**

This comprises the vision, policies, strategies and performance indicators which capture a community's values and aspirations.

### **Cultural Heritage**

Things, landscape and places that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. (Burra Charter)

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### 3. CULTURAL VISION

Broken Hill will be a community that appreciates its unique and diverse cultural heritage, that encourages a wide range of creative cultural expression, and that offers ample opportunity for participation from all areas of the community.

### 4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Council is committed to the following principles:

#### 4.1 Identity and Sense of Place

Broken Hill will be a community that recognises that places have cultural meanings for people that contribute to their sense of identity and belonging – meanings that are enhanced by the City’s distinctiveness and its liveability;

#### 4.2 Creativity and Innovation

Broken Hill will be a community that values and encourages creativity and innovation.

#### 4.3 Acceptance and Diversity

Broken Hill will be a community that promotes acceptance and diversity.

#### 4.4 Access and Opportunity

Broken Hill will be a community that provides access and opportunity to all individuals and groups.

#### 4.5 Conservation and Sustainability

Broken Hill will be a community that values its heritage and that actively promotes its preservation and conservation.

#### 4.6 Co-operation and Participation

Broken Hill will be a community where people can develop good relationships, give support and encouragement to each other and are encouraged to participate in the cultural life of the community.

### 5. COUNCIL’S COMMITMENT

Council is committed to achieving the following cultural goals:

#### 5.1 Local Identity

Council aims to promote the unique character of the City and how its citizens portray themselves

#### 5.2 Cultural Spaces

Council aims to provide and maintain well-located, adaptable spaces for activities to which access is easy for all community members.

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### **5.3 Cultural Diversity**

Council aims to identify and celebrate our differences in ways appropriate to the needs of the different groups.

### **5.4 Cultural Education**

Council aims to inform people about the City's diverse cultures and how we encourage them to learn about each other.

### **5.5 Cultural Heritage**

Council aims to preserve the City's unique character, recognising all its differences.

### **5.6 Cultural Events**

Council aims to involve as many people as possible in planning, running and attending community cultural events.

### **5.7 Culture and the Local Economy**

Council aims to forge links with business to support and promote local talent and thereby contribute to the local economy.

## **6. CULTURAL PLAN**

A cultural plan includes Council's cultural framework (see definition) plus one or more action plans. A budget is included in the relevant Operational Plan e.g. Art Gallery, Library etc. Council is required to prepare a cultural plan as a strategic component of corporate planning. The plan may be part of Council's Social Plan or may be a separate plan. The Broken Hill City Council has chosen to prepare a separate cultural plan in order to give greater emphasis to its commitment to cultural issues.

The plan will establish priorities for action over a five year period. These priorities and the related actions plans will be integrated into Council's five year *Management Plan* and will be subjected to review annually. The *Cultural Plan* will also be co-ordinated with a regional cultural plan, once developed.

## **7. REVIEW**

This policy shall be reviewed every five years to ensure that it meets the requirements of legislation and the needs of Council

## **8. ASSOCIATED COUNCIL POLICIES & DOCUMENTS**

*Cultural Plan*

*Social Policy*

*Social Plan*

*Access and Equity Policy*

*Public Art Policy*

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