

Keywords: *Risk Management*

Corporate Plan:	<i>Risk Management</i>
Classification:	<i>External</i>
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Responsible Officer(s):	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
Council File Reference:	<i>Policy</i>
Applicable Legislation:	<i>AS/NZS/ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines Local Government Act 1999</i>
Relevant Policies:	<i>Code of Conduct Provision of Council Resources to Support Emergency Services in Emergencies Policy</i>
Related Procedures:	Risk Management Framework
Delegations:	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>

POLICY STATEMENT

Berri Barmera Council is committed to applying risk management principles at both corporate and community levels to enable its strategic objectives to be achieved.

The aim of this policy is not to eliminate risk, rather to manage the risks involved in all Council's activities to maximise opportunities and minimise adverse outcomes. Understanding and management of risk will provide greater certainty and security in making by being better informed, more decisive and move with increased confidence in achieving specified outcomes and objectives.

Risk management involves adopting systematic procedures and practices to identify, evaluate, treat and monitor risk in all Council activities so that the risks associated with these activities are controlled and tolerable. It is an integral part of the continuous improvement process embraced by Council.

To achieve Council's risk management objectives a Risk Management Framework has been developed in accordance with the Australian Standard AS/NZS/ISO 31000:2009 on risk management. The aim of this Framework is to provide a formalised process for identifying and managing risk in a consistent manner.

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this policy and risk management processes are to:

- Promote a culture of risk awareness throughout the organisation;
- Contribute to more efficient use and allocation of resources within the organisation;
- Protect and enhance council's assets, services and organisational image;
- Identify any unmanaged risk and formulate action plans for treatment;
- Continue to strengthen Council's controls and performance; and
- Aim to apply contemporary risk management practices.

MANAGING RISK

Risk management will be:

- Integrated and embedded in Council activities, business and culture;
- Consistent with Council's statutory obligations which dictate that certain risks cannot be avoided;
- Tailored to Council's strategic and operating context;
- Consistent with Council's acceptable risk levels in risk rating and management;
- Utilised in a proactive, ongoing manner; and
- Continuously communicated and monitored including documented and auditable.

In order for Council's risk management practices to be effective, all employees must comply with these risk management principles in their day to day activities. All Council Councillors and employees share responsibility for the management of risks.

A degree of risk is inherent in everything that the Council does. The tolerance of risk for Council represents the types and degree of risk that it is willing to accept having regard to its strategic and operational business objectives, or obliged to accept due to its statutory mandate. Risk tolerance is dynamic in nature and will be reviewed on a regular basis for changes in Council's business strategy and environment.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Council has oversight of the risk management process through the Chief Executive Officer and Council's Audit Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer holds the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that risk is managed across the council.

The Management Team is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of risk management policies and processes across the organisation. They are responsible for ensuring that strategic risks are regularly reviewed.

Department Managers are accountable for implementing the risk management practices in their area of responsibility in accordance with the Risk Management Framework. This includes ensuring that risks are identified, managed, reviewed and updated regularly.

Through the Audit Committee the processes, systems and practices of risk management are monitored and reported to Council.

All employees are responsible for applying risk management practices in their area of work and escalating matters which are outside of their authority.

In order to enable individuals to carry out their obligations regarding risk management training, support and tools will be provided to enable individuals to fulfil this responsibility effectively.

Evaluation and Review

The effectiveness of the risk management policy and framework will be evaluated by internal audits with regard to meeting the purpose and objectives of the documents. Regular reporting on risk management activities will be provided to the Council via the Audit Committee

The Risk Management Policy will be reviewed by Council at a minimum of every year.

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