



**POLICY NUMBER 7 (C) RECREATION DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

**DATE AMENDED:** May 2011  
**DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:** May 2012  
**DATE ADOPTED:** May 2011  
**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** Community Strengthening Manager  
**REFERENCES:** Recreation Needs Strategy, 2006  
Positive Aging Strategy, 2010  
Hepburn Shire Council Plan, 2009 - 2013

#### **Best Value Principles**

Hepburn Shire Council has the responsibility to provide its ratepayers with best value, with all services provided by Council meeting the expectations in terms of quality and cost. In providing this, all services need to be accessible, responsive to the needs of the community, considerate of the natural environment and subject to continuous improvement.

To achieve the best over life outcome for Council's expenditures, which meets quality and service expectations, there will be periodic review of services against best on offer in both the public and private sectors.

All Council staff members are responsible for supporting best value principles in their normal day to day actions to ensure services are recognised by the community as delivering best value.

**Signed**

**Kaylene Conrick  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## **Introduction**

Hepburn Shire Council is committed to assisting residents improve the health, safety and vibrancy of local communities. Council recognises that the community expects quality recreation services, programs and facilities and is seeking to work with community to continue to develop these areas.

## **Scope**

This policy applies across Hepburn Shire.

## **Purpose**

This policy sets out the principles to guide Council decision making in relation to recreation facilities, programs and services.

## **Policy**

- **Community Need**  
Council will support ongoing development and improvement of recreation facilities, programs and services based on identified community need, area population and resident growth trends.
- **Sustainability**  
Recreation facilities need to be sustainable both in participation numbers and financial viability. When planning recreation service provision Council will consider cost incurred as compared to the community benefit generated.
- **Community Involvement**  
Council will encourage community involvement in the planning and provision of recreation services. Council will seek community input about priority recreation projects through a Recreation Advisory Committee.
- **Project Proposals**  
Council will provide a simple and transparent process for community members and groups to propose recreation projects for consideration by Council.
- **Access and Opportunity**  
Council, in conjunction with the regional organisations and the community, will facilitate the development of a varied and diverse range of affordable recreation opportunities which are accessible to people of all ages throughout the municipality. In particular, Council will promote participation in physical activity to support its Positive Ageing Strategy and involve young people in community life by maintaining and developing local recreational opportunities.

- **Existing Services**  
Council will give priority to enhancing existing facilities which continue to meet community needs through renewal or redevelopment rather than developing new facilities and services.
- **Multipurpose Use**  
Council, as a priority, will support resource and facility sharing and encourage joint development by Council, commercial and community organisations to ensure efficient and equitable use of resources. Council will promote the shared use of facilities and recreation resources.

## **RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

- **Project Funding**  
Council recognises that it can't fund the full range of facilities requested by the community. In order to provide facilities Council will require financial support from a range of external sources.
- **Government and Other Assistance**  
Council will work in partnership with groups and organisations to attract government and other funding resources to recreation projects that meet the needs of residents.