
Cultural Policy

1. The purpose of this policy is

- To enhance existing cultural services and activities and develop new cultural services and activities;
- To introduce cultural considerations as an integral part of the management and development of Warringah's natural and built environment;
- To foster an informed literate and skilled community as the basis of an involved, productive and creative community;
- To conserve and enhance Warringah's cultural heritage in its physical and social manifestations;
- To establish partnerships for cultural development with the community, Council, the private sector, and with other local governments and government agencies, and to integrate culture into Council's Corporate Planning strategy; and
- To demonstrate the current and potential economic benefits of cultural development to the local economy.

2. Policy statement

Warringah will be a place with a distinctly diverse cultural identity in which new ideas for cultural expression will be readily generated, supported and developed, resulting in an enhanced quality of life.

Warringah's overall cultural distinctiveness will continue to be informed by its inspirational natural environment and the lifestyle of the community in relation to this natural heritage.

A creative, holistic approach to the management of urban areas will complement the non urban, ensuring that residents, workers and visitors benefit from and enjoy the energy, activities and the quality of the total environment that results.

3. Principles

Council will carry out its cultural development role including the management and development of cultural resources in accordance with the following principles:

3.1 Diversity

Warringah Council believes that diversity is both the hallmark of our cultural identity and the essential ingredient for sustaining cultural vitality. By diversity we mean a multiplicity of interests and differences in people including age, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, ability or disability, the activities and experiences they choose, whether that be painting, shopping or gardening, and the location of those activities, whether that be at home, in the streets, parks or institutions.

3.2 Creativity and Conservation

Warringah Council believes that a rich and productive culture is one which maintains a dynamic balance between the preservation of the old and the evolution of the new. Thus the conservation of our cultural heritage is as vital to cultural life as the support we give to creativity and innovation. By cultural heritage we mean the aspects of our shared past which our perception of the present. By creativity we mean the quality things we innovate, expression in the arts, inventiveness in business and industry, in the acceptance of risk, as well as in the strategies for cultural development.

3.3 Co-Operation and Integration

Warringah's cultural development is affected by many aspects of Council's activities and operations. This policy recognises that effective cultural development cannot take place in isolation, rather it will take place most effectively where collaboration and collective action takes place, where there are shared aspirations, visions and endeavours, between people in Council, in other government agencies, community organisations, private enterprise and among individuals.

Cultural planning is based in on the principles of Integrated Local Area Planning and initiated by the Australian Local Government Association. Supported by the Federal Government, the strategy aims to integrate and improve government and non-government services to local communities.

3.4 Identity and Sense of Place

In an era of rapid globalisation we support actions and activities that engender a human scale, amenity and a sense of place. These places may include town squares, markets, meeting places, sacred sites, beaches, bushland, headlands, neighbourhoods, localities, the municipality and the region.

Warringah recognises that places have cultural meanings for people which contribute to their sense of identity and belonging – meanings which are largely created and enhanced by the locale’s distinctiveness and its livability. Distinctiveness is taken to mean what is both naturally unique and which is uniquely created, the latter based on specifically solutions to local circumstances and needs.

Livability is taken to mean the overall attractiveness of a locale based on a combination of many social, physical, economic and cultural factors.

3.5 Opportunity

Cultural development is not done by a few people for the benefit of many, rather it is characterised by consultation, openness and participation. Warringah believes that a culturally rich environment is one which optimises opportunities for engagement in cultural activities, and where self expression and community involvement are facilitated and encouraged.

By opportunity we mean the knowledge of and access to a diverse range of cultural activities and experiences.

Access is taken to mean affordability, availability and physical access in terms of transportation, safety and design, as well as access to information.

4. Amendments

Previously Policy No. 3.1.10 amended by Council on 21.6.94 Minute ref 331.

5. Authorisation

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6. Who is responsible for implementing this policy?

Director Customer and Community Services.

7. Document owner

Manager, Strategy and Policy

8. File number

107.001.005

9. Legislation and references

Local Government Act, 1993

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979