



## Health Services Risk Management Policy

### 1. Purpose

The aim of this policy is to state the position of the City's Health Services on the adoption of a risk management approach to its statutory and non-statutory environmental health work. The policy specifically details the Health Services application of the City's Corporate Policy on Risk Management, Pol-C-067 adopted on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2002.

The policy applies a risk management approach to the achievement of the City's Corporate objectives in environmental health and the application of limited resources and prioritisation of works and projects in providing those environmental health services.

### 2. Background

The City's Health Services Section, part of the Development Services Business Unit, has informally applied, a risk management approach to its operations for several years to the date of this policy. This policy formally adopts this approach.

The approach to date has been in line with Australian Standard AS/NZS 4360 – Risk Management.

The adoption of a corporate policy on risk management has strengthened and reinforced this position.

The increasing demands upon local government with limited resources, requires local government to make decisions on where these resources are applied, to what degree and to justify these decisions. The City's Health Services have increasingly applied a risk management approach to make and justify these decisions.

This policy establishes some supporting principles to this approach.

### 3. Policy

- 3.1. Health Services will apply a risk management approach, in line with AS/NZS 4360, to its statutory and non-statutory environmental health work.
- 3.2. The City will provide relevant training in risk management.
- 3.3. It is expected that all staff in Health Services will apply a risk management approach in line with this policy.



- 3.4. Health Services will apply this approach in good faith with the aim to balance the needs of the community and the capacity of the organisation to address environmental health issues.
- 3.5. Environmental health issues, services and actions will be prioritised and determined based upon the following criteria, however not necessarily in the following order:
- (a) alignment with the corporate strategic directions including the place planning approach. The protection and improvement of human health and wellbeing is fundamental to the corporate strategic plans;
  - (b) the likelihood and the possible health risk consequence (including offensiveness to community health standards) of the issue;
  - (c) whether there is a clear statutory role for local government;
  - (d) the number of persons affected or potentially affected, by the condition, state or activity, but without adversely impacting on any particularly susceptible or disadvantaged group;
  - (e) the extent of community demand/need, including any identified community obligation or social justice need;
  - (f) sustainability in providing services;
  - (g) whether there are external groups or other agencies or organisations better placed to assist in partnership or individually, to resolve the matter or provide the service;
  - (h) whether there are any reasonable precautions that a person causing the relevant issue has or has not taken to minimise the adverse environmental health issue;
  - (i) whether the persons adversely affected by any adverse environmental health issue have or have not taken any reasonable measures to avoid or minimise the impact upon them, including attempts to resolve the issue directly.
- 3.6. The City may advocate on community environmental health issues, even though there may not be any direct statutory role, if in line with this policy
- 3.7. Health Services will report annually on all programs and services provided, to both the Council and the Department of Health.