

## 11.8 NSW Public Spaces Charter

REPORT BY THE MANAGER - RECREATION SERVICES  
TO 17 AUGUST 2022 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400098, GOR500038

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager - Recreation Services on the NSW Public Spaces Charter;**
2. **note the 10 principles for quality public spaces outlined in the NSW Public Spaces Charter; and**
3. **authorise the General Manager to become a signatory to the NSW Public Spaces Charter on behalf of Council.**

### Executive summary

The NSW Government has developed the Public Spaces Charter to increase commitment to quality green and public spaces across urban areas in NSW. The NSW Government is now inviting local government agencies to become signatories to the NSW Public Spaces Charter.

This report seeks to provide Council with the background information on the Charter, how the Charter benefits Council and recommendation for Council to become a signatory to the Charter.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

### Detailed report

The NSW Government, through the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, has developed a charter to incorporate a broad range of mechanism intended to plan, design, manage and/or activate public space. It provides guidance to land managers and planners on what to consider in the management and development of Public Spaces. The purpose being to have access to high quality public spaces that allows them to enjoy and participate in public life.

The Charter relates to all public spaces including Crown Land, Community Land (under the Local Government Act 1993), public facilities and streetscapes. The Department is requesting that Local Councils in NSW become signatories to the charter to demonstrate their commitment to the 10 principles which make up the backbone of the Charter.

The Charters 10 principles for quality public spaces have been designed to maximise the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits that public space delivers. The 10 principles are outlined below with further details contained within the official document in Attachment One to this report.

#### **Public Spaces Charter- 10 Principles**

1. Open and Welcoming - Everyone can access public spaces and feel welcome, respected and included.

2. Community Focused - Public spaces brings people together and builds strong, connected and resilient communities.
3. Culture and Creativity - Public spaces provides a platform for culture and creative expressions that makes places more colourful, animated and thought-provoking.
4. Local Character and Identity - Public space reflects who we are and our diverse stories and histories.
5. Green and Resilient - Public space connects us to nature, enhances biodiversity and builds climate resilience into communities.
6. Healthy and Active - Public spaces allows everyone to participate in activities that strengthen our health and wellbeing.
7. Local Business and Economies - Public spaces supports a dynamic economic life and vibrant urban and town centres
8. Safe and Secure - Everyone feels safe to access and use public spaces at all times of the day.
9. Designed for Place - Public space is flexible and responds to its environment to meet the needs of its community.
10. Well-managed - Well-managed and maintained public spaces functions better and invites people to use and care for it.

The Charters principles require support from all Council departments and therefore would continue to support strategic alignment to any existing Council strategies in a tailored approach to public spaces. It is also important to note that Councils ongoing advocacy and collaboration with State and Federal initiatives in public space planning is essential in identifying and supporting key infrastructure projects.

Becoming a signatory, Council would be demonstrating a commitment to delivering great public spaces for all sections of the community. Signatories will be provided with the NSW Public Spaces Charter icon and logo promoted on the Charter website. The NSW Public Spaces Charter project team will also work with Council in developing an action plan to implement the Charter.

This is a unique opportunity for Council to demonstrate to the NSW Government and to the Mid-Western community, Council's commitment to managing existing high-quality public spaces in a sustainable way and enhancing public spaces for future generations.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Looking After Our Community</b>
Goal	Vibrant towns and villages
Strategy	Maintain and promote the aesthetic appeal of the towns and villages within the Region

## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Community Plan  
 Recreation Strategy  
 Recreation Asset Management Plan

### **Council Policies**

Not Applicable

### **Legislation**

Not Applicable

## Financial implications

In itself, the signing of the Public Spaces Charter does not incur a cost to Council. However, it is noted that future larger scale works may need some adaptation to ensure that the Charter principles are adhered to.

## Associated Risks

In ensuring that Council meets the requirements of the Public Spaces Charter, there may be some additional costs associated with future projects. However, these are not likely to be substantial. Alternatively, in the event that Council does not sign the Charter, there is some risk that funding opportunities will be denied Council if the Charter becomes a requirement of a future funding program.

PETER RAINES  
MANAGER - RECREATION SERVICES

SIMON JONES  
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

3 August 2022

*Attachments:* 1. NSW Public Spaces Charter. (separately attached)

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER