

9.5 Policy Review - Work Health and Safety

REPORT BY THE WHS AND RISK COORDINATOR
TO 16 AUGUST 2023 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400103, A0100021

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the WHS and Risk Coordinator on the Policy Review - Work Health and Safety; and**
2. **adopt the revised Work Health and Safety Policy**

Executive summary

The Work Health and Safety Policy has been reviewed to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to ensure it is relevant for Council's requirements. There are no significant changes required to the policy.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Mid-Western Regional Council (Council) is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all workers and others in the workplace, so far as reasonably practicable.

This is achieved with effective consultation between Management, Workers and other Stakeholders in accordance with the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Regulations.

- Provision and maintenance of a safe work environment
- Provision and maintenance of safe plant and structures
- Provision and maintenance of safe systems of work
- To continually monitor, identify and eliminate or reduce hazards and risks to health and safety
- Safe use, handling and storage of substances, structures and plant
- Provision and maintenance of adequate facilities for the welfare of workers
- Provision of adequate information, training and supervision for its workers
- Provision of health and wellbeing programs, activities and monitoring for its workers

Community Plan implications

Theme	Good Government
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Goal	An effective and efficient organisation
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Strategy	Prudently manage risks association with all Council activities
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Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Delivery Program Action: Provide a safe, healthy and non-discriminatory working environment.

Projects/Service: Implement and embed a WHS Management System that reflects the Australian Standard.

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017

Financial implications

Not Applicable

Associated Risks

If Council does not maintain and promote a current Work Health and Safety Policy there may be an increase in risk and incidents occurring.

VERONIKA BARRY
WHS AND RISK COORDINATOR

LEONIE VAN OOSTERUM
ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

7 August 2023

Attachments: 1. Revised Work Health and Safety Policy.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER



POLICY WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

*A prosperous
and progressive
community.*

ADOPTED	VERSION NO	6.2
COUNCIL MEETING MIN NO	REVIEW DATE	JUNE 2027
DATE:	FILE NUMBER	A0100021 / WHS105

Mid-Western Regional Council (Council) is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all workers and others in the workplace, so far as reasonably practicable. This is achieved with effective consultation between Management, Workers and other Stakeholders in accordance with the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Regulations.

To facilitate this, Council has established, implemented and continues to maintain a Work Health and Safety Management System (WHSMS). The WHSMS forms the foundation of a proactive, systematic and coordinated approach to the management of health and safety risks arising out of Councils undertakings. The WHSMS embraces the risk management principles prescribed in AS ISO 31000:2018 and provides for fair and effective workplace health and safety consultation, cooperation and issue resolution.

Everyone within the workplace including Contractors has a work health and safety responsibility, and Council's WHSMS aims to provide a framework to support everyone in continually upholding these responsibilities.

Aims of the Work Health and Safety Management System

- Provision and maintenance of a safe work environment
- Provision and maintenance of safe plant and structures
- Provision and maintenance of safe systems of work
- To continually monitor, identify and eliminate or reduce hazards and risks to health and safety
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WHS Objectives

- Identification and management of work health and safety risks and compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Regulations;
- Maintaining effective communication with our Workers, Contractors, Visitors and other Stakeholders to ensure that safe work practices are undertaken in the workplace;
- Empowering individuals to adopt the highest standards of workplace health and safety practices to protect themselves and others in the workplace;
- Monitoring, reviewing, reporting and continuous improvement of the WHSMS

WHS Responsibilities

SENIOR MANAGEMENT: The General Manager, Directors and those involved in strategic decision making must exercise due diligence in ensuring that Mid-Western Regional Council complies with the duties of a "PCBU" defined in Section 19 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

WORKERS: Workers have a duty to take reasonable care of themselves and others at the workplace. A worker includes a person who carries out work in any capacity for Council, including work as an employee, a contractor, subcontractor, outworker, volunteer, apprentice or trainee and work experience students.

VISITORS: Visitors to Council's workplaces have a duty to take reasonable care of themselves and others at the workplace and cooperate with any reasonable instruction given by an employee of Mid-Western Regional Council.