

TITLE:	Good Governance Policy		
DIVISION:			
ADOPTED BY:	Council		
DATE OF ADOPTION:	30 June 2014	DATE OF REVIEW:	June 2018
MOTION NUMBER:	113/14		
POLICY NUMBER:	CP000015		
AUTHORISED:	Chief Executive Officer		

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO:

All employees and Elected Members

PREAMBLE

The aim of all policy is for Councillors to provide strategic input into the effective operational framework of the organisation under S.11 of the Local Government Act

SUMMARY

This policy demonstrates the Barkly Regional Council's commitment to the principles of good governance by clearly stating the values by which Council has committed itself to operate.

OBJECTIVES

This policy, and the principles set out in the policy, aim to:

- Achieve the highest standards of governance.
- Ensure legislative compliance
- Seek excellence in governance through continuous improvement;
- Provide guidance to Members and Council staff in achieving good governance.

BACKGROUND

The practice of good governance is increasingly seen as critical for ensuring that organisations operate within a legal and ethical framework, that decisions are taken in the interests of stakeholders, and that the organisation behaves as a good corporate citizen should.

POLICY STATEMENT*Characteristics of Good Governance*

The characteristics of good governance are:

- It is participatory
- It is consensus-oriented
- It is accountable
- It is transparent
- It is responsive
- It is effective and efficient
- It is equitable and inclusive
- It is law-abiding

Principles of Good Governance

Council will apply the following principles:

- Council decision-making will exhibit transparency, honesty and probity;
- Decisions will be made that represent the best long-term interest of the whole area;
- Members will respect the decisions of the majority;
- Members will be accountable for the development of policy and the strategic direction of the Council;
- The CEO and Council officers will be accountable for the implementation of Council policy and decisions except where they apply exclusively to Elected Members;
- All Members and Council staff will observe the Code of Conduct in spirit and in letter.

Key Elements of Good Governance

The four key elements of good governance which Council will apply are:

Ethics and Values

Ethics are the moral principles by which any particular person or organisation is guided; the rules of conduct recognized in a particular profession or area of human life.

Setting an appropriate standard of ethics is an important factor in establishing and enforcing a high ethical culture. It helps Council reduce fraud, corruption, maladministration and wastage and ensures that Council has the respect of the community.

Risk Management and Internal Control

In order to achieve its objectives and operate effectively and in accordance with sound governance principles, Council needs to be aware of key risks that it faces and needs to have appropriate controls in place to deal with those risks.

Decision-making Processes

Sound decision-making processes that comply with the principles of good governance will help Council's individual decisions to withstand scrutiny by regulators, courts, the media and those affected by the decisions.

Monitoring and Review

These processes are important to ensure that Council is operating appropriately and that Council and people at council are accountable for their actions. Monitoring and review also helps to ensure that Council can react to changes in its environment efficiently and effectively.

LEGISLATION, TERMINOLOGY AND REFERENCES

Governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented or not.

Good governance means that the structures, activities and operations of the Council are conducted in accordance with the principles of legal compliance, probity, transparency, accountability, and respect for people within the Council and for all other stakeholders.

IMPLEMENTATION AND DELEGATION

The CEO has delegated authority to implement this policy

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This Policy is to be reviewed every four (4) years, and may be reviewed at other times at the discretion of Chief Executive Officer.