	<h1>Risk Management Framework</h1>	Version No:	40
		Issued:	17 April 2017
		Last Review	November 2021
		Next Review	October 2024
Name of Council	Wudinna District Council		
Minutes reference:	10.5.2 – 23 November 2021		
Responsibility	Strategic Management		
Policy Level	Discretionary		
Next review date:	Council will endeavour to review this policy every 3 years, or as required upon legislative change		
Applicable Legislation:	Civil Liabilities Act 1936 Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 Freedom of Information Act 1991 Local Government Act 1999 Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 2011 State Records Act 1997 Work Health and Safety Act 2012		
Related Documents:	AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management Guidelines SA HB 436.1.2020 Risk Management Guidelines – companion to AS ISO 31000:2018, Part 1: Boards and executives Wudinna District Council Risk Management Policy Return to Work SA Code of Conduct for Self-Insured Employers Return to Work SA Performance Standards for Self Insurers Corporate Governance Policy Framework Work Health Safety and Return to Work Policy		

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Wudinna District Council (Council) is committed to an integrated approach to risk management to assist in setting appropriate strategies, achieving our objectives, and making informed decisions, in the best interests of our community.

Council recognises that managing risk is part of governance and leadership, is fundamental to how Council is managed at all levels and will contribute to continuous improvement of its management systems.

Wudinna District Council Vision states: *A viable, motivated rural community which offers an economically diverse, environmentally sustainable and rewarding lifestyle.*

The risk management process is not an isolated function and should be applied to all activities, including decision making, at all levels. Effective identification, analysis, evaluation and treatment of risks is critical to Wudinna District Council achieving it's objectives and meeting stakeholder expectations.

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2. PURPOSE

This Risk Management Framework (The Framework) outlines the requirements and processes supporting Council's Risk Management Policy in order to create and protect value by improving performance, encouraging innovation and supporting the achievement of Council's objectives.

The Framework will:

- a) Align to the objectives of the Risk Management Policy;
- b) Establish roles and responsibilities for managing risk;
- c) Document a standardised, formal and structured process for assessment, treatment and monitoring of identified risks;
- d) Encourage innovation by integrating risk management into the strategic and operational processes throughout the organisation;
- e) Assist Council in maximising its opportunities, whilst minimising negative impacts identified during the risk management process;
- f) Establish the process for all risks outside the defined risk appetite when defined, to be escalated to the appropriate level and for additional treatment options to be implemented;
- g) Sets out reporting protocols for relevant risk information to be provided to Council, Audit Committee, Senior Management Team and throughout the organisation; and
- h) Support the development of a continuous improvement culture by integrating risk management processes throughout the organisation.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RISK SERVICES (LGRS)

From the perspective of the Local Government sector in South Australia, certain insurable risks have been transferred to a number of self-managed Schemes managed by Local Government Risk Services (LGRS) via payment of an annual contribution. The Schemes are:

- a) Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS) for the purposes of Civil Liability coverage & claims management;
- b) Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme (LGAWCS) for the purposes of workers compensation coverage & claims management; and
- c) Local Government Association Asset Mutual Fund (LGAMF) for the purposes of asset and fleet coverage and claims management.

As a Member of all the above Schemes and Fund, Council must ensure that it has developed, endorsed and implemented WHS, asset and risk management protocols.

LGRS provides Council with a range of fully funded and subsidised programs and support services to assist in managing risk across the organisation.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

The Australian Standard for Risk Management –Guidelines (ISO 31000:2018) describes risk as: *“the effect of uncertainty (either positive, negative or both) on objectives”*

The goal is not to eliminate all risks, but rather to manage risks involved in delivering Council's functions and services and to create and protect value for stakeholders and community.

AS ISO 31000:2018 is based on the following eight principles, which underpin this Framework and guide how we manage risk across the organisation.

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Integrated	An integral part of all organisational processes
Part of decision-making	Aids decision-makers in making informed choices and identifying the most effective course of action
Structured and comprehensive	Contributes to efficiency and to consistent and comparable results
Best available information	Based on historical and current information, as well as on future expectations, taking into account any limitations associated with such information and expectations.
Customised	Aligns with the internal and external context related to our objectives
Human and cultural factors	Recognises that the behaviour and culture can significantly influence the achievement of objectives
Inclusive	Requires appropriate and timely involvement of stakeholders to enable their knowledge, views and perceptions to be considered
Dynamic	Anticipates, detects, acknowledges and responds to changes in Council’s internal and external contexts that result in new risks emerging and others changing or disappearing
Continual improvement	Learning and experience drives continuous improvement



5. RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

5.1. Leadership and Commitment

Council and its Senior Management Team (SMT) will demonstrate a clear commitment to managing risks throughout the organisation by:

- a) Developing and implementing risk management policy, framework and supporting tools and processes;
- b) Allocating appropriate resources to implement, monitor and improve the effectiveness of risk management;

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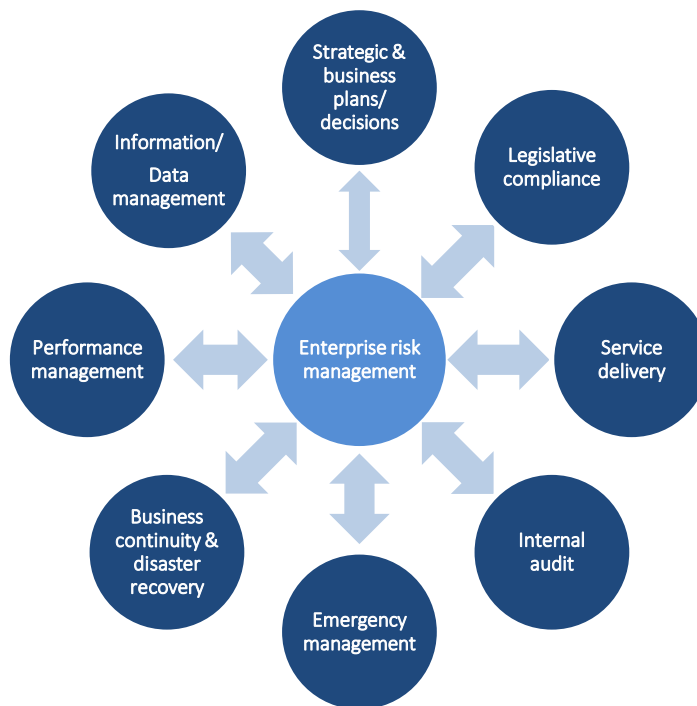
- c) Ensuring that staff, contractors, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders have the appropriate skills and knowledge to deal with risk;
- d) Allocating and upholding accountability with respect to risk management and ensuring it is understood; and
- e) Ensuring compliance with legislative and contractual obligations and policy requirements.

5.2. Integration

This Framework provides the methods and processes Council use to manage risks and identify opportunities throughout the organisation.

Governance guides the direction of the Council and provides the rules, processes and practices necessary to achieve objectives. Management structures that define risk management accountability and oversight roles across the organisation are critical to achieving sustainable performance and long-term viability.

Risk Management is not just about the risk assessment process nor is it a stand-alone discipline. In order to maximise benefits and opportunities, it requires integration throughout the organisation, as follows:



5.2.1. Enterprise Risk Management

Enterprise risk management encompasses strategic operational and project risk management.

Strategic Risks are identified by reference to both the external environment and strategic objectives. Strategic risks are monitored by the Chief Executive Officer, Senior Management Team, Audit Committee and Council, with all risk assessments captured in the Risk Register and recorded within the Record Management System and Skytrust.

Operational Risks arise from day-to-day functions and operations to deliver core services. Operational risks are monitored by the SMT.

Project Risks are the uncertain events or conditions that have potential to impact either positively or negatively on project objectives. Project risks are monitored by the project manager and reported to the SMT and the Council (where the project is of strategic significance).

5.2.2. Strategic & Business Planning/Decision Making

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Strategic and business planning, (which includes long-term financial planning and annual budgeting) must adequately consider the risks inherent in setting and pursuing objectives and the effectiveness of systems that are in place to manage and communicate those risks.

Risk management is integrated into governance structures, including decision making, which is supported by incorporating risk analysis Council and Committee reports, where there is a potential impact on achievement of strategic objectives or on the wider community.

5.2.3. Legislative Compliance

The Local Government Act (SA) 1999 applies to the functions of Councils and Prescribed Bodies in South Australia, however, due to the diversity of functions and services provided, a range of other Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practice and Standards also apply.

Council has implemented a Work Health and Safety (WHS) management system to manage hazards and risks to workers and members of the public, in accordance with the WHS Act (SA) 2012 and Return to Work SA's Performance Standards for Self Insurers.

5.2.4. Service Delivery

Risk exposures vary according to the functions, facilities and services provided and these will inevitably change over time. Council's planning processes address both the risks associated with provision of functions, facilities and services, (such as capacity and resources,) and risks arising from their delivery, (such as public safety and community reaction).

5.2.5. Internal Audit/Control

Internal audit/control is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the organisation's operations. It provides a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. The process of internal audit may result in the identification of new risks or more effective treatments for existing risks.

In addition to its own internal audit function undertaken from time to time, Council engages an independent auditor to undertake an audit of internal controls as required by Section 125 of the Local Government Act (SA) 1999 and Part 6, Regulation 19 of the Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 2011.

5.2.6. Emergency Management

Council plans for, and undertakes, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities to support its community in the event of emergencies and natural disasters. This process includes alignment and co-operation with lead agencies and other Councils in the state as well as providing information and training for workers to protect them from harm whilst responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

5.2.7. Business Continuity Plan / Information Technology Disaster Recovery Plan

Council is committed to ensuring that critical business functions continue after a business interruption and has developed the following plans, taking into consideration reasonably foreseeable risks and their potential impact on achievement of objectives.

- a) The Business Continuity Plan (BCP), which is designed to manage risk by limiting or reducing the impact of a disruption (such as severe weather event or loss of key personnel), and enable the resumption of critical business functions/services of Council following a disruption and
- b) The Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) is included in the BCP, which is intended to protect and recover information technology infrastructure and data in the case of a disruptive event (such as cyberattack or loss of infrastructure), by defining actions to be taken before, during and after an event.

5.2.8. Performance Management

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Both risk management and performance management start with the establishment and communication of corporate goals and objectives and development of strategies which are then cascaded throughout the organisation. Appropriate measures and reporting structures have been put in place to monitor the effectiveness of risk management processes (at an individual and organisational level), which will in turn assist in identifying gaps or emerging risks.

The performance of Council's risk management program will be measured through three distinct categories:

Measure	Frequency
Compliance with the policy and related documentation	Annual
Foreseeable risks are identified and controlled within risk appetite (and tolerances), where reasonably practicable	Biannual
Tangible improvement in risk evaluation outcomes and risk maturity modelling	Biennial

5.2.9. Information / Data Management

Not only is it critical to the achievement of objectives that data and corporate knowledge is retained, there are regulatory requirements to do so (e.g.: compliance with the State Records Act 1997, Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 and Freedom of Information Act 1991.)

Council's records may be vulnerable to cyberattack, malicious intent or unauthorised release, should appropriate risk mitigation strategies not be in place.

5.3. Design

5.3.1. Understanding Council and its context

Establishing the context involves those involved in the risk management and decision making processes to understand factors internal and external to organisation that may influence Council's ability to achieve its objectives.

Risk management culture, organisational structure, strategy and objectives are examples of factors that define internal context.

The external environment may include a range of factors such including (but not limited to):

- a) increased legislative and compliance requirements;
- b) reduced funding from State government;
- c) community expectations; and
- d) social, cultural, political, technological, economic, natural and built environment

5.3.2. Roles and Responsibilities

The following roles and responsibilities ensure a transparent approach to managing risk within Council.

Note: roles and responsibilities outline below refer to Risk Management Only and the committee/position requirements in general.

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Roles	Responsibilities
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and endorse the Risk Management Framework. • Set the organisation's risk appetite and policy for managing risk. • Give adequate consideration to risks when setting objectives and making decisions. • Foster a culture that is consistent with the organisation's appetite for risk. • Ensure the organisation has the structures and processes in place to support decision making and management of risk. • Set an appropriate governance structure for risk and risk management including Audit Committee and delegations. • Require the CEO to demonstrate that the framework for managing risk is effective and appropriate; and • Require the CEO to provide information to allow the Council to understand the risks that may have material impacts on achievement of the organisation's objectives. • Consider recommendations from the Audit Committee relating to strategic risks or any other risk matter.
Audit Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and endorse the criteria contained within the Risk Management Framework. • Review reports from Senior Management Team and auditors to ascertain the adequacy of controls that have been implemented. • Monitor strategic risks on a quarterly basis.
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a strong risk management culture by providing firm and visible commitment to risk management including ensuring appropriate accountability for the management of risk. • Develop and implement a framework that delivers a consistent approach to risk management by allocating resources and assigning authority, responsibility & accountability at appropriate levels within the organisation. • Allocate and uphold accountability for managing risk. • Ensure Senior Management Team have the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively fulfil their risk management responsibilities. • Regularly review strategic and operational risks and maintain an understanding of the environment in which the organisation operates, the risks it faces and the effectiveness of its controls. • Ensure compliance with legislative and contractual obligations and policy requirements. • Provide reliable information about risks, controls and their effectiveness to Council. • Escalate all strategic risks that exceed the organisation's risk appetite to the Audit Committee or Council, as required.

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Roles	Responsibilities
Senior Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to, and promotion of, the risk management policy and framework. • Monitor the organisation's overall risk profile and mitigation strategies. • Ensure that risk management is embedded into all functions and activities, including decision making. • Ensure that risks that cannot be treated immediately are recorded on the risk register and that there is ongoing and regular review of the risk register, (including follow up and close out of overdue risk treatments). • Incorporate risk treatments into departmental plans. • Ensure that staff, contractors, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders have the appropriate skills to be actively be involved in managing risk. • Provide incentives and performance management arrangements that support the desired approach to managing risk. • Promote a proactive risk culture in accordance with business management initiatives. • Collectively review strategic risks and consider emerging risks, (prior to Audit Committee). • Ensure compliance with legislative and contractual obligations and policy requirements.
Risk Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance and assistance to Senior Management Team) and staff in relation to the application of this framework. • Ensure relevant risk information is recorded in the Risk Register and reported and escalated to the Senior Management Team or cascaded to staff, as relevant. • Maintain the Risk Management Policy and Framework to ensure its currency and relevance. • Maintain the Risk Register and reporting timeframes as required.
Employees, Volunteers & Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the risk management processes that apply to their area of work. • Identify, evaluate, report and manage, (or escalate,) risks relating to daily activities and projects.

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5.3.3. Implementation

Council’s risk management framework is supported by an Implementation Plan that includes timeframes and resource requirements and processes for engagement with, and provision of information to, stakeholders.

5.4. Evaluation

Council will undertake periodic reviews of this risk management framework and the implementation plan to evaluate their effectiveness and determine whether they remain suitable in supporting the achievement of strategic and operational objectives.

5.5. Improvement

To maintain and improve the value of risk management to the organisation, Council will monitor and adapt its risk management framework, with a view to continually improve the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management process

6. THE RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Having good risk management practices in place provides Council with assurance that measures are in place to maximise the benefits and minimise the negative effect of uncertainties in pursuit of its strategic objectives. Risk management involves both the management of potentially adverse effects as well as the fulfilment of potential opportunities. The risk management process is an integral part of management and decision-making and will be/is integrated into the organisation’s structure, operations and processes.

The dynamic and variable nature of human behaviour and culture should be considered throughout the risk management process.

Although the risk management process is often presented as sequential, in practice it is iterative as illustrated in the AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management – guidelines:

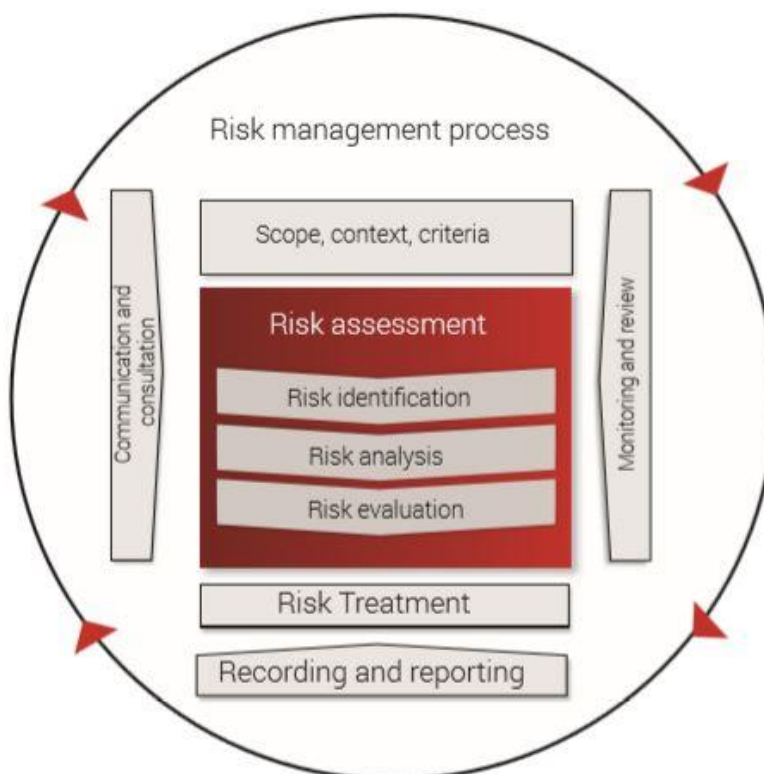


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6.1. Communication and Consultation

Establishing a communication and consultation plan with internal and external stakeholders is critical to the success of the risk management process. Effective communication and consultation throughout the process is essential to ensure that those responsible for implementing risk management, and those with a vested interest, understand the basis on which risk management decisions are made and why particular actions are required.

Council will engage with stakeholders throughout the risk management process to:

- a) Correctly identify risks and understand context
- b) Gain a better understanding of the views and interests of stakeholders and how their expectations may be managed;
- c) Capitalise on the diversity of knowledge, opinions and experience to enhance identification and management of risks and opportunities; and
- D) Build a sense of inclusiveness and ownership amongst stakeholders.

6.2. Scope, Context and Criteria

6.2.1. Defining the Scope

Because the risk management process is applied at different levels throughout the organisation, it is important to define the scope and its alignment with the organisation's objectives; this should include consideration of:

- a) Goals and objectives of risk management activities;
- b) Proposed outcomes and timing;
- c) Responsibilities and accountabilities for the risk management process;
- d) Risk management methodologies;
- e) Processes, activities and projects and how they may interact with other processes, activities and projects;
- f) How effectiveness and/or value will be measured and monitored; and
- g) Availability of resources to managed risk.

6.2.2. Defining the Context

Defining the context is important because

- a) Risk management takes place in the context of achieving objectives and activities; and
- b) Organisational factors can be a source of risk.

The context should reflect the specific environment of the activity to which the risk management process is to be applied, and consider the factors outlined in 5.3.1

6.2.3. Defining Risk Criteria

Risk criteria are used to evaluate the significance of risk and are reflective of Council's values, objectives and resources and the views of its stakeholders. Agreed risk criteria have been established through consultation with Senior Management Team, CEO, Audit Committee and Council.

It should be noted that, whilst risk criteria have been documented in this framework and its appendices, they are dynamic and should be reviewed and amended to reflect the organisation's attitude to risk and risk appetite, as necessary.

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6.3. Risk Assessment

6.3.1. Risk Identification

The aim of risk identification is to develop an inclusive list of reasonably foreseeable events that may occur that, if they do, are likely to have an impact on the achievement of objectives.

Council identifies, assesses and treats risk in the following **three** groups (risk types):

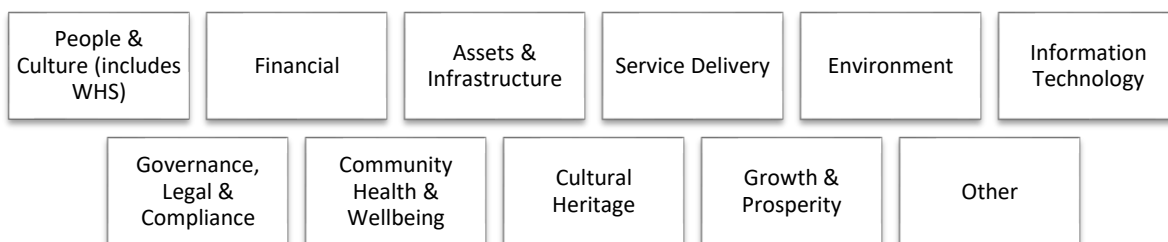
Strategic	<p>Risks associated with high-level strategic objectives that are articulated in Strategic, Annual Business and Asset Management Plans. Strategic risks may affect the achievement of Member’s corporate objectives. They are key issues for the Council and Senior Management Team and impact the whole organisation rather than a department. These risks can originate from within the organisation or externally.</p> <p>In other words, they may prevent the organisation from achieving its strategic objectives.</p>
Operational	<p>Risks associated with departmental functions and daily operations to deliver core services. Often the risks relate to cost overruns, supply chain/logistic issues, employee issues, fraud, WHS, non-compliance to policies and procedures.</p>
Project	<p>Risks associated with Project Management that will affect milestones or outcomes connected to delivering a specific project.</p>

Risk identification naturally flows on from the context discussion and is a process of formally documenting the effects of uncertainty on objectives. An effective approach to this is to engage as many stakeholders as possible in a structured identification process.

The aim is to generate a list of risks based on those impacts or events. During the identification process, there are a number of questions that need to be asked to capture the information required:

- a) What might happen / what could go wrong?
- b) What is the cause?
- c) How does this affect the objective?

After a risk is identified, it may be categorised and then captured in the Risk Register in accordance with the following categories:



The process of risk identification must be comprehensive as risks not identified are by nature excluded from further analysis. Care must be taken to identify and define risks, rather than causes or consequences.

Capturing an additional level of detail with regards to risk areas assists in reporting and analysing trends, an example of this can be found in Appendix E.

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6.3.2. Risk Analysis

Risk analysis involves developing an understanding of a risk. It provides an input to risk evaluation and to decisions on whether risks need to be treated, and the most appropriate risk treatment strategies and methods. The tables included in the appendices are Council's tools for expressing the consequence, likelihood and level of risk.

6.3.2.1. Risk Ratings

A 'risk rating' can be determined by combining the estimates of effect (consequence rating) and cause (likelihood rating). The risks are to be assessed against all consequence categories; and the highest consequence rating will be used.

- a) Inherent risk rating, being the level of risk at time of risk assessment with no controls;
- b) Current risk rating, being the level of risk with the controls that are currently in place, operating as they are; and
- c) Residual risk rating, being the level of risk once further and additional controls are added to reduce the consequence and/or likelihood, (i.e. the forecast level of risk remaining after risk treatment).

6.3.2.2. Risk Appetite

The Council, with support from the Senior Management Team, are responsible for defining Council's risk appetite, taking into consideration the nature and extent of the risks Council is willing to take in order to achieve its strategic objectives.

In arriving at its risk appetite, Elected Members will give consideration to:

- a) The degree to which decision makers are permitted to expose Council to the consequences of an event or situation;
- b) Aggregated and interlinked risks to determine whether the cumulative level of risk is acceptable or not;
- c) Allowing for flexibility to adapt, given changing environment and circumstances to be built in;
- d) Whether decisions are made with full consideration of potential risk and reward.

Council's risk appetite will be included in regular monitoring and review of strategic risks and will be updated in line with its risk management policy, framework and supporting documentation.

6.3.2.3. Risk Tolerance

Not all risk types for Council are the same in terms of their acceptability. Once a risk appetite has been set, it is useful to define tolerance levels for each category. Risk tolerance can be described as the boundaries of risk taking outside of which the organisation is not willing to accept in order to achieve its objectives. Whilst risk appetite is usually expressed in qualitative terms, tolerance is expressed quantitatively, (i.e. a variance)

If the assessed risk level is outside of the risk appetite but within the tolerable level for that category of risk then treatment will be required. If it is equal to, or below, the tolerable level for that category of risk then the risk can be accepted (provided the controls are implemented).

6.3.3. Risk Evaluation

Risk Evaluation is the process used to assist in making decisions, based on the outcomes of risk analysis, about which risks need treatment and the priority for implementation of controls. Decisions should take account of the wider context of the risk and include consideration of the risk borne by other parties. There are also circumstances whereby, despite the risk level, risks cannot be prevented or reduced and the focus will instead be on recovery and resilience.

When a risk has been identified or reassessed, the following table provides guidance on the action to be taken for each risk rating level:

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Extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add risk to Council’s Risk Register ● Escalate risk issue immediately to CEO / SMT ● CEO / SMT to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refer risk to risk owner ○ Identify and develop treatment strategies for immediate action ○ Monitor and review actions/strategies ○ Provide direction and information to relevant stakeholders ○ Inform the next meeting of the Council or Audit Committee of the risk issue, the actions taken to mitigate the risk and the outcome (or current status) Consider cessation/suspension of the activity giving rise to the risk until such time as CEO / SMT authorises its continuation and/or whilst other risk treatment strategies are being developed/implemented. <p>For WHS related risk, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operation of item or activity should not be allowed to continue until the risk level has been reduced. ○ Will commonly be an unacceptable level of risk ○ May include both short term and long-term control measures.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add risk to Risk Register ● Escalate risk issue to member of SMT or Risk Manager ● Member of SMT or Risk Manager to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refer to relevant risk owner ○ Identify and develop treatment strategies with appropriate timeframes ○ Monitor and review actions/strategies to manage risk to an acceptable level ○ Provide direction and information to relevant stakeholders ○ Inform the next meeting of the Audit Committee or SMT of the risk issue, the actions taken to mitigate the risk and the outcome (or current status) <p>For WHS related risks, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce the risk rating so far as is reasonably practicable ○ Should only be an acceptable level of risk for ‘Major’ or ‘Catastrophic’ consequences
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add risk to Council’s Risk Register ● Escalate risk to Department Manager ● Department Manager to coordinate with relevant work group to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and develop treatment strategies with appropriate timeframes <p>Monitor and review actions/strategies to manage risk to an acceptable level for WHS related risks, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce the risk rating so far as is reasonably practicable ○ May be an acceptable level of risk
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add risk to Council’s Risk Register ● Undertake localised risk management & actions (if required) ● Review within the Department parameters and routine procedures <p>For WHS related risks, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce the risk rating so far as is reasonably practicable. ○ Commonly is an acceptable level of risk.

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6.3.4. Risk Treatment

Risk treatment can be conducted using a variety of methods. When looking at negative risks, treatments **are aimed at reducing or removing the potential for consequences occurring. However, when looking at positive risks (opportunities), treatments look at ensuring that consequences are realised.**

Risk treatment involves selecting one or more options for modifying the likelihood and/or consequence of risks and implementing those options. Once implemented, treatments provide or modify the controls. An action should be implemented to treat certain risks.

Justifications for risk treatment is broader than solely economic considerations and should take into account all of Council's obligations, voluntary commitments and stakeholder expectations. Appropriate risk treatment options should have regard of the organisation's objectives, risk appetite, risk criteria and available resources.

6.3.5. Risk Treatment Priorities

Recognising that not all risks can, or should be managed, Council has determined that it will prioritise treatment of risks in the following order:

- a) Strategic risks that exceed risk appetite
- b) Strategic risks that exceed risk tolerance
- c) Operational risks that are rated Extreme or High
- d) Operational risks that are rated either Moderate or High that exceed risk appetite

The CEO may make exceptions to this prioritisation where there is an immediate or foreseeable risk to the health or safety of any person

6.3.6. Risk Treatment Options

Risk treatment options are not necessarily mutually exclusive or appropriate in all circumstances.

Options for negative risks may include:

Eliminate	Remove the asset or discontinue an activity completely so as to eliminate the risk altogether.
Share	Allocate risk to a third party, such as through appropriate contractor management.
Mitigate	Implement a type of treatment control to reduce or remove the risk. This may include but is not limited to options such as substitution (swapping), isolation (barricade), engineering (modify by design) or administration (policy/process).
Accept	Risk can be accepted for a number of reasons including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extra treatments being available; • Meets the stated target risk appetite for the type of risk; • Informed decision has been made about that risk; and • The cost of risk treatment significantly outweighs the potential risk exposure.

For positive risks, options may include:

Exploit	Implement strategies to capitalise on the likelihood of the risk eventuating and ensure that the organisation is able to respond quickly to the opportunities as they arise
Share	Partnering with another organisation that is able to add skills or value not currently available within Council
Enhance	Influence the factors that will improve the likelihood of the opportunity arising
Accept	Maintain status quo by informed decision

In selecting any risk treatment, consideration must be given to new risks that may arise from implementing it and the processes outlined in this framework applied to those new risks,

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6.3.7. Control Characteristics

Risk treatments need to be designed in a manner to ensure they are sufficient to mitigate that risk, and have some of the following characteristics if they are to become an adequate control:

- a) Documented (e.g. Policies, procedures, task lists, checklists)
- b) Systems-oriented (e.g. integrated and/or automated)
- c) Preventative (e.g. system controls) or detective
- d) Consistent and regular (including during staff absence)
- e) Performed by competent and trained individuals
- f) Clear responsibility and accountability
- g) Create value (i.e. benefits outweigh costs)
- h) Achievable for the organisation (based on available resources)
- i) Evidenced (i.e. documented or electronic audit trail)
- j) Confirmed independently

6.3.8. Preparing and Implementing Risk Treatment Plans

Risk treatment plans specify how the risk treatment options will be implemented, so that those involved understand what arrangements are in place and to allow progress against the plan to be monitored. Risk treatment plans are documented within the risk register and project management plans and provide the following information.

- a) Rationale for selection of treatment options;
- b) Responsibilities and accountability for approving and implementing the plan;
- c) Proposed actions and timeframes;
- d) Resourcing requirements
- e) Constraints and contingencies; and
- f) Required monitoring and reporting.

6.4. Monitoring and Review

6.4.1. Review of Risks and Controls

Monitoring and review involves regular checking or surveillance of the effectiveness and efficiency of the risk management processes implemented.

A monitoring and review process will:

- a) Ensure that implemented controls are effective and adequate;
- b) Provide further information to improve risk assessment and treatment plans;
- c) Allow for the identification of emerging risks; and
- d) Identify any (new) activities that may influence established strategies to mitigate risks.

It is essential to monitor all activities and processes in order to capture new or emerging risks arising from the changing environment (both internal and external) and the activities undertaken by Council's employees, contractors and volunteers.

Monitor and review guidelines and timeframes are captured in the Risk Reporting structure. (see section 7.)

6.4.2. Project Risks

Due to the dynamic nature of most projects, a risk may change over the project lifecycle, triggering the need for reassessment. The monitoring and scheduled review process allows for both validation of risks to ensure that they remain relevant and adaptation of project plans as necessary.

Any changes in risks throughout the project and after its completion should be recorded and used for future project planning.

6.4.3. Internal audit

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The audit process plays an important role in evaluating the internal controls (and risk management processes) currently employed by Council. Our internal audit program is 'risk based' and provides assurance that we are managing our risks appropriately. In developing the Internal Audit Plan consideration is given to the extreme, high and moderate risks identified by the risk assessment process. Internal audits assess the adequacy of selected controls identified.

The internal audit process will measure risk by:

- a) **Measuring Compliance** – has the organisation met its Policy objectives?
- b) **Measuring Maturity** – measuring against best practice and sector benchmarking.
- c) **Measuring Value Add** – has the framework and risk culture added to the achievement of Councils strategic objectives?

Information is shared between the risk management and internal audit functions. Changes in our risk profile are reflected in our Internal Audit Plan. Similarly, control issues identified through internal audit will inform our Risk Management Framework. The internal audits are conducted to provide assurance that key risks have been identified and the controls in place are adequate and effective, as per the following table.

Rating	Definition
Design adequacy	
Adequate	The control is designed in a manner that it can give reasonable assurance that the risk will be mitigated. In other words, existing systems and procedures cover known circumstances and provide reasonable assurance for majority of risks.
Partially adequate	The control is designed in a way that will partially mitigate the risk and designed in a way to partially meet the design objectives.
Inadequate	The design of the control is not sufficient enough to give reasonable assurance that the risk will be mitigated. There may be no systems and procedures in place, or existing systems and procedures are obsolete and require review.
Operating effectiveness	
Effective	The control operates in a manner that is effective in terms of being consistent, complete, reliable and timely.
Partially effective	The control partially operates in a manner that is effective in terms of being consistent, complete, reliable and timely.
Ineffective	The control does not operate in a manner that is effective in terms of being consistent, complete, reliable and timely.

It is to be noted that the overall combination of the results of design adequacy and operating effectiveness will provide the overall rating of the control based on the table for overall rating. This assists in identifying improvements to existing controls.

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	Effective	Partially effective	Ineffective
Adequate	Effective	Partially Effective	Ineffective
Partially adequate	Partially Effective	Partially Effective	Ineffective
Inadequate	Ineffective	Ineffective	Ineffective

The review of Council's risk management framework and processes will be scheduled for completion within 3 years from endorsement.

7. RECORDING AND REPORTING

7.1. General

The risk management process and its outcomes will be documented and reported, in order to:

- a) Communicate risk management activities and outcomes;
- b) Provide information for decision making;
- c) Provide opportunities for continuous improvement;
- d) Assist interaction with stakeholders, including those with responsibility and accountability for risk management activities.

Records will be managed and retained in accordance with State Records General Disposal Schedule for Local Government.

7.2. Risk Register

The Risk Register enables the organisation to document, manage, monitor and review strategic, project and operational risk information in order to build a risk profile and provide direction on how to improve risk management processes. The Risk Register can be used to monitor whether, using the approach outlined in this framework, the risk management processes for opportunities is resulting in an increasing trend in potential for success and less risk with negative consequences.

7.2.1. Strategic Risks

Strategic level risks are identified by the Senior Management Team and the Council as part of an annual review at a minimum and will be recorded in the risk register. Any risks identified at the Strategic level may be reflected in other corporate documents e.g. Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plans and Asset Management Plans and mitigated through action details in these documents, however should be collated in the Risk Register for ease of monitoring and review.

Recording and reporting of strategic level risks is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and Risk Manager via the Senior Management Team and Audit Committee.

7.2.2. Operational Risks

Operational risks will be recorded in the risk register and be reviewed at least bi annually by Departmental Managers. Recording operational risks in the risk register and reporting of implementation and effectiveness of controls is the responsibility of department managers and workers.

7.2.3. Project Risks

Project level risks can be identified by the project management team or anyone at any time prior to, and during, the project management cycle and are initially recorded in the project management plan and consolidated in the risk register. Recording and reporting of project level risks rest with the project owner.

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7.3. Risk Reporting

7.3.1. Purpose

Risk based reports draw data from the Risk Register and provide monitoring and profile information to Council via the Audit Committee and the Senior Management Team to assist with:

- a) Understanding Council's risk exposure;
- b) Identify risk that require increased attention and action;
- c) Provide relevant information to the Council about risks likely to impact upon achievement of strategic objectives;
- d) Dissemination of information to workers at all levels to support them in making risk informed decisions; and
- e) Improve the risk culture and awareness throughout the organisation.

7.3.2. Content

Risk reporting will include:

Report content	Reported to	Frequency
Council and Committee reports to include discussion of potential risks, based on completed risk assessment and treatments, (with the exception of routine administrative matters)	Council and Committee members	All Council and Committee meetings
Review and update of the risk register by Department Managers	Senior Management Team	Bi-monthly to Senior Management Team, (or as otherwise required, eg: organisational structure change/ process change/ new project)
Report by CEO on extreme and high strategic and/or operational risks, including actions taken to mitigate the risk and outcomes or current status	Audit Committee	Each meeting, (as required)
Report of strategic risks (to verify that current risks are controlled within Council's risk appetite & tolerances & that there are strategies to address or monitor any emerging risks that have been identified)	Audit Committee	Biannual
Report on compliance with policy and related documents	Audit Committee	Annual
Risk evaluation outcomes and risk maturity modelling progress/ summary report	Senior Management Team – detail Audit Committee - summary	Biennial

8. TRAINING

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8.1. Workers

This risk management policy and framework together with supporting tools will be made available to all workers through Skytrust and/or Council records system.

Risk management is an overarching skill that sits across all functions and, as such, Council considers it to be a necessary competency that workers need in order to perform their day to day activities effectively. Risk management awareness training will be provided to workers and will take into consideration the workers role and level of past risk management experience and knowledge.

Risk Management awareness training is captured the Training Needs Analysis (TNA), to ensure the effective implementation of this Framework.

8.2. Elected Members

Elected members are key strategic decision makers and it is therefore imperative that they have an understanding of Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework and their role in informed planning and decision making, based on sound risk management principles.

Risk Management awareness training will be scheduled within 12 months of Local Government elections.

8.3. Audit Committee

Audit committee members should, at a minimum, have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities as outlined in Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework, including the monitoring and review of reports and outcomes from management and external audits.

9. REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The review of Council's risk management framework and processes will be scheduled for completion within 3 years from endorsement.

10. APPENDICES

10.1. Appendix A: Definitions

10.2. Appendix B: Consequence Table

10.3. Appendix C: Likelihood/Frequency Table

10.4. Appendix D: Risk Matrix

10.5. Appendix E: Risk Tolerances

10.6. Appendix F: Control Definitions

10.7. Appendix G: Detailed Risk Areas

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Appendix A: Definitions

Assurance	A process that provides a level of confidence that objectives will be achieved within an acceptable level of risk
Consequence	The outcome of an event expressed qualitatively or quantitatively, being a loss, injury, disadvantage or gain. There may be a range of possible outcomes associated with an event.
Control	An action that modifies risks and increases the likelihood that objectives and goals of an organisation will be achieved.
Enterprise Risk Management	The process that is applied in strategy setting and decision making throughout the organisation to identify, evaluate and manage potential risks that are likely to impact on achievement of objectives, set risk appetite and tolerance and manage risk within those parameters, and to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of the organisation's objectives.
Event	Occurrence of a particular set of circumstances
Exposure/Rating	The risk exposure (also referred to as risk rating) is a qualitative value of the sum of the consequence of an event multiplied by the likelihood of that event occurring
External Context	External environment in which the organisation seeks to achieve its objectives
Frequency	A measure of the rate of occurrence of an event expressed as the number of occurrences of their event in a given time.
Internal Audit	An independent, objective assurance activity that uses a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.
Internal Context	Internal environment in which the organisation seeks to achieve its objectives
Likelihood	Chance of something happening
Monitor	To check, supervise, observe critically or record the progress of an activity, action or system on a regular basis in order to identify change.
Reasonable assurance	The concept that enterprise risk management, no matter how well designed and operated, cannot guarantee that an entity's objectives will be met. This is because of inherent limitations in all Risk Management Frameworks.
Risk Analysis	A systematic use of available information to determine how often specified events may occur and the magnitude of their consequences.
Risk Appetite	Is the amount of risk an organisation is prepared to accept in pursuit of its objectives
Risk Assessment	An overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation
Risk Culture	Risk culture refers to the behaviours that lead to how every person thinks about and manages risks,
Risk Evaluation	The process used to determine risk management priorities by comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards, target risk levels or other criteria.

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Risk Management	Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk.
Risk Management Framework	Set of components that provide the foundations and organisational arrangements for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and continually improving risk management throughout the organisation.
Risk Owner	Staff member with the accountability and authority to manage a risk
Risk Tolerance	The acceptable variation in outcomes related to specific performance measures linked to objectives the organisation seeks to achieve
Risk	The effect of uncertainty on objectives
Stakeholder	Person or organisation that can affect, be affected by, or perceive themselves to be affected by, a decision or activity

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Appendix B: Consequence Table

Qualitative Measures of Consequence (excluding Project Risks)

CONSEQUENCE					RISK AREA
Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Catastrophic (5)	
No or minor injuries, not requiring First Aid Treatment, or a near miss.	First Aid Treatment. Negligible impact on morale.	Significant Injury requiring medical attention. Short-term effect on morale & business.	Extensive injuries - serious Long-term Injury. Temporary disablement. Significant impact on morale & business.	Injury/ies resulting in permanent incapacitation; Injuries resulting in single or multiple deaths.	People (Employees, Contractors, volunteers & Elected Members)
Insignificant interruption to service delivery	Minor interruption to service delivery with minimal impact to customers/business	Moderate Interruption to service delivery. Customer impact up to 48hrs. Partial BCP action may be needed.	Major interruption to service delivery. Customer impact > 7 days. Component of BCP action may be needed.	Major interruption to delivery of all or most services for more than 14 days. Full BCP action may be needed.	Service Provision (Clients, public)
Low financial loss <\$5,000	Medium Financial loss \$5001 to \$50,000 or 1% of rate revenue	Financial loss \$50,001 to \$200,000 or 2.5% of rate revenue	Significant financial loss \$200,001 to \$1M or 5% of rate revenue	Extensive financial loss >\$1M or 10% of rate revenue	Financial Management (Revenue & Expenditure)
Immaterial legal, regulatory or internal policy failure. No penalty or liability. Recommendations for improvement. No disruption to business.	Minor legal or regulatory/internal policy failure – resolved without penalty & minor liability exposure Non-compliance. Minor disruption to Business	A repeated legal, regulatory or internal policy failure. Resulting in a penalty and potential liability exposure. Medium term restrictions of licence or accreditation. Prohibition order issued. Notable disruption to Business.	Systematic legal, regulatory or internal policy failure. Major penalty requiring a full review. Significant liability exposure. Long term restrictions on licence/ accreditation. Provisional Improvement Notice issued. Serious disruption to Business.	Substantial failure in administering legal, regulatory and policy requirements. Significant penalty and liability exposure. Serious / repeated breach of legislation / licence conditions. Prosecution Permanent loss of licence/accreditation/ proclamation. Inability to operate	Legal Compliance
Negligible loss of / or damage to IT or communications. No loss of data.	Limited loss of / or damage to IT and communications. No loss of data.	Damage to IT and communications hardware. Loss of data.	Damage to IT and communications hardware and software systems. Significant loss of data.	Extensive loss / damage to IT and communications. Permanent loss of data	Information Management (Records & IT)
Negligible damage <5% of the immediate community affected.	Limited damage requiring repairs. Affects 6 to 30 % of the immediate community.	Non-structural damage that requires repair. Affects 31-50% of the community.	Substantial damage to assets and / or infrastructure. Affects 51 to 70% of the community.	Permanent damage to assets and / or infrastructure. Demolition and/or reconstruction required. Affects >71% of the community.	Asset Management (Equipment & Property)
Negligible environmental damage / impact e.g. limited damage to a minimal area of low significance	Minor environmental damage / impact e.g. Minor short / medium term damage to localised area	Moderate environmental damage/impact. May require EPA involvement and incur cautionary notice.	Long term environmental damage / impact requiring remedial action and review of processes. EPA compliance order incurred.	Widespread long-term environmental damage and biodiversity degradation.	Environmental Management

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Negligible impact on Public Health	Minor impact on Public Health	Significant impact on Public Health	Major impact on Public Health	Extensive impact on Public Health	Public Health Management	
Some local complaints or negative commentary on council's social media (less than 3 people). No media or political attention.	Some Local Media or Political Attention. Community Concern – little adverse effect.	Moderate public interest, public embarrassment, moderate news profile. Potential for adverse local media or political attention	Sustained public interest, high negative news profile, Premier/Cabinet publicly involved, third party action. Long term effect on reputation.	Widespread public agitation, Government censure, high multiple impacts, widespread negative news profile.	Reputation	

Consequence Table for Project Risks

RANK	Cost	Schedule	Performance	Reputation	Safety
Insignificant	< 2.5% of remaining Project Budget	< 2.5% of remaining Project Schedule	Would cause the delivered capability to be functionally fit for all desired missions or tasks, but there may be some qualification to the level to which it would perform non-critical elements of the mission or task. Few such qualifications would exist.	Little community interest, low profile, no news items	Minor injuries not requiring first aid treatment, or near miss
Minor	2.5-10% of remaining Project Budget	2.5-10% of remaining Project Schedule	Would cause the delivered capability to be functionally fit for all desired missions or tasks, but there would be some qualification to the level to which it would perform non-critical elements of the mission or task. Several such qualifications would exist.	Low impact, some passing interest, low news profile	Minor Medical attention. Negligible impact on morale
Moderate	10-14% of remaining Project Budget	10-14% of remaining Project Schedule	Would cause the delivered capability to be partly functionally fit for purpose (i.e. degraded ability to perform all desired missions or tasks; however, there are known workarounds). There would be some qualification to the level to which it would perform (e.g. due to issues of relationships, concurrency, etc.). Several such qualifications would exist.	Moderate impact, moderate public interest, public embarrassment, moderate news profile	Significant Injury requiring medical attention. Short Term effect on morale and business
Major	15-19% of remaining Project Budget	15-19% of remaining Project Schedule	Would cause the delivered capability to be only partly functionally fit for purpose (i.e. degraded ability to perform some core missions or essential tasks or unable to perform non-core missions or tasks, and there are no known workarounds).	Sustained public interest, high negative news profile, Premier/Cabinet publicly involved, third party action	Serious Long-Term Injury. Temporary disablement. Significant impact on morale and business
Catastrophic	>20% of remaining Project Budget	>20% of remaining Project Schedule	Would cause the delivered capability to be functionally unfit for its intended purpose (i.e. unable to perform core missions or essential tasks).	Widespread public agitation, Government censure, high multiple impacts, widespread negative news profile	Would cause loss of life.

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Appendix C: Likelihood / Frequency Table

Likelihood	Explanation – Operations	Explanation – Projects/ Business Case	Frequency
Certain to occur	It is expected to occur in most circumstances, immediately or within a short period – likely to occur most weeks or months.	Could be expected to occur more than once during the study or project delivery	Expected to occur in most circumstances
Very likely	Will probably occur in most circumstances – several times a year.	Could easily be incurred and has generally occurred in similar studies or projects.	Probably will occur
Possible	Might occur at some time - within a one – two-year period.	Incurred in a minority of similar studies or projects	Moderate probability of an incident
Unlikely	Could occur at some time - in a two - five-year time frame.	Known to happen, but only rarely.	Low probability of an incident
Rare	May occur only in exceptional circumstances. Could be incurred in a 5-30-year timeframe.	Has not occurred in similar studies or projects. Conceivable but in extreme circumstances.	Extremely low probability. Will only occur in exceptional circumstances



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Appendix D: Risk Matrix

	CONSEQUENCE				
LIKELIHOOD	Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Catastrophic (5)
– Certain to occur	High (11)	High (16)	Extreme (20)	Extreme (23)	Extreme (25)
– Very Likely	Medium (7)	High (12)	High (17)	Extreme (21)	Extreme (24)
– Possible	Low (4)	Medium (8)	High (13)	Extreme (18)	Extreme (22)
– Unlikely	Low (2)	Low (5)	Medium (9)	High (14)	Extreme (19)
– Rare	Low (1)	Low (3)	Medium (6)	High (10)	High (15)

Hierarchy of Controls

Select controls in descending order from the Hierarchy of Control

1. **Eliminate:** Remove the hazard completely
2. **Substitute:** Substitute the hazardous process/substance with one which has a lower risk
3. **Isolation:** Remove the person from the hazardous environment or the hazardous environment from the person
4. **Engineering:** Implement engineering controls: change design or layout of work areas; change the nature, size, weight or number of items handled; use mechanical aids
5. **Administrative:** Establish policies, procedures & work practices, provide training
6. **Personal Protective Equipment:** Use equipment that provides protection to all individual persons against the hazard



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Appendix E: Risk Tolerances


The tolerance level for each residual risk, and specific to Council and its objectives, is stated below:

Zero	Willingness to accept no risk at all
Low	Willingness to accept very little risk
Moderate	Willingness to accept some reasonable risk
High	Willingness to accept a high level of risk

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Appendix F: Control Definitions

RATING	Definition	Note
Adequate	The control is designed in a manner that it can give reasonable assurance that the risk will be mitigated. In other words existing systems and procedures cover known circumstances and provide reasonable assurance for majority of risks.	This definition applies to the design of the control
Inadequate	The design of the control is not sufficient enough to give reasonable assurance that the risk will be mitigated. There may be no systems and procedures in place, or existing systems and procedures are obsolete and require review	This definition applies to the design of the control
Effective	The control operates in a manner that is effective in terms of being consistent, complete, reliable and timely.	This definition applies for the operating effectiveness of the control
Ineffective	The control does not or partially operates in a manner that is not effective in terms of being consistent, complete, reliable and timely.	This definition applies for the operating effectiveness of the control

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Appendix G: Detailed Risk Areas

Aerodromes	
Aged Care	
Animal Management	
Arts & Culture	
Cemeteries	
Community Development	
Council Land & Buildings	Includes: Building Safety; Hire of Council Facilities; Leasing Arrangements
Economic Development	
Emergency Management	Includes BCP
Event Management	
Financial Management	INCLUDED IN CONTROL TRACK
Governance	Includes: Special Committees; Elected Members
Health - Inspections	Food and other health inspections (proactive and reactive)
Human Resources	
Information Technology	
Planning & Development	Includes: Development Act; Development Assessment; Section 7
Playgrounds/Outdoor Gym Equipment	Includes Jumping Pillow
Procurement, Contracts, Tenders	INCLUDED IN CONTROL TRACK
Rail Interfaces	Includes: Agreements, Risk Assessments
Regulatory	Includes: Parking Enforcement
Roads & Footpaths	Roads & Footpath Management
Sport/Recreation	Includes Recreational Reserves
Tree Management	
Tourism	
Volunteers	
Waste Management	Includes: Rubbish Collection; Recycling
Waste Water Management	Includes common effluent systems (STEDS)
Stormwater Management	Includes drainage, water reuse schemes