



Blackall-Tambo
Regional Council

Cultural Policy

9 September 2014

Policy Number: Stra 2

Version Number: Two

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Cultural Policy

1 RESOLUTION

09/09A/14

2 INTRODUCTION

This cultural policy is to be a ‘living’ document which aims to value, develop, maintain and increase the levels of participation in the arts and cultural activities that exist in the Blackall-Tambo Region.

The term ‘cultural’ is taken to mean all of the customs and activities which constitute the lifestyle, a sound community spirit, strong sporting heritage, a sense of local identity and the heritage of the predominately rural community. Culture includes the Region’s history, design and ownership of public buildings and recreational spaces, community events, visual and performing arts, and all forms of creative activity.

The Cultural Policy will not act in isolation but will network and link with Council’s Corporate Plan 2014-2019, BTRC Arts and Cultural Plan, Sport and Recreation Plan, Tourism Strategies and Economic Development Plans.

3 VISION

The Blackall-Tambo Regional Council is committed to promoting and developing the existing rich and diverse culture of the Region for the benefit of all residents.

It is envisaged that cultural initiatives have the potential to not only provide satisfying employment and regional economic development, but foster an environment where all residents can experience a sense of community, ownership and civic pride.

The Blackall-Tambo Regional Council’s Cultural Policy aims to meet the changing needs of the Region while providing future direction and opportunities for the cultural and creative development of the Region enhancing the quality of life for the residents.

4 OBJECTIVES

1. To promote widespread equitable access and participation in cultural activities and regional events.
2. Acknowledge and enhance the unique lifestyle within the Region.
3. To preserve the history and heritage of the area including the preservation of current social history.

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4. To utilize, maintain and develop cultural facilities and services in line with regional requirements, priorities and Council’s budgetary allocations.
5. Create an environment which values and promotes creative and artistic expression.
6. To recognize and maximise the environmental and economic benefits to the region of a vibrant cultural industry.
7. To facilitate networking, collaboration and resource sharing throughout the region.
8. To recognise the value of volunteers and to encourage ongoing volunteer involvement.

5 STRATEGIES

5.1 OBJECTIVE 1 PROMOTION

To promote widespread equitable access and participation in cultural activities and regional events.

- Inform and encourage involvement from all residents in regional arts workshops.
- Comply with updated initiatives to enhance the delivery of the RADF Program
- Ensure that cultural opportunities are available across the full spectrum of residents within the Region.
- Develop artistic school holiday programs enveloping arts and culture.
- Facilitate and support special Regional events. E.g. Anzac Day, Australia Day.

5.2 OBJECTIVE 2 ACKNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCE

Acknowledge and enhance the unique lifestyle within the Region.

- Promote the use of local artwork at sports venues, council buildings and public spaces.
- Explore opportunities to profile Blackall-Tambo’s natural environment.
- Ensure in all aspects of planning that the appropriate groups and individuals are consulted.
- Ensure that the livability and the quality of life of the Region are maintained and the residents’ choices and preferences are respected.

5.3 OBJECTIVE 3: PRESERVATION

To preserve the history and heritage of the area including the preservation of current social history.

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- Recognize the importance of history and heritage and its links with our cultural heritage
- Encourage the Region to preserve remaining historical elements; oral, written and photographic.
- Facilitate groups to raise awareness of the importance of preserving items of historic and cultural significance.
- Develop and update management plans for Council owned heritage buildings and objects
- Collaborate with the Department of Environment and Heritage, rural landholders and traditional owners in respect to aboriginal artifacts.
- Preserve and enhance the cemetery reserves.

5.4 OBJECTIVE 4 UTILISE, MAINTAIN, DEVELOP

To utilise, maintain and develop cultural facilities and services in line with Regional requirements, priorities and Council’s budgetary allocations.

- Develop management plans for Council owned cultural, heritage and Community precincts. E.g. Blackall Cultural Centre, Tambo Shire Hall
- Encourage and support cultural activities that utilise existing facilities.
- Encourage and support multi-use of existing facilities.
- Maintain Blackall-Tambo Regional Council “in kind” support
- Pursue funding avenues in line with Regional needs and requirements.
- Inclusion of maintenance expenses in budget deliberations.
- Position the libraries as a focal point for community interaction.

5.5 OBJECTIVE 5 ENVIRONMENT

Create an environment which values and promotes creative and artistic expression.

- Facilitate partnerships with local arts workers in Regional projects and promote the use of local art work.
- Council’s continued in kind and financial support of the cultural activities as outlined in the Grant Policy, Sponsorship Policy and In Kind Support Policy
- Work collaboratively with organizations to facilitate art and cultural experiences for the Region. e.g. Tambo Arts Council, Gallery Committee to present exhibitions in the ‘Grassland Art Gallery’.
- Engage professional arts workers on Council programs. e.g. street signage, furniture.
- Promote the Region as the hub of art and culture. Maintain the position of ‘Arts Capital of the West’.

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5.6 OBJECTIVE 6 RECOGNISE AND MAXIMISE

To recognize and maximize the environmental and economic benefits to the region of a vibrant cultural industry

- Engage local arts workers in Regional projects.
- Investigate funding opportunities to develop creative industries.
- Use local art as a corporate gift line and purchase or commission locally.
- Encourage and support cultural development initiatives that provide employment opportunities for residents.
- Maintain links with all regional arts organizations.

5.7 OBJECTIVE 7 NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

To facilitate networking, collaboration and resource sharing between the two communities.

- List all Regional events and activities on the www.btrc.gov.au website.
- Encourage groups to list all events at least two months prior.
- Encourage cultural activities between the school, youth and aged groups within the Region.
- Develop and maintain a Regional register in conjunction with cultural audits.
- Encourage networking and resource sharing between groups, organizations and individuals.

5.8 OBJECTIVE 8 IDENTIFY AND RESPOND

To identify and respond to training and educational needs, with consideration of special interest groups. E.g. youth, aged and disabled.

- Encourage arts workers to engage in training and professional development.
- Investigate funding opportunities for training and development.
- Present arts activities in conjunction with vacation care programs.

5.9 OBJECTIVE 9 VOLUNTEERS

To recognize the value of volunteers and to encourage ongoing volunteer involvement.

- Nurture existing volunteers by developing a protocol for volunteer groups.
- Source funding to assist volunteers
- Recognize and reward exceptional volunteer activity e.g. Australia Day Awards.
- Maintain Developmental Officers within the Council Corporate structure.

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6 CHANGES SINCE LAST REVISION

New Policy as of 9 September 2014 to reflect current procedures

7 RECORDS

When completed and approved the original, signed hard copy of the policy is filed in the Master File.

Electronic copies are saved in the appropriately labelled folder in InfoXpert

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