



## 119 BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL SOCIAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

### Background

The vision of the Berrigan Shire Council is to create a sustainable, healthy and vibrant community that takes advantage of economic opportunities, promotes innovation and diversification, realises the potential of existing businesses and welcomes compatible strategic investment in the Shire.

The Council aims to achieve its vision by ensuring that the following principles, values, and ethics guide Council operations.

- Integrity
- Leadership
- Selflessness
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Respect
- Trust and teamwork
- Advocacy
- Partnership

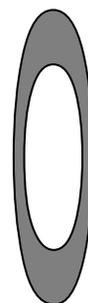
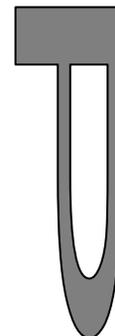
### Purpose

The purpose of this framework is to broadly define the Berrigan Shire Council's social justice obligations and the application of the *New South Wales Social Justice Strategy* principles of:

- Equity
- Access
- Participation; and
- Rights

### Scope

This framework applies to Councillors, Council employees, and contractors engaged on behalf of the Berrigan Shire Council, and who are during the course of their role are engaged in, and have responsibility for, the planning and delivery of Berrigan Shire Council activities.





## Principles

- **Equity** – there is fairness in decision-making, prioritising and allocation of resources. Moreover, the planning processes that guide decision-making are inclusive and protect the interests of current and future generations.
- **Access** – residents and visitors to the Berrigan Shire have access, within Shire Council resources, to the services and opportunities that improve their quality of life.
- **Participation** – the people who live, work and study-in the Shire are supported to become involved in Council and community decision-making.
- **Rights** – Within the exercise of its responsibilities and activities the Berrigan Shire Council supports:
  - a) The right to be respected as an individual and a member of the community without distinction or discrimination
  - b) The right to a standard of living which protects the health, safety and dignity of individuals, children, and families
  - c) The right to work and earn an income
  - d) The right to learning throughout life
  - e) The right to participate in the public and cultural life of the community
  - f) The right to access adequate food, clothing , housing, social support and health services
  - g) The right to access recreation and leisure facilities and services

## Legislative Requirements

1. Section 8 of the *Local Government Act* 1993 requires councils to provide directly or on behalf of other governments adequate, equitable, appropriate, efficient and effective services, and facilities, after consultation.
2. Section 402 (3) b of the *Local Government Act* 1993 ‘council must ensure that the community strategic plan is based on social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights’.

## Implementation



This framework and its decision-making principles are embedded in the Berrigan Shire Council's approach to the planning and delivery of Council services and activities which are described, but not limited, to the following:

1. Berrigan Shire *Councillor Code of Conduct* 2009
2. Berrigan Shire Council *Annual Report and Financial Statements*
3. Berrigan Shire Council *Management Plan* 2010 – 2013
4. Berrigan Shire Council *Strategic Business Plans – Road Assets, Water & Sewer*
5. Berrigan Shire Council *Asset Management Plans*
6. Berrigan Shire Council *Social and Community Plan* 2008 – 2011
7. Berrigan Shire Council *Cultural Plan* 2008 – 2011
8. State of the Environment Report
9. Local Environment Plan
10. State and Commonwealth Government Funding and Service Agreements

#### **Related Policies and Strategies**

Community Engagement Framework

Guarantee of Service

Statement of Business Ethics

Occupational Health and Safety Policy

Ecologically Sustainable Development

Revenue Policy (Rates and Charges)

Water and Sewer Supply Services Policy

(Adopted by Council 19/1/11)

