

Little Libraries Policy



Record number	D21/7876
Responsible Manager	Manager Community Development & Engagement
Other key internal stakeholders	Director Community & Cultural Development Director Assets & Environment Manager Community Development and Engagement Manager Parks Manager Library Services Arts & Culture Team Leader Community Prosperity
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1. PURPOSE

This policy aims to provide guidelines for requests from individuals and community groups for the installation of Little Libraries on land under the care and control of City of Tea Tree Gully.

2. POLICY

2.1 “Little Libraries” and Community Wellbeing

A Little Library is a free book-sharing box that works on an honour system where residents can take or share books. Sometimes referred to as “Little Street Libraries”, this initiative started as boxes and displays made out of a range of materials and often placed in residential front gardens. This initiative relies on the good will of the local community; users do not need to share a book to take a book.

There is growing recognition that the Little Library program can provide a number of community wellbeing benefits. This includes increasing connectedness and reducing social isolation of residents by encouraging participation and engagement in their local neighborhoods. The sharing of resources and information can act as a “talking point” and engender pride in the local area.

2.2 Requests for Little Libraries on Council Land

From time to time, Council receives requests from members of the public for the installation of little libraries on land that is under the care and control of Council.

On receipt of such a request, the requestor/applicant will be asked to consider whether the proposed Little Library can be appropriately located on private land, either on their own land or by seeking permission from the proposed landowner. It should be noted that development approval is not required if the proposed Little Library is located on private land, is smaller than 2 m² and free from business advertising signage.

If the above option is not appropriate or feasible, any requests for Little Libraries on Council land are required to go through an application process to provide a coordinated and cost effective approach.

Council will consider requests and grant approvals according to the following criteria:

- a. The approval process will consider the proposed funding source for the materials and supplies required to construct the Little library
- b. The approval process will consider the proposed Little Library structure size and shape
- c. The approval process will consider proposed location of the library and the proximity to other existing Little Libraries
- d. The volunteer custodian/s of the proposed Little Library is clearly identified and understands their role and responsibilities as a volunteer custodian.
- e. The approval process will consider the level of local community of interest in establishing the Little Library at the proposed location.

On-going maintenance of the Little Libraries on Council land will be at a service level determined by Council, as resources permit.

Council will have the right to remove any Little Library structures located on land under their care and control at any time.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the following definition applies:

Little Library

A Little Library is a free book-sharing box or display that works on an honour system where residents may take or share books. Residents do not need to share a book to take a book, the initiative relies on the good will of the local community.

4. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

There is no legislative requirement for Council to have a policy relating to this area.

4.1 Other references

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/POLICY

5.1 Strategic Plan

The following strategic objectives in Council’s Strategic Plan 2025 are the most relevant to this report:

Objective	Comments
Community	
<i>People feel a sense of belonging, inclusion and connection with the City and the community</i>	Little Libraries aims to improve the connection with and sense belonging for local residents
<i>Diversity is welcome and celebrated</i>	
<i>There are opportunities for people to volunteer, give back and share their skills with others</i>	Local residents volunteer their time as custodians looking after the library
<i>Our services are accessible to all and respond to changing community needs</i>	Little libraries improve access to books within the community
Places	
<i>Streets, paths, open spaces and parks are appealing, safe and accessible</i>	Little Libraries make parks and open spaces more appealing for the local community to visit

5.2 Organisation Plan

Our Strategic Plan is supported by an Organisation Plan, which focuses on five key themes of organisational excellence. The themes most relevant to this report are: People and Leadership; Customers and community relations;

5.3 Policies / Strategies

This Policy is not related to any other Policy or Strategies.

6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy will be implemented by the Chief Executive Officer or relevant portfolio director and managed in accordance with Council's scheme of delegations.