Keywords: Camping, RV

Strategic Plan:	***Vibrant Communities - Fostering a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming Community:*** *2.1 Actively recognise the history and connections of the First Nations people and their connection to country through cultural and social programs.* ***Strengthening Community Health, Wellbeing and Social Connections:*** *2.1 Facilitate opportunities for the community to deepen a sense of belonging.* ***Resilient Economy - Growth of the Visitor Economy and Regional Tourism*** *2.1 Confidently showcase the unique aspects of the region, and the community's sense of pride.*
Classification:	*Environment and Regulatory Services*
First Issued/Approved:	*May 2013*
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Next Review Due:	*October 2030*
Responsible Officer(s):	*General Manager Infrastructure, Environment and Regulatory Services* *Manager Environment and Regulatory Services* *Land and Property Officer* *Community Safety Officer*
Council File Reference:	*Council Policies (P)*
Applicable Legislation:	*Local Government Act 1999* *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 and Regulations* *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
Relevant Policies:	*Council By-law 3 – Local Government Land* *Fees and Charges Policy*
Related Procedures:	
Delegations:	*Berri Barmera Council Delegations Register*

1. Purpose

The Berri Barmera Council area is a significant tourist destination for regional travellers, providing opportunities to support local businesses. Visitors to the region utilise a range of

accommodation options including camping, caravanning and Recreational Vehicles (RV) travel. The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent and integrated framework for the management of camping on council owned land to enhance the visitor's experience while protecting the natural and cultural environment.

This policy is not intended to compete with existing public or private commercial camping operations within the region, but to complement and support them by addressing appropriate visitor needs.

2. Definitions

Council	Berri Barmera Council
Local Government Land	As per the meaning in the *Local Government Act 1999* Chapter 11
By-Law	As per the meaning in the *Local Government Act 1999* Chapter 12
Authorised Officers	A person appointed as an authorised person under Chapter 12, Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 1999*
Camping	Includes the occupation or placement of a sleeping bag, tent, vehicle, caravan or other makeshift structure as or for the purpose of temporary accommodation
Recreational Vehicle (RV)	A vehicle that is fully self-contained with respect to shower, toilet, washing, cooking and sleeping facilities and must have holding tanks for all toilet waste and sullage water, sufficient for at least 48 hours use by the occupants and to be disposed of at an authorised dump point.
Duration of stay	The length of time permitted to stay within the Berri Barmera Council area in a three (3) month period
Booking Platform	Camp sites are required to be booked using Councils online booking system
Effective Control	A person is exercising control of a dog either – (i) by means of physical restraint (a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed two (2) metres in length restraining the dog, a cage, vehicle or other object or structure); or (ii) by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.
Booking	a confirmation from the online booking system

3. Principles

To provide low cost camping as a supplement to the other camping opportunities within our area. Under Council By-law No 3 – Local Government Land, camping or staying on Local Government land, foreshore or road is prohibited unless otherwise identified.

4. Policy Statement

The footprint of formal designated camping sites and non-approved camp sites have expanded into adjacent areas, causing significant damage to cultural heritage and vegetation. For this reason, camping will only be permitted in formal designated camp sites as indicated by signage. Council will, at some locations where camping is not permitted, place "No Camping" signs. In the absence of either sign, camping is not permitted.

RV Friendly Locations

Council has provided RV Friendly status to the townships of Barmera and Berri.

Council has provided day use only areas for vehicles in the townships to allow the parking of vehicles towing either a trailer or caravan, as well as RV's. These areas do not allow for

overnight stays to occur but will provide travellers access to the services provided within the towns. These locations are not required to pay a fee.

Traditional Camping
Council has established areas on Local Government Land for day use only in out of town areas. These areas provide safe access and egress from the road and will provide only minimal rest facilities. No overnight stays are permitted and no charges apply.

Council has established out of town areas that are suitable for traditional camping as well as caravans and RV's. These locations provide minimum facilities to cater for overnight stays with fees applicable.

Any such locations identified for RV friendly and traditional camping are clearly identified with signage acknowledging that a booking is required for a stay. Bookings can be made via the booking platform with payment of associated fees and will identify camping terms and conditions.

Facilities
Council camp sites may include a various range of facilities at any location identified to provide overnight accommodation to visitors. These will generally include a range from the following:

- Toilets;
- Dump point;
- Bins;
- Fire pits; and
- Water.

Maximum Duration of stay
Council has provided access to accommodation on Local Government Land for a duration of up to fourteen (14) days within a three (3) month period at Lake Bonney and Martin Bend. Camping at Barmera RV Park is for a duration of four (4) days. Any person who wishes to extend their stay longer than this limit, shall submit their request in writing to Council prior to the completion of their time at the facility for consideration.

Camp Site Capacity
Council has determined the number of sites available at each location. Bookings are to be made through the online booking platform at www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au

- Barmera RV Park – 6 sites
- Lake Bonney – 45 sites
- Martin Bend – 40 sites

Designated site capacity is subject to change due to several factors including maintenance, safety considerations, environmental conditions, operational needs, special events, regulatory compliance or unforeseen circumstances. Council reserves the right to adjust site availability at any time to ensure public safety, protect infrastructure and maintain the sites.

Nature of Accommodation
Council has determined the types of accommodation permitted at each site and may designate areas for specific forms of stay only. Any other form of stay is not permitted. For example, if an area is identified as an "RV only site" then no other form of camping shall be permitted. This shall be clearly identified with signage at any site.

Event Camping Council may utilise land for accommodation purposes during large local events. These sites shall be established immediately prior to and operate only for the duration of, the event. Such sites will be considered only where;

- a significant influx of visitors is expected and existing local facilities are insufficient to meet demand; and
- event participants or crew, are required to remain on site to protect event related and personal assets.

For the duration of large events that are based within the region, Council may determine that the provision of overflow sites may be appropriate. These shall be opened after consultation between Council and event organisers to determine the nature and scale of any overflow area. Overflow area identifies within the Council district are located within Barmera at Lake Vista and Apex Park.

Event organisers will be required to apply for temporary event camping permits.

Charges
Any fees and charges will be listed in Council's Fees and Charges Schedule as per the Fees and Charges Policy, which is available for viewing at www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au

First People
The Council acknowledges the connection of the first people with the land and water. All efforts shall be made to ensure that the application of this policy is in accordance with any agreements between First Peoples and Council, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988,* other relevant legislation, and Native Title.

Compliance and Enforcement
Authorised Officers are responsible for the compliance and enforcement of the policy. Those who breach the rules prescribed for any location may be fined as appropriate. Council shall place signage at each location with reference to the booking platform where the terms and conditions are located. These include leaving your site free of litter on your departure and prohibiting any collection of native vegetation for comfort fires. Any person staying in conflict to Council's By-law No. 3 in areas that are not identified for overnight stays, may also be subject to appropriate enforcement action.

Cancellation of Accommodation
- a full refund will apply in the case of cancellation requests received at least five (5) business days before the booking arrival date;
- in the event of the government or any other authorised agency enforcing travel restrictions, or lockdown, and a booking is unable to be fulfilled, Council will refund the full amount of monies paid (less the online payment fee);
- no refunds or credits will be applicable in relation to cancellation requests that are received less than five (5) business days before the booking arrival date (unless the stipulated RV Park or Campsite has been closed by Council);
- bookings can be amended with a minimum two (2) business days' notice before the booking arrival date. Bookings cannot be changed on the day of arrival. Booking amendments include
    - change of vehicle registration number(s)
    - change of arrival and or departure date/s
    - change of preferred campsite (subject to availability)
    - change in the length of stay (more or less nights)
- once amended, a revised booking will be sent from the booking platform, confirming changes. If a booking amendment to change the length of stay is requested less than five (5) business days before the booking arrival date, you will not be eligible for a refund or partial refund.
    - The Council reserves the right to cancel or terminate a booking in the following circumstances:
        - in the case of a breach of any law, including the Council By-law No 3 – Local Government Land, in connection with the use of a campsite;

- a breach of the terms and conditions;
- if an annoyance or nuisance is caused to others in connection with your use of a campsite; or
- if any behaviour at a campsite is deemed unacceptable by the Council (including drunken or uncontrolled behaviour, offensive language, malicious or negligent use of facilities, theft or any other form of behaviour deemed unacceptable by the Council).

VERSION CONTROL
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Date	**List of amendments**
Adopted 19 September 2023	Minor amendments
Adopted 27 October 2026	Minor amendments