

Human Rights

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Scope

Human rights are the basic rights that belong to us all because we are human beings. They have been recognised around the world as the basic standard required for governments, societies and communities to operate in a respectful and peaceful manner. Council is committed to ensuring that human rights are respected through its operations via its policies and procedures.

Background

Human rights are the foundation for freedom, justice, peace and respect and are an essential part of any democratic and inclusive society that respects the rule of law, human dignity and equality.

Everyone has the same human rights: men, women, children, rich and poor, all nationalities and faiths. Human rights are about recognising and respecting the dignity of others.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To ensure Council operations do not breach the human rights of individuals; and
- To ensure Council policies and procedures comply with the tenants of the Human Rights Charter.

Approach

We aim to achieve the objectives of this policy by:

- Meeting the compliance requirements required under the Human Rights legislation;
- Developing and implementing a human rights Action Plan to guide the Council in its compliance; and
- Ensuring all Council personnel and their representatives (eg: section 86 committees) are aware of their responsibilities.

Deployment

The Director Community and Corporate Services is responsible for ensuring this policy is communicated to all of Council's staff.

Application of the Policy

This Policy is applicable to Towong Shire Council in all its operations and functions particularly in relation to the development of policies, procedures and local laws. The Senior Management Group are responsible for ensuring the policy is enacted throughout Council's operations and in their own departments.

Relevant legislation

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)

Resources

The following resources are committed by Council to assist with the implementation of this policy:

- Director Community and Corporate Services to undertake an audit on compliance with the Action Plan; and
- Staff dedicated to implementing the Action Plan.

Results

The deployment of this policy together with the results achieved will be reviewed at least annually.