



Community Garden Guidelines (Private Land)

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Responsibility	Community Team
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Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999; Environment Protection Act 1993; Disability Discrimination Act 1992
Related Policies / Procedures	Community Garden Policy; Volunteer Policy; Grants and Sponsorship Policy; Community Land Management Plans Growing Community Guidebook: https://communitygarden.org.au/sa_book/
Related Strategic Documents	DCY Strategic Community Plan: VISION 2030
DCY Strategic Community Plan: VISION 2030	2. Our Environment 2.6 Living Sustainably 2.6.1 Support community groups to develop community gardens with Council's Community Garden policy and the established FLEC Community Garden serving as a valuable resource for others.

1. Purpose

These guidelines support community members and groups to establish and manage community gardens on privately owned land, where the District Council of Yankalilla does not have a direct management role.

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2. Key Principles for a Community Garden

- 2.1. Community-led: Planned, managed and maintained by the community.
- 2.2. Not-for-profit: Focused on social, environmental and wellbeing outcomes
- 2.3. Inclusive and accessible: Welcoming diverse participants and various abilities.
- 2.4. Sustainable: Environmentally responsible and viable long-term.
- 2.5. Collaborative: Supported by partnerships, not reliant on Council.

3. Understanding Council's Role

Council may support by:

- Providing general and advice and guidance
- Linking groups to relevant policies, templates or resources
- Promoting community gardens and volunteer opportunities
- Identifying potential grant funding opportunities
- Supporting community capacity building

4. Getting Started

Step 1: Build a community group and define goals

- Form a core group of interested individuals
- Engage neighbours and local stakeholders
- Establish clear goals (food production, education, social connection, etc.)

Step 2: Assess site suitability

Ensure the site meets key criteria:

- Adequate sunlight (ideally 6+ hours per day)
- Reliable access to water
- Safe and accessible location – consider flooding potential, land slope, toilet access, parking available.
- Suitable size and layout

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- Soil quality (if unknown, may require testing)
- Compatible with surrounding land uses

Step 3: Secure land access

Obtain written consent from the landowner before planning begins.

Develop a clear agreement covering:

- Length of use
- Access arrangements
- Responsibilities (maintenance, utilities, insurance)
- Exit arrangements
- Conflict resolution

Step 4: Establish Governance

- Define roles and responsibilities
- Develop basic policies (e.g. safety, behaviour, maintenance)
- Organise volunteers and working bees
- Maintain clear communication channels

Step 5: Develop a garden plan

- Site layout (beds, paths, access points)
- Water management
- Waste and composting systems
- Accessibility considerations (*Disability Discrimination Act 1992* compliance for garden beds, pathways, seating and other areas)
- Safety measures
- Infrastructure required (Council planning permission may need to be sort for shelter installations and other larger structures)

5. Risk, Safety and Compliance

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The governing community group created is responsible for:

- Conducting risk assessments
- Ensuring safe use of tools and equipment
- Managing public safety and site access
- Complying with relevant legislation
- Undertaking Working with Children checks where required.

6. Funding and Sustainability

Community gardens should aim to be self-sustaining. Possible funding sources include:

- Grants (local, state, or federal)
- Fundraising and donations
- Membership contributions

A strong governance structure improves funding success.

7. Important Considerations

Council Community Garden Policy does not apply to privately owned land, and Council has no formal management role.

All legal, financial and operational risks sit with the community group and/or landowner.

Clear agreements and good governance are essential.

8. Document Relationships

This guideline should be read alongside the District Council of Yankalilla Community Garden Policy, which applies to gardens on Council-owned or managed land only.

9. Document History

Date	Version	Council Resolution No.	Description of changes
August 2026	1.0	C26173	Adoption of Guidelines

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