

USE OF FIREWORKS

Policy Endorsement	Endorsement Required by Council		
EDRMS Object id:	A747160	Authority:	Council
Directorate:	Development Services	Responsible Officer:	Manager Regulatory Services
Policy Type:	Discretionary	Version No:	003
1st Adopted by Council	11 October 2010 Minute No. 631	Last Adopted by Council:	29 January 2019 Minute No. 930
Review Period:	Every 2 years	Next Review:	January 2021

1. Purpose

To establish clear guidelines for the legitimate use of fireworks within the City of Greater Dandenong.

2. Background

Council is concerned about the potential impact of fireworks on local amenity. As result of this, an operational policy has been in place for some time, to assist officers and fireworks operators in ensuring that fireworks displays do not unreasonably impact on residential amenity.

The operational policy created restrictions on when, where and for how long fireworks displays could occur. It also placed some very clear responsibilities on operators, in terms of notifying residents about events. The safety aspects of fireworks displays are dealt with through state legislation, which is administered by Worksafe Victoria, so the operational policy did not address those issues.

Over time, the operational policy moved to a formal Council policy, to reinforce Council's commitment to effectively managing the use of fireworks in this municipality.

In 2013, the policy was reviewed, to further clarify the types of events at which Council would support fireworks displays.

3. Scope

This policy will apply to all decisions or approvals made by Council Officers, in respect of fireworks displays within the City of Greater Dandenong.

4. References

- Local Government Act 1989
- Summary Offences Act 1966 Section 4 (j)

5. Definitions

Non Profit organisation means:

An organisation that is not operating for the profit or gain of its individual members, whether these gains would have been direct or indirect.

'Public events' means:

Events conducted by `non profit' organisations that occur in public places within the City of Greater Dandenong, and which are open to all members of the public, whether upon payment of a fee or not.

'Public Place' means:

The same as is set out in the Summary Offences Act 1966.

6. Council Policy

- Fireworks displays are only allowed in connection with public events.
- All fireworks displays must be approved in writing by Council.
- Fireworks displays may generally only occur up to 9.30 pm and operators must ensure that:-
 - All residential properties within a 1.5 kilometre radius of the site must receive a notice of the display in their letterboxes no earlier than seven and no later than three days before the display commences. Evidence of notice delivery must be submitted to Council in the form of a receipt from a distribution company engaged to undertake delivery or a statutory declaration.
 - This notice should disclose the nature, duration and times of the display.

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- It should also advise residents to ensure that their pets are secured within their homes to prevent escaping due to fear of the fireworks display.
- The notice should also include a staffed contact phone number for event organisers for the period 7 days before, during and seven days after the event, should residents have any questions or concerns.
- Contents of the letterbox notice must be approved by Council prior to circulation.
- A Public Notice providing the same information as set out above, and approved by the Council, must be placed in a minimum of 2 local newspapers circulating in the area of where the event is to be held, at least seven days prior to the event.

7. Related Documents

Nil.