



Open Space Reserve Fund Policy

Policy Type:	Policy		
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Function:	7 - Financial Management	Responsible Officer:	Manager Financial Services

A - PREAMBLE

1. Council and the community value open space for leisure and recreation, biodiversity, fresh air and the amenity and aesthetics it provides. The City is relatively abundant with open space compared with many cities and this establishes a positive point of difference which the community appreciates.
2. The Salisbury City Plan 2030 contains the following objectives relevant to the provision of open space:
 - 2.1. Key Direction 2: The Sustainable City
 - Have natural resources and landscapes that support biodiversity and community wellbeing
3. The city operates an Open Space Reserve Fund for the purpose of receiving cash contributions from developers in lieu of the provision of actual open space as required under Section 50 (10) of the *Development Act 1993*.

B - SCOPE

1. This policy applies to the operation of the Open Space Fund.
2. Open space is integral to the character of the City of Salisbury and is a major contributor to the lifestyle experienced by the Community. As part of sub division and residential infill developments across the City, it is a requirement that open space or open space assets are provided for the community within these developments, or that financial contributions are made to Council to be used to enhance the existing open space within the City. The legislative requirements recognises that having open space and open space assets, such as reserves and parks, enhances the quality of life of residents through recreation and play, positive physical and mental health impacts, diversity in flora and fauna, aesthetic and economic value and social interaction opportunities.

C – POLICY PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

3. This policy sets out the basis on which the Open Space Reserve Fund is to be administered and for what purpose the funds can be applied.

D - DEFINITIONS

1. **Financial Reserve** – an accounting treatment that ‘reserves’ (sets aside) part of council’s equity for a specific purpose.
2. **Open Space** – Council owned or controlled areas which are permanently set aside and/or used for public recreation and/or reserved to protect or buffer natural areas.

E - POLICY STATEMENT

1. Section 50(10) of the Development Act 1993 states:

(10) Money received under this section –

- (a) in the case of money received by a council–must be immediately paid into a special fund established for the purposes of this section and applied by the council for the purpose of acquiring or developing land as open space;

2. All open space cash contributions received under Section 50(10) of the *Development Act 1993* are initially received as contributions as required for recognition purposes by Australian Accounting Standards and allocated to the financial reserve account ‘Open Space Reserve Fund’, being the “special fund” as required by *Development Act S50(10)(a)*. Interest is applied to the monthly balance of the reserve account at the LGFA twenty four hour at call rate applicable on the first of each month. The funds may only be applied to projects following formal approval by Council, either through the budget, or budget review, and for the purposes of acquisition and development of open space, which include

3.1. The purchase of land for parks or open space generally;

3.2. Developing land as open space may include:

- Seating/spectator cover
- Grass areas/ovals
- Public toilets
- Landscaping
- Barbeque facilities
- Play equipment
- Pathways/walking trails
- Fencing
- Carparking
- Signs relating to recreation pursuits
- Reticulation/irrigation systems

3.3. Other purposes designed to increase the use and unrestricted access by the community.

F - LEGISLATION

Development Act 1993

Document Control

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