

POLICY REGISTER

COMMUNITY SHARPS MANAGEMENT POLICY

Policy adopted: 24th August 2006 Minute No. 245.8.06

Reviewed: 27th July 2006
22nd May 2025 Minute No. 170.5.25

File Ref: P13-1, G2-4.3

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Issue	Prepared/Revised by and Date	Action/Amendment Description	Approved By and Date
1.0		First Edition	Council Minute No. 245.8.06 (24th August 2006)
2.0	Sylvester Otieno 30th April 2025	Second Edition	Council Minute No. 170.5.25 (22nd May 2025)

Background

Needles, syringes, lancets and other community sharps are generated in a wide range of non-clinical situations, including residential and commercial property, public areas and public facilities. Unsafe or inappropriate disposal may represent a risk to council employees, contractors, the community, and the environment.

Council is committed to maintaining high standards of public health, environmental management and workplace safety. To fulfil this objective, it is necessary to properly manage the disposal of community sharps to provide safe and healthy environments for our employees, residents and visitors.

The aim of this Policy is to clearly articulate that Council is responding to community sharps management issues through the effective management of associated public and workplace risks.

Policy statement

The Community Sharps Management Policy outcomes for public health, and workplace safety are to work in partnership with the community and other stakeholders to:

- Provide and maintain high standards of public health and workplace safety that comply with or exceed the requirements of all relevant legislation, through the effective management of community sharps
- Provide services and infrastructure that maximise appropriate community sharps disposal and minimise the potential for needlestick injuries to occur to workers, community members or visitors
- Regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of objectives, strategies and actions for the management of community sharps

Policy procedures

The Community Sharps Management Plan provides the framework for objectives, strategies and actions for community sharps management.

Policy Review

This Policy should be reviewed every 4 years or within 12 months following an election of Council. The Policy may be reviewed and amended at any time at Council's discretion (or if legislative changes occur).