

Council Policy

Prohibition on the Organised Release of Balloons



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D18/5877[v3]

1. Title

Prohibition on the Organised Release of Balloons

2. Purpose

Balloon releases as part of community events or special commemorative occasions have not previously been considered potentially harmful to the environment. However, as per the Western Australian Local Government Association's Helium Balloon Litter Background Paper, research indicates that releasing helium balloons can have a detrimental environmental impact.

While balloons may eventually break down into smaller pieces in the environment, they do not biodegrade or breakdown quickly. There may also be attachments to the balloons, such as strings which also do not break down easily. The balloon fragments and attachments have the potential to be consumed by turtles and marine birds, resulting in the depletion of marine fauna.

This Policy has been developed to reduce the environmental harm caused by balloon fragments generated in the City of Kwinana and to promote greater awareness in the community of the impact of balloons and other litter in the environment.

3. Scope

This policy provides guidance to City of Kwinana elected members and staff and to members of the public in relation to the prohibition on the organised release of balloons during events organised and funded by the City of Kwinana and from City of Kwinana land, reserves, buildings and venues for hire.

4. Definitions

Organised release of balloons – The planned release of balloons into the environment.

5. Policy Statement

The Policy prohibits the organised release of balloons at City of Kwinana events and on City of Kwinana land, reserves, buildings and venues for hire.

5.1 The organised release of balloons is prohibited at events and functions, organised and/or funded by the City of Kwinana.

5.2 The organised release of balloons is prohibited on City of Kwinana land, reserves, buildings and venues for hire.

5.2.1 Persons that hire City of Kwinana buildings and reserves will be required to acknowledge the prohibition on the organised release of balloons:

- a) with relevant information provided in the application forms as a Condition of Hire; and
- b) as a condition on any relevant permit/approval.

6. Financial/Budget Implications

There are no anticipated financial implications as a result of this Policy.

7. Asset Management Implications

There are no anticipated asset management implications as a result of this Policy.

8. Environmental Implications

A prohibition on the organised release of balloons in the City of Kwinana is likely to assist in the reduction of the detrimental impact of balloon fragments and associated hazardous attachments in the environment.

9. Strategic/Social Implications

This proposal will support the achievement of the following objective detailed in the Strategic Community Plan.

Plan	Objective	Measure
Strategic Community Plan – A beautiful natural environment	3.2 Educate and promote improved environmental land management	Environmental Education Strategy

It is possible that some residents, groups and/or associations may be opposed to the prohibition on the organised release of balloons.

10. Occupational Safety and Health Implications

There are no anticipated occupational safety and health implications as a result of this Policy.

11. Risk Assessment

A risk assessment conducted as part of the Policy review has indicated that the risk to the City by not providing an adequate policy to address the issue of organised release of balloons would result in a risk rating of moderate.

It is further assessed that the risk rating following the implementation of this policy would result in a risk rating of low.

12. References

Name of Policy	Prohibition on the Organised Release of Balloons
Date of Adoption and resolution No	13/06/2018 #194
Review dates and resolution No #	Nil
Next review due	13/06/2020
Legal Authority	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Section 2.7 – The Role of Council.
Directorate	City Regulation
Department	Environmental Health
Related documents	Acts/Regulations <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>

	<p>Plans/Strategies City of Kwinana Strategic Community Plan Environmental Education Strategy</p> <p>Policies Nil</p> <p>Work Instructions The Policy is to be circulated to all staff once adopted. The Reserves, Ovals and Public Open Space Hire Form is to be updated with the relevant information as a Condition of Hire.</p> <p>Other documents Nil</p>
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Note: Changes to References may be made without the need to take the Policy to Council for review.