



Managed Overflow Policy

INTENT

The Balonne Shire Council Recreational Vehicle and Freedom Camping Strategy recommended the establishment of formal overflow policy. Council may wish to consider incorporating the policy as a new schedule within Subordinate Local Law no. 1.6.

Need for a RV and Camping Overflow Policy

During a small number of occasions throughout the year (normally associated with larger visitor and community events), the Shire's commercial and non-commercial recreational vehicle (RV) and camping sites reach capacity. A formal policy is required to provide for managed overflow arrangements during these busy trading periods, and set out accompanying procedures for how the policy will be managed and implemented.

Objectives of an Overflow Policy

The aim of the policy is to ensure that visitors to Balonne Shire are offered safe, secure and good quality alternatives to camping in rest areas or other informal/ illegal locations during these busy periods, while having due regard to the business operations of existing RV and camping sites throughout the Shire.

Temporary seasonal overflow arrangements will adhere to temporary use conditions of the Queensland Planning Regulation (QPR) and provisions of Balonne Shire Council Subordinate Local Law No. 1.6

Conditions and Criteria for Application of the Overflow Policy

- 1 The policy relates solely to camping. No provisions relate to recreational facilities, cabins or self-contained temporary accommodation. For the purposes of this policy, an RV is a vehicle that combines transportation and temporary living quarters for travel, recreation and camping.
- 2 The decision to implement overflow camping policy arrangements rests with Balonne Shire Council after consultation with existing commercial and non-commercial caravan park operators.
- 3 The following criteria will be considered in Council's decision to apply the overflow policy:
 - i. Where no vacancies are available (or are reasonably forecast to be available in the lead up to a major event or anticipated peak trading period) at existing caravan parks within a 15km catchment, including approved overflow sites within existing caravan parks, Balonne Shire Council may authorise the operation of overflow camping grounds at suitable pre-identified sites.



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- ii. Where a suitable camping site cannot be found because of the size of the vehicle or some other determinant (e.g. travelling with pets, including horses), Balonne Shire Council may authorise operation of overflow camping grounds.
- iii. The decision to implement the overflow policy may be taken in advance of a peak period or event, where it is determined that capacity is likely to be reached.

Maximum Stay at an Overflow Camping Site

- 4 A camper is permitted to book for a maximum of seven consecutive days at the overflow site.
- 5 Authorised camp ground hosts are authorised to be onsite prior to, and after, the overflow period, providing for necessary site preparation and management purposes.

Management of Overflow Sites

- 6 Management of overflow camping and RV sites will be determined by Council. Council may manage operation of the sites directly, via delegated authority, or appoint a camp host.
- 7 During the utilisation of the overflow sites, Council officers or its authorised delegates will resolve any unforeseen problems arising, except where a camping ground host has been formally appointed. In these circumstances, the camping ground host is responsible for day-to-day supervision and management of the facility. A camping ground host will have delegated authority over the site.
- 8 The maximum number of vehicles allowed in an overflow facility area will be determined based on allocated spacing between vehicles, size of vehicles (whether they have trailers), turning circles, and usable space in the allocated area.
- 9 Primary-use activities at the overflow area will take precedence at all times.

Selection of Overflow Sites

- 10 Overflow sites shall be determined by Balonne Shire Council.

Fees

- 11 Fees for camping at the identified overflow facilities shall be determined in accordance with Council's annual schedule of fees and charges.

Other Acceptable Uses for Overflow Camping Sites

- 12 Camping by organisations in some instances or by community members at community events may be authorised on application to Council, including exemptions from some or all the conditions in this policy.



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