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1. Introduction

Mid Murray Council is committed to an integrated approach to risk management to assist in setting appropriate strategies, achieving objectives and making informed decisions, in the best interests of our community.

Mid Murray Council recognises that managing risk is part of governance and leadership, is fundamental to how the organisation is managed at all levels and will contribute to continuous improvement of its management systems.

Mid Murray Council's Purpose – Work collaboratively to strengthen and enrich our community.

The risk management process is not an isolated function and should be applied to all activities, including decision making, at all levels. Effective identification, analysis, evaluation and treatment of risks is critical to Mid Murray Council achieving its objectives and meeting stakeholder expectations.

2. Purpose

This Framework outlines the requirements and processes supporting Mid Murray Council's Risk Management Policy to create and protect value by improving performance, encouraging innovation and supporting the achievement of strategic objectives.

This Framework:

- 2.1 Aligns with the objectives of the *Risk Management Policy*;
- 2.2 Establishes roles and responsibilities for managing risk;
- 2.3 Documents a standardised, formal and structured process for assessment, evaluation, treatment and monitoring of identified risks;
- 2.4 Encourages innovation by integrating risk management into the strategic and operational processes throughout the organisation;
- 2.5 Will assist Mid Murray Council in maximising its opportunities, whilst minimising negative impacts identified during the risk management process;
- 2.6 Establishes the process for all risks outside the defined risk appetite when defined to be escalated to the appropriate level and for additional treatment options to be implemented;

- 2.7 Sets out reporting protocols for relevant risk information to be provided to Council, Audit & Risk Committee, Senior Management Team and throughout the organisation; and
- 2.8 Will support the development of a continuous improvement culture by integrating risk management processes throughout the organisation.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 **Assurance** - A process that provides a level of confidence that objectives will be achieved within an acceptable level of risk.
- 3.2 **Consequence** - The outcome of an event expressed qualitatively or quantitatively, being a loss, injury, disadvantage or gain. There may be a range of possible outcomes associated with an event.
- 3.3 **Control** - An action that modifies risks and increases the likelihood that objectives and goals of an organisation will be achieved.
- 3.4 **Enterprise Risk Management** - The process that is applied in strategy setting and decision making throughout the organisation to identify, evaluate and manage potential risks that are likely to impact on achievement of objectives, set risk appetite and tolerance and manage risk within those parameters, and to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of the organisation's objectives.
- 3.5 **Event** – Occurrence of a particular set of circumstances.
- 3.6 **Exposure/Rating** - The risk exposure (also referred to as risk rating) is a qualitative value of the sum of the consequence of an event multiplied by the likelihood of that event occurring
- 3.7 **External Context** - External environment in which the organisation seeks to achieve its objectives.
- 3.8 **Frequency** - A measure of the rate of occurrence of an event expressed as the number of occurrences of their event in a given time.
- 3.9 **Internal Audit** - An independent, objective assurance activity that uses a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.
- 3.10 **Internal Context** - Internal environment in which the organisation seeks to achieve its objectives.
- 3.11 **Likelihood** - Chance of something happening.
- 3.12 **Monitor** - To check, supervise, observe critically or record the progress of an activity, action or system on a regular basis in order to identify change.
- 3.13 **Reasonable assurance** - The concept that enterprise risk management, no matter how well designed and operated, cannot guarantee that an entity's objectives will be met. This is because of inherent limitations in all Risk Management Frameworks.
- 3.14 **Risk Analysis** - A systematic use of available information to determine how often specified events may occur and the magnitude of their consequences.
- 3.15 **Risk Appetite** - Is the amount of risk an organisation is prepared to accept in pursuit of its objectives.
- 3.16 **Risk Assessment** - An overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation.
- 3.17 **Risk Culture** - Risk culture refers to the behaviours that lead to how every person thinks about and manages risks.
- 3.18 **Risk Evaluation** - The process used to determine risk management priorities by comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards, target risk levels or other criteria.
- 3.19 **Risk Management** - Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk.
- 3.20 **Risk Management Framework** - Set of components that provide the foundations and organisational arrangements for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and continually improving risk management throughout the organisation.
- 3.21 **Risk Owner** - Staff member with the accountability and authority to manage a risk.

- 3.22 **Risk Tolerance** - The acceptable variation in outcomes related to specific performance measures linked to objectives the organisation seeks to achieve.
- 3.23 **Risk** – The effect of uncertainty on objectives.
- 3.24 **Stakeholder** - Person or organisation that can affect, be affected by, or perceive themselves to be affected by, a decision or activity.

4. Local Government Risk Services (LGRS)

From the perspective of the Local Government sector in South Australia, certain insurable risks have been transferred to a number of self-managed Schemes managed by Local Government Risk Services (LGRS), via payment of an annual contribution. The Schemes are:

- 4.1 Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS) for the purposes of Civil Liability coverage & claims management;
- 4.2 Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme (LGAWCS) for the purposes of workers compensation coverage & claims management; and
- 4.3 Local Government Association Asset Mutual Fund (LGAAMF) for the purposes of asset and fleet coverage and claims management.

As a Member of the above Schemes and Fund, Mid Murray Council must ensure that it has developed, endorsed and implemented WHS, asset and risk management protocols.

LGRS provides a range of fully funded and subsidised programs and support services to assist in managing risk across the organisation.

5. Risk Management Principles

The Australian standard for *Risk Management Guidelines* (AS ISO 31000:2018) describes risk as:

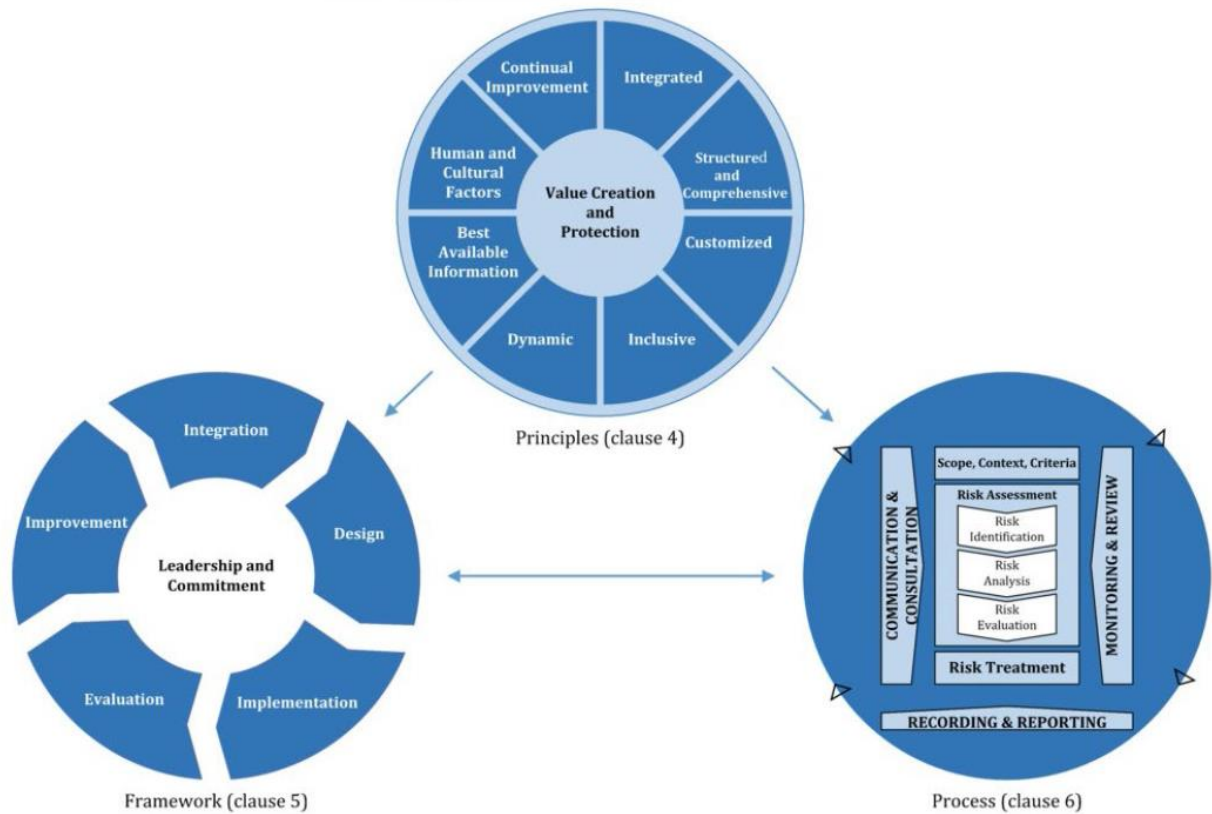
“...the effect of uncertainty (either positive, negative or both) on objectives...”

The goal is not to eliminate all risks, but rather to manage risks involved in delivering Mid Murray Council’s functions and services and to create and protect value for stakeholders and community.

AS ISO 31000:2018 is based on the following eight principles, which underpin this Framework and guide how risk is managed across the organisation:

Integrated	An integral part of all organisational activities
Structured and comprehensive	Contributes to consistent and comparable results
Best available information	Based on historical and current information, as well as on future expectations, taking into account any limitations and uncertainties associated with such information and expectations. Information should be timely, clear and available to relevant stakeholders
Customised	Customised and proportionate to Mid Murray Council’s internal and external context related to its objectives
Human and cultural factors	Recognises that the behaviour and culture can significantly influence all aspects of risk management at each level and stage
Inclusive	Requires appropriate and timely involvement of stakeholders to enable their knowledge, views and perceptions to be considered
Dynamic	Anticipates, detects, acknowledges and responds to changes and events in an appropriate and timely manner as internal and external contexts change and new risks emerge while others change or disappear
Continual improvement	Learning and experience drives continuous improvement

6. Risk Management Framework



Source – ISO 31000 Risk Management Guidelines

6.1 Leadership and Commitment

Mid Murray Council and its Senior Management Team will demonstrate a clear commitment to managing risks throughout the organisation by:

- 6.1.1 Developing and implementing a risk management policy, framework and supporting tools and processes;
- 6.1.2 Allocating appropriate resources to implement, monitor and improve the effectiveness of risk management;
- 6.1.3 Ensuring that staff, contractors, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders have the appropriate skills and knowledge to deal with risk;
- 6.1.4 Allocating and upholding accountability with respect to risk management and ensuring it is understood;

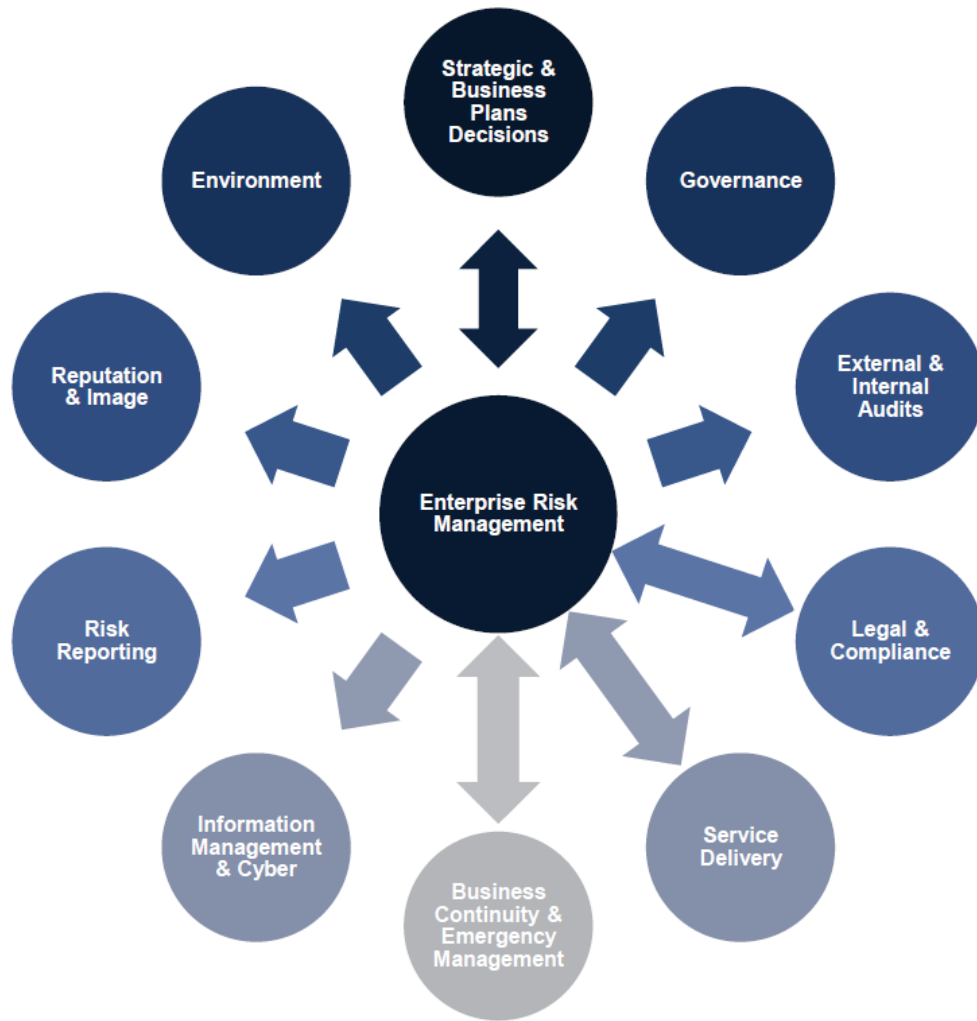
Ensuring compliance with legislative and contractual obligations and policy requirements.

6.2 Integration

This Framework provides the methods and processes Mid Murray Council use to manage both positive and negative risks throughout the organisation.

Governance guides the direction of the organisation and provides the rules, processes and practices necessary to achieve objectives. Management structures that define risk management accountability and oversight roles across the organisation are critical to achieving sustainable performance and long-term viability.

Risk Management is not just about the risk assessment process nor is it a stand-alone discipline. In order to maximise benefits and opportunities, it requires integration throughout the organisation, as follows:



6.2.1 Enterprise Risk Management

Enterprise risk management encompasses strategic, operational and project risk management.

Strategic risks are identified by reference to both the external environment and strategic objectives. Strategic risks are monitored by the Risk Working Group, Senior Management Team, Audit & Risk Committee and Council, with all risk assessments captured in the Skytrust Risk Register and all reporting recorded within the record management system.

Operational Risks arise from day-to-day functions and operations to deliver core services. Operational risks are monitored by the Risk Working Group, Senior Management Team.

Project Risks are the uncertain events or conditions that have potential to impact either positively or negatively on project objectives. Project risks are monitored by the project manager and reported to the Risk Working Group, Senior Management Team and the Council, (where the project is of strategic significance).

6.2.2 Strategic Planning and Decision Making

Strategic and business planning, (which includes long-term financial planning and annual budgeting,) must adequately consider the risks inherent in setting and pursuing objectives and the effectiveness of systems that are in place to manage and communicate those risks.

Risk management is integrated into governance structures, including decision making, which is supported by incorporating risk analysis into Council and committee reports, where there is a potential impact on the achievement of strategic objectives or on the wider community.

6.2.3 Legislative Compliance

The *Local Government Act (SA) 1999* applies to the functions of Councils and Prescribed Bodies in South Australia, however, due to the diversity of functions provided, a range of other Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practice and Standards also apply.

Mid Murray Council has implemented a Work Health and Safety (WHS) management system to manage hazards and risks to workers and members of the public, in accordance with the *WHS Act (SA) 2012* and Return to Work SA's Performance Standards for Self Insurers.

6.2.4 Service delivery

Risk exposures vary according to the functions, facilities and services provided and these will inevitably change over time. Mid Murray Council's planning processes address both the risks associated with provision of functions, facilities and services, (such as capacity and resources,) and risks arising from their delivery, (such as public safety and community reaction).

6.2.5 External and Internal Audit

Mid Murray Councils intention is to establish an internal audit is an independent, objective assurance activity designed to add value and improve the organisation's operations. It provides a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. The process of internal audit may result in the identification of new risks or more effective treatments for existing risks.

In addition to its own internal audit program, Mid Murray Council engages an independent auditor to undertake an audit of internal controls as required by Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Part 6, Regulation 19 of the *Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 2011*.

6.2.6 Emergency management

Mid Murray Council plans for, and undertakes, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities to support its community in the event of emergencies and natural disasters. This process includes alignment and co-operation with lead agencies and other Councils in the state as well as providing information and training for workers to protect them from harm whilst responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

6.2.7 Business Continuity Plan & Information Technology Disaster Recovery Plan

Mid Murray Council is committed to ensuring that critical business functions continue after a business interruption and has the following plans, taking into consideration reasonably foreseeable risks and their potential impact on achievement of objectives:

6.2.7.1 The Business Continuity Plan (BCP), which is designed to manage risk by limiting or reducing the impact of a disruption, (such as severe weather event or loss of key personnel), and enable the resumption of critical business functions/services following a disruption; and

6.2.7.2 The Information Technology Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP), which is intended to protect and recover information technology infrastructure and data in the case of a disruptive event, (such as cyberattack or damage to/loss of infrastructure,) by defining actions to be taken before, during and after an event.

6.2.8 Performance management

Both risk management and performance management start with the establishment and communication of corporate goals and objectives and development of strategies which are then cascaded throughout the organisation. Appropriate measures and reporting structures have been put in place to monitor the effectiveness of risk management processes, (at an individual and organisational level), which will in turn assist in identifying gaps and emerging risks.

The performance of Mid Murray Council's risk management program will be measured through three distinct categories:

Measure	Frequency
Compliance with the policy and related documentation	Annual
Foreseeable risks are identified and controlled within risk level, appetite and tolerances, where reasonably practicable	Biannual
Tangible improvement in risk evaluation outcomes and risk maturity modelling	Biennial

6.2.9 Information Management & Cyber

Not only is it critical to the achievement of objectives that data and corporate knowledge is retained, there are regulatory requirements to do so, (e.g. compliance with the *State Records Act 1997*, *Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988* and *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.)

Mid Murray Council's records may be vulnerable to cyberattack, malicious intent or unauthorised release, should appropriate risk mitigation strategies not be in place. Policy Responsibility

6.3 Design

6.3.1 Understanding the organisation and its context

Establishing the context requires those involved in risk management and decision making processes to understand factors internal and external to the organisation that may influence Mid Murray Council's ability to achieve its objectives.

Risk management culture, organisational structure, strategy and objectives are examples of factors that define internal context.

The external environment may include a range of factors such including (but not limited to):

- 6.3.1.1 increased legislative and compliance requirements;
- 6.3.1.2 reduced funding from State Government;
- 6.3.1.3 community expectations; and
- 6.3.1.4 social, cultural, political, technological, economic, natural and built environment.

6.3.2 Roles & Responsibilities

The following roles and responsibilities ensure a transparent approach to managing risk within Council:

Roles	Responsibilities
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set the organisation's risk appetite and policy for managing risk;• Give adequate consideration to risks when setting objectives and making decisions;• Foster a culture that is consistent with the organisation's appetite for risk;• Ensure the organisation has the structures and processes in place to support decision making and management of risk;• Set an appropriate governance structure for risk and risk management including Audit & Risk Committee and delegations;• Require the CEO to demonstrate that the framework for managing risk is effective and appropriate; and• Require the CEO to provide information to allow the Council to understand the risks that may have material impacts on achievement of the organisation's objectives;• Consider recommendations from the Audit & Risk Committee relating to strategic risks or any other risk matter.
Audit & Risk Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review reports from Directors and auditors to ascertain the adequacy of controls that have been implemented;• Monitor strategic risks on an annual basis or as per Committee Workplan.
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote a strong risk management culture by providing firm and visible commitment to risk management including ensuring appropriate accountability for the management of risk;• Develop and implement a framework that delivers a consistent approach to risk management by allocating resources and assigning authority, responsibility & accountability at appropriate levels within the organisation;

Roles	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate and uphold accountability for managing risk; • Ensure Senior Management Team have the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively fulfil their risk management responsibilities; • Regularly review strategic and operational risks and maintain an understanding of the environment in which the organisation operates, the risks it faces and the effectiveness of its controls; • Ensure compliance with legislative and contractual obligations and policy requirements; • Provide reliable information about risks, controls and their effectiveness to Council; • Escalate all strategic risks that exceed the organisation's risk appetite to the Audit & Risk Committee or Council, as required.
Senior Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and endorse the criteria contained within the Risk Management Framework; • Commitment to, and promotion of, the risk management policy and framework; • Monitor the organisation's overall risk profile and mitigation strategies; • Ensure that risk management is embedded into all functions and activities, including decision making; • Ensure that risks that cannot be treated immediately are recorded on the risk register and that there is ongoing and regular review of the risk register, (including follow up and close out of overdue risk treatments); • Incorporate risk treatments into business unit plans; • Ensure that staff, contractors, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders have the appropriate skills to be actively be involved in managing risk; • Provide incentives and performance management arrangements that support the desired approach to managing risk; • Promote a proactive risk culture in accordance with business management initiatives; • Collectively review strategic risks and consider emerging risks, (prior to Audit & Risk Committee); • Ensure compliance with legislative and contractual obligations and policy requirements.
Risk Working Group (RWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish a common understanding of strategic and high risks within the organisation and establish a risk management plan to address these risks in alignment with strategic vision; • ensure leadership and overall guidance to the Senior Management Team in the implementation of an enterprise wide Risk Management Framework; • ensure early, quick and clear escalation of items of strategic or high operational risk to key decision makers; • ensure appropriate controls are in place to actively manage and monitor strategic and high operational risks; • ensure that once an issue is no longer considered a strategic or high operational risk it returns to routine management; • manage the reporting of risks to the Audit Committee, Council, Senior Management Team; • create opportunity for key learnings to be identified, discuss/advise more effective controls, implement knowledge and education programs and ensure that processes are reviewed for continuous improvement, within the scope of Council delegation.

Roles	Responsibilities
WHS & Risk Management Coordinator (WHSRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance and assistance to Senior Management Team and staff in relation to the application of this framework; • Ensure relevant risk information is recorded in the Risk Register and reported and escalated to the Senior Management Team or cascaded to staff, as relevant; • Maintain the Risk Management Policy and Framework to ensure its currency and relevance; • Maintain the Risk Register and reporting timeframes as required.
Employees, Volunteers & Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the risk management processes that apply to their area of work; • Identify, evaluate, report and manage, (or escalate,) risks relating to daily activities and projects.

6.4 Implementation

This risk management framework is supported by an implementation plan that includes timeframes and resource requirements and processes for engagement with, and provision of information to, relevant stakeholders.

6.5 Evaluation

Mid Murray Council will undertake periodic reviews of this risk management framework and the implementation plan to evaluate their effectiveness and determine whether they remain suitable in supporting the achievement of strategic and operational objectives.

6.6 Improvement

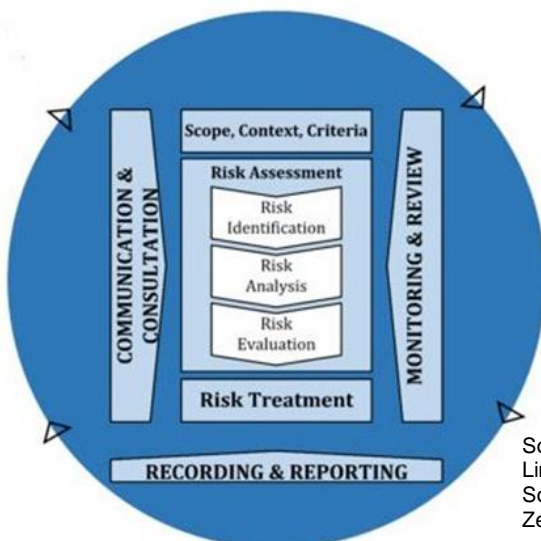
To maintain and improve the value of risk management to the organisation, Mid Murray Council will monitor and adapt this risk management framework, with a view to continually improve the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of its risk management process.

7. Risk Management Process

Having good risk management practices in place provides Mid Murray Council with assurance that measures are in place to maximise the benefits and minimise the negative effect of uncertainties in pursuit of its strategic objectives. Risk management involves both the management of potentially adverse effects as well as the fulfilment of potential opportunities. The risk management process is an integral part of management and decision-making and is integrated into the organisation's structure, operations and processes.

The dynamic and variable nature of human behaviour and culture should be considered throughout the risk management process.

Although the risk management process is often presented as sequential, in practice it is iterative as illustrated in the AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management – guidelines:



Source – ISO 31000:2018 Risk management – Guidelines, SAI Global Limited, Sydney, 2018. © Standards Australia Limited. Copied by JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd with permission of Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand under Licence 1811-c079.

7.1 Communication & Consultation

Establishing a communication and consultation plan with internal and external stakeholders is critical to the success of the risk management process. Effective communication and consultation throughout the process is essential to ensure that those responsible for implementing risk management, and those with a vested interest, understand the basis on which risk management decisions are made and why particular actions are required.

Mid Murray Council will engage with stakeholders throughout the risk management process to:

- 7.1.1 Correctly identify risks and understand context;
- 7.1.2 Gain a better understanding of the views and interests of stakeholders and how their expectations may be managed;
- 7.1.3 Capitalise on the diversity of knowledge, opinions and experience to enhance identification and management of risks and opportunities; and
- 7.1.4 Build a sense of inclusiveness and ownership amongst stakeholders.

7.2 Scope, Context & Criteria

7.2.1 Defining the Scope

Because the risk management process is applied at different levels throughout the organisation, it is important to define the scope and its alignment with the organisation's objectives. This should include consideration of:

- 7.2.1.1 Goals and objectives of risk management activities;
- 7.2.1.2 Proposed outcomes and timing;
- 7.2.1.3 Responsibilities and accountabilities for the risk management process;
- 7.2.1.4 Risk management methodologies;
- 7.2.1.5 Processes, activities and projects and how they may interact with other processes, activities and projects;
- 7.2.1.6 How effectiveness and/or value will be measured and monitored; and
- 7.2.1.7 Availability of resources to manage risk.

7.2.2 Defining the Context

Defining the context is important because:

- 7.2.2.1 Risk management takes place in the context of achieving objectives and undertaking activities; and
- 7.2.2.2 Organisational factors can be a source of risk.

The context should reflect the specific environment of the activity to which the risk management process is to be applied, and consider the factors outlined in 6.3.1.

7.2.3 Defining risk criteria

Risk criteria are used to evaluate the significance of risk and are reflective of Mid Murray Council's values, objectives and resources and the views of its stakeholders. Agreed risk criteria have been established through consultation with Risk Working Group, Senior Management Team, CEO, Audit & Risk Committee and Council

It should be noted that, whilst risk criteria have been documented in this framework and its appendices, they are dynamic and should be reviewed and amended to reflect the organisation's attitude to risk and risk appetite, as necessary.

7.3 Risk Assessment

7.3.1 Risk Identification

The aim of risk identification is to develop an inclusive list of reasonably foreseeable events that may occur that - if they do - are likely to have an impact on achievement of objectives.

Mid Murray Council identifies, assesses and treats risk in the following three risk types:

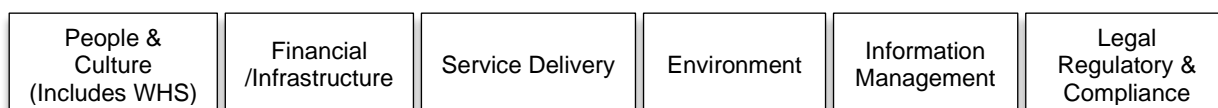
Strategic	Risks associated with high-level strategic objectives that are articulated in Strategic, Annual Business and Asset Management Plans. Strategic risks may affect the achievement of Member's corporate objectives. They are key issues for the Council and Senior Management Team and impact the whole organisation rather than a business unit. These risks can originate from within the organisation or externally. In other words, they may prevent the organisation from achieving its strategic objectives.
Operational	Risks associated with business unit functions and daily operations to deliver core services. Often the risks relate to cost overruns, supply chain/logistic issues, employee issues, fraud, WHS, non-compliance to policies and procedures.
Project	Risks associated with Project Management that will affect milestones or outcomes connected to delivering a specific project.
Emerging	A new or unforeseen risk that has the potential to impact upon objectives, emerging risks, giving consideration to political, economic, social, technological, legal & environmental factors

Risk identification naturally flows on from the context discussion and is a process of formally documenting the effects of uncertainty on objectives. An effective approach is to engage as many stakeholders as possible in a structured identification process.

The aim is to generate a list of risks based on those impacts or events. During the identification process, there are a number of questions that need to be asked to capture the information required:

- 7.3.1.1 What might happen/ what could go wrong?
- 7.3.1.2 What is the cause?
- 7.3.1.3 How does this affect the objective?

After a risk is identified, it may be categorised and captured in the Risk Register in accordance with the following categories:



The process of risk identification must be comprehensive as risks not identified are by nature excluded from further analysis. Care must be taken to identify and define risks, rather than causes or consequences.

Capturing an additional level of detail with regards to risk areas assists in reporting and analysing trends.

7.3.2 Risk Analysis

Risk analysis involves developing an understanding of a risk. It provides an input to risk evaluation and to decisions on whether risks need to be treated, and the most appropriate risk treatment strategies and methods. The tables included in the appendices are Mid Murray Council's tools for expressing the consequence, likelihood and level of risk.

7.3.2.1 Risk ratings

A "risk rating" can be determined by combining the estimates of effect (consequence rating) and cause (likelihood rating). The risks are to be assessed against all consequence categories; and the highest consequence rating will be used. The following risk ratings are used:

- a) Inherent risk rating, being the level of risk at time of risk assessment with no controls;
- b) Current risk rating, being the level of risk with the controls that are currently in place, operating as they are; and
- c) Residual risk rating, being the level of risk once further and additional controls are added to reduce the consequence and/or likelihood, (i.e. the forecast level of risk remaining after risk treatment).

7.3.2.2 Risk appetite

The Council, with support from the Senior Management Team are responsible for defining Mid Murray Council's risk appetite, taking into consideration the nature and extent of the risks the organisation is willing to take in order to achieve its strategic objectives.

- a) In arriving at its risk appetite, consideration will have given to:
 - b) The degree to which decision makers are permitted to expose Mid Murray Council to the consequences of an event or situation;
 - c) Aggregated and interlinked risks to determine whether the cumulative level of risk is acceptable or not;
 - d) Allowing for flexibility to adapt, given changing environment and circumstances to be built in; and
 - e) Whether decisions are made with full consideration of potential risk and reward.

Mid Murray Council's risk appetite be included in regular monitoring and review of strategic risks and will be updated in line with its risk management policy, framework and supporting documentation.

7.3.2.3 Risk tolerance

Not all risk types for Mid Murray Council are the same in terms of their acceptability. Once a risk appetite has been set, it is useful to define tolerance levels for each category. Risk tolerance can be described as the boundaries of risk taking outside of which the organisation is not willing accept in order to achieve its objectives. While risk appetite is usually expressed in qualitative terms, tolerance is expressed quantitatively, (i.e. a variance).

If the assessed risk level is outside of the risk appetite but within the tolerable level for that category of risk then treatment will be required. If it is equal to, or below, the tolerable level for that category of risk then the risk may be accepted, (provided the controls are implemented).

7.3.3 Risk Evaluation

Risk Evaluation is the process used to assist in making decisions, based on the outcomes of risk analysis, about which risks need treatment and the priority for implementation of controls. Decisions should take account of the wider context of the risk and include consideration of the risks borne by other parties. There are also circumstances whereby, despite the risk level, risks cannot be prevented or reduced and the focus will instead be on recovery and resilience.

When a risk has been identified or reassessed, the following table provides guidance on the action to be taken for each risk rating level:

Risk level	Managing risk – priority rating
Extreme	<p>Add risk to Risk Register Escalate risk issue immediately to CEO CEO to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer risk to risk owner • Identify and develop treatment strategies for immediate action • Monitor and review actions/strategies • Provide direction and information to relevant stakeholders • Inform the next meeting of the Council or Audit & Risk Committee of the risk issue, the actions taken to mitigate the risk and the outcome (or current status) • Consider cessation/suspension of the activity giving rise to the risk until such time as CEO/Management Team authorises its continuation and/or whilst other risk treatment strategies are being developed/implemented <p>For WHS related risks, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of item or activity shall not be allowed to continue until the risk level has been reduced • Will commonly be an unacceptable level of risk • May include both short and long term control measures
High	<p>Add risk to Risk Register Escalate risk issue to member of Senior Management Team or WHSRC Member of Senior Management Team or WHSRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to relevant risk owner • Identify and develop treatment strategies with appropriate timeframes • Monitor and review actions/strategies to manage risk to an acceptable level • Provide direction and information to relevant stakeholders • Inform the next meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee or Senior Management Team, (as relevant) of the risk issue, the actions taken to mitigate the risk and the outcome (or current status) <p>For WHS related risks, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk rating so far as is reasonably practicable • Should only be an acceptable level of risk for ‘Major’ or ‘Significant’ consequences
Moderate	<p>Add risk to Risk Register Escalate risk to Department Manager/ Supervisors/Team Leaders Department manager/Supervisor/Team Leader to coordinate with relevant work group to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and develop treatment strategies with appropriate timeframes • Monitor and review actions/strategies to manage risk to an acceptable level <p>For WHS related risks, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk rating so far as is reasonably practicable. • May be an acceptable level of risk
Low	<p>Add to Risk Register Undertake localised risk management & actions (if required) Review within the department parameters and routine procedures For WHS related risks, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk rating so far as is reasonably practicable. • Commonly is an acceptable level of risk

7.4 Risk Treatment

Risk treatment can be conducted using a variety of methods. When looking at negative risks, treatments are aimed at reducing or removing the potential for consequences occurring. However when looking at positive risks, (opportunities,) treatments look at ensuring that consequences are realised.

Risk treatment involves selecting one or more options for modifying the likelihood and/or consequence of risks, and implementing those options. Once implemented, treatments provide or modify the controls. An action should be implemented to treat certain risks.

Justification for risk treatment is broader than solely economic considerations and should take into account all of Mid Murray Council's obligations, voluntary commitments and stakeholder expectations. Appropriate risk treatment options should have regard to the organisation's objectives, risk appetite, risk criteria and available resources.

7.4.1 Risk treatment priorities

Recognising that not all risks can, or should, be managed, Mid Murray Council has determined that it will prioritise treatment of risks in the following order:

- a) Strategic risks that exceed risk appetite
- b) Strategic risks that exceed risk tolerance
- c) Operational risks that are rated Extreme or High
- d) Operational risks that are rated Moderate or High that exceed risk appetite.

The CEO may make exceptions to this prioritisation where there is an immediate or foreseeable risk to the health or safety of any person.

7.4.2 Risk treatment options

Risk treatment options are not necessarily mutually exclusive or appropriate in all circumstances.

Options for negative risks may include:

Eliminate	Remove an asset or discontinue an activity or service completely so as to eliminate the risk altogether
Share	Allocate risk to a third party, such as through appropriate contactor management, (noting however that S272 of the WHS Act voids any agreement or contract that purports to transfer any duty owed under the Act.)
Mitigate	Implement a type of treatment control to reduce or remove the risk. This may include but is not limited to options such as substitution (swapping), isolation (barricade), engineering (modify by design) or administration (policy/process)
Accept	Risk can be accepted for a number of reasons including: no extra treatments being available; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meets the stated target risk appetite for the type of risk; • informed decision has been made about that risk; and • the cost of risk treatment significantly outweighs the potential risk exposure.

For positive risks, options may include:

Exploit	Implement strategies to capitalise on the likelihood of the risk eventuating and ensure that the organisation is able to respond quickly to the opportunities as they arise
Share	Partnering with another organisation that is able to add skills or value not currently available within Mid Murray Council

Enhance	Influence the factors that will improve the likelihood of the opportunity arising
Accept	Maintain status quo by informed decision

In selecting any risk treatment, consideration must be given to new risks that may arise from implementing it and the processes outlined in this framework applied to those new risks.

7.4.3 **Control characteristics**

Risk treatments need to be designed in a manner to ensure they are sufficient to mitigate that risk, and have some of the following characteristics if they are to become an adequate control:

- a) Documented (e.g. Policies, procedures, task lists, checklists)
- b) Systems-oriented (e.g. integrated and/or automated)
- c) Preventative (e.g. system controls) or detective
- d) Consistent and regular (including during staff absence)
- e) Performed by competent and trained individuals
- f) Clear responsibility and accountability
- g) Create value (i.e. benefits outweigh costs)
- h) Achievable for the organisation (based on available resources)
- i) Evidenced (i.e. documented or electronic audit trail)
- j) Confirmed independently

7.4.4 **Preparing and implementing risk treatment plans**

Risk treatment plans specify how the risk treatment options will be implemented, so that those involved understand what arrangements are in place and to allow progress against the plan to be monitored. Risk treatment plans are documented within the risk register and project management plans and provide the following information:

- a) Rationale for selection of treatment options;
- b) Responsibilities and accountability for approving and implementing the plan;
- c) Proposed actions and timeframes;
- d) Resourcing requirements;
- e) Constraints and contingencies; and
- f) Required reporting and monitoring.

7.5 **Monitoring and Review**

7.5.1 **Review of risks and controls**

Monitoring and review involves regular checking or surveillance of the effectiveness and efficiency of the risk management processes implemented.

A monitoring and review process will:

- a) Ensure that implemented controls are effective and adequate;
- b) Provide further information to improve risk assessment and treatment plans;
- c) Allow for the identification of emerging risks;
- d) Identify any new factors that may influence established strategies to mitigate risks.

It is essential to monitor all activities and processes in order to capture new or emerging risks arising from the changing environment, (both internal and external) and the activities undertaken by Mid Murray Council's employees, contractors and volunteers.

Monitoring and review guidelines and timeframes are captured in the Risk Reporting structure, (see section 7.)

7.5.2 Project risks

Due to the dynamic nature of most projects, a risk may change over the project lifecycle, triggering the need for reassessment. The monitoring and scheduled review process allows for both validation of risks to ensure that they remain relevant and adaptation of project plans as necessary.

Any changes in risks throughout the project and following completion should be recorded and used for future project planning.

7.5.3 Internal audit

The audit process plays an important role in evaluating the internal controls and risk management processes at Mid Murray Council. The internal audit program will be 'risk based' and provide assurance that Council is managing the risks appropriately. In developing the Internal Audit Plan, consideration will be given to the extreme, high and moderate risks identified by the risk assessment process. Internal audits assess the adequacy of selected controls identified.

The internal audit process will measure risk by:

- a) **Measuring compliance** – has the organisation met its Policy objectives
- b) **Measuring maturity** – measuring against best practice and sector benchmarking
- c) **Measuring value add** – has the framework and risk culture added to the achievement of Council's strategic objectives

Information is shared between the risk management and internal audit functions. Changes in our risk profile will be reflected in our Internal Audit Plan. Similarly, control issues identified through internal audit will inform our Risk Management Framework. The internal audits will be conducted to provide assurance that key risks have been identified and the controls in place are adequate and effective, as per the following table.

Rating	Definition
Design adequacy	
Adequate	The control is designed in a manner that it can give reasonable assurance that the risk will be mitigated. In other words, existing systems and procedures cover known circumstances and provide reasonable assurance for majority of risks.
Partially adequate	The control is designed in a way that will partially mitigate the risk and designed in a way to partially meet the design objectives.
Inadequate	The design of the control is not sufficient enough to give reasonable assurance that the risk will be mitigated. There may be no systems and procedures in place, or existing systems and procedures are obsolete and require review.
Operating effectiveness	
Effective	The control operates in a manner that is effective in terms of being consistent, complete, reliable and timely.
Partially effective	The control partially operates in a manner that is effective in terms of being consistent, complete, reliable and timely.
Ineffective	The control does not operate in a manner that is effective in terms of being consistent, complete, reliable and timely.

It is to be noted that the overall combination of the results of design adequacy and operating effectiveness will provide the overall rating of the control based on the table for overall rating. This assists in identifying improvements to existing controls.

	Effective	Partially effective	Ineffective
Adequate	Effective	Partially Effective	Ineffective
Partially adequate	Partially Effective	Partially Effective	Ineffective
Inadequate	Ineffective	Ineffective	Ineffective

8. Recording and reporting

8.1 General

The risk management process and its outcomes are documented and reported, in order to:

- a) Communicate risk management activities and outcomes;
- b) Provide information for decision making;
- c) Provide opportunities for continuous improvement;
- d) Assist interaction with stakeholders, including those with responsibility and accountability for risk management activities.

Records will be managed and retained in accordance with State Records General Disposal Schedule for Local Government.

8.2 Risk Register

Mid Murray Council uses the software platform Skytrust for its risk register

The risk register enables the organisation to document, manage, monitor and review strategic, operational and project risk information in order to build a risk profile and provide direction on how to improve risk management processes. The risk register can be used to monitor whether, using the approach outlined in this framework, the risk management process is resulting in an increasing trend towards potential for success and less risk with negative consequences.

8.3 Risk Reporting

8.3.1 Purpose

Risk based reports will draw data from the risk register and provide monitoring and profile information to the Council, via the Audit & Risk Committee and Senior Management Team to assist with:

- a) Understanding Mid Murray Council risk exposure;
- b) Identifying risks that require increased attention and action;
- c) Providing relevant information to the Council about risks likely to impact upon achievement of strategic objectives;
- d) Dissemination of information to workers at all levels to support them in making risk informed decisions; and
- e) Improving the risk culture and awareness throughout the organisation.

8.3.1.1 Strategic risks

Strategic level risks are identified by the Senior Management Team and the Council as part of an annual review at a minimum and will be recorded in the risk register. Any risks identified at the strategic level may be reflected in other corporate documents e.g. Strategic Plan, Annual Business Plan, and Asset Management Plans and mitigated through actions detailed within these documents; however should still be collated in the risk register for ease of monitoring and review.

Recording and reporting of strategic level risks is the responsibility of the WHSRC via Risk Working Group, Senior Management Team and Audit & Risk Committee.

8.3.1.2 Operational risks

Operational risks will be recorded in the risk register, and be reviewed at least **bi-annually** by Directors, Department Managers. Recording operational risks in the risk register and reporting of implementation and effectiveness of controls is the responsibility of Directors, Department Managers/Supervisors/Team Leaders and workers.

8.3.1.3 Project risks

Project level risks may be identified by the project team at any time prior to, and during, the project management cycle and are initially recorded in the project management plan and consolidated in the risk register. Recording and reporting of project risks rest with the project owner.

8.3.2 Content

Risk reporting will include:

Report content	Reported to	Frequency
Council and Committee reports to include discussion of potential risks, based on completed risk assessment and treatments, (with the exception of routine administrative matters)	Council and Committee members	All Council and Committee meetings
Review/update of the risk register by workers is to be reviewed and reported by the WHSRC (or as otherwise required, e.g. organisational structure change/ process change/ new project)	Senior Management Team	Quarterly to senior Management Team
Report by CEO on extreme strategic risks, including actions taken to mitigate the risk and outcomes or current status	Audit & Risk Committee	As per the Workplan or as required
Report of strategic risks (to verify that current risks are controlled within Councils risk appetite & tolerances & that there are strategies to address or monitor any emerging risks that have been identified)	Audit & Risk Committee	Biannual
Report on compliance with policy and related documents	Audit & Risk Committee	Annual
Risk evaluation outcomes and risk maturity modelling progress/ summary report in detail (report to Audit & Risk Committee a summary)	Senior Management Team	Biennial

9. Training of Workers

The risk management policy and framework, together with supporting tools will be made available to all workers on Skytrust, Council intranet and website.

Risk management is an overarching skill that sits across all functions and, as such, Mid Murray Council considers it to be a necessary competency that workers need in order to perform their day to day activities effectively. Risk Management awareness training will be provided to workers and will take into consideration the worker's role and level of past risk management experience and knowledge.

Risk management awareness training is captured on the training needs analysis (TNA), to ensure the effective implementation of this Framework.

Council members are key strategic decision makers and it is therefore imperative that they have an understanding of Mid Murray Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework and their role in informed planning and decision making, based on sound risk management principles. Risk management awareness training will be scheduled within 12 months of Local Government elections for Council members.

Audit & Risk Committee members should, at a minimum, have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities as outlined in Mid Murray Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework, including the monitoring and review of reports and outcomes from management reviews and external audits.

10. Availability/Accessibility

- 10.1 [This Policy](#) and Council's [Fees & Charges Register](#) are available to be downloaded free of charge from Council's website: www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au.
- 10.2 This Procedure is available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours. Hard copies, for a fee in accordance with Council's schedule of Fees and Charges, can be provided upon request.

11. Legislative Framework / Other References

- 11.1 [Local Government Act 1999](#)
- 11.2 [Local Government \(Financial Management Regulations\) 2011](#)
- 11.3 [Work Health and Safety Act 2012](#)
- 11.4 [Civil Liability Act 1936](#)
- 11.5 [State Records Act 1997](#)
- 11.6 [Privacy Act 1988](#)
- 11.7 [Freedom of Information Act 1991](#)
- 11.8 [Return to Work Act 2014](#)
- 11.9 AS ISO 31000:2018 - Risk Management Guidelines
- 11.10 SA HB:436.1:2020 Risk Management Guidelines – companion to AS ISO 31000:2018, Part 1: Boards and executives
- 11.11 [Risk Management Policy](#)
- 11.12 [Return to Work SA Code of Conduct for Self-Insured Employers Work Health Safety and Return to Work Policy](#)
- 11.13 [MCC Business Continuity Plan](#)
- 11.14 [MMC Emergency Management Policy](#)
- 11.15 [MMC Emergency Management & Adverse Events Plan](#)

12. Document History

This risk management framework and processes will be scheduled for review within 3 years from endorsement or more regularly if required.

Version	Adopted	Minute	Description of Change
1	14 November 2017	19970/4	Adopted
2	11 February 2020	20902/3	Reviewed
3	19 March 2024	C03-24/028	Council document aligned to LGAMLS version 5.1

Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS) version history

Version	Issue Date:	Description of Change
1.0	Sept 2016	New Document
2.0	Apr 2018	Updated references, included references to ISO 31000:2018
3.0	May 2018	Final document for member centre

Version	Issue Date:	Description of Change
3.1	July 2018	Updated risk categories in 6.3.1; Updated consequence & likelihood table and risk matrix in line with the WHS One System Hazard Management Procedure for consistency; included example consequence table for project risks & table of detailed risk areas in appendix
4.0	June 2020	Updated logo, Updated as per scheduled review and reflects the AS ISO 31000:2018, Updated consequence table in appendix, included example risk tolerance statements and risk priorities.
4.1	June 2020	Included updated control information, minor formatting
5.0	September 2021	Addition of drafting notes & common language; Updated relevant legislation & related documents; Remove duplications; Council/board responsibilities aligned with SA HB 436.1:2020; Added reference to internal controls audit at 5.2.25; Updated risk categories; Amendments to appetite and tolerance sections at 6.2.2; move risk treatment prioritisation to 6.3; include treatment options for positive risk; update control effectiveness table at 6.4.3; appendix A - deleted definitions not used elsewhere in document or already defined within document; Appendix B – update project risk consequence table; Appendix E – addition of communicable disease to detailed risk areas
5.1	September 2022	Alignment of principles with AS ISO 31000:2018; addition of positive consequences, replace “catastrophic” with “significant”

Appendix - Risk Matrix - Consequence Tables & Likelihood Table

					1	2	3	4	5	
					Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic	
					Less than 100 people benefit from improved health, wellbeing, acceptance or economic prosperity Revenue growth or cost savings of less than \$10,000 Improved services delivered to less than 100 people (reduced timeframes/ improved value) Word-of-mouth recommendation(s) Diversion of 5% waste to landfill Improved cultural or environmental values or visual amenity for less than 5% of population	Up to 5% of community benefit from improved health, wellbeing, acceptance or economic prosperity Revenue growth or cost savings of up to \$50,000 Improved services delivered to up to 5% of community (reduced timeframes/ improved value) Positive recognition in local media Diversion of 10% waste to landfill Improved cultural or environmental values or visual amenity for up to 5% of population	Up to 10% of community benefit from improved health, wellbeing, acceptance or economic prosperity Revenue growth or cost savings of up to \$100,000 Improved services delivered to up to 10% of community (reduced timeframes/ improved value) Positive recognition in statewide media Diversion of 15% waste to landfill Improved cultural or environmental values or visual amenity for up to 10% of population	Up to 25% of community benefit from improved health, wellbeing, acceptance or economic prosperity Revenue growth or cost savings of up to \$250,000 Improved services delivered to up to 25% of community (reduced timeframes/improved value) Positive recognition in national media Diversion of 25% waste to landfill Improved cultural or environmental values or visual amenity for up to 25% of population	Greater than 25% of community benefit from improved health, wellbeing, acceptance or economic prosperity Revenue growth or cost savings of greater than \$100,000 Improved services delivered to greater than 25% of community (reduced timeframes/ improved value) Positive recognition in international media Diversion of greater than 25% waste to landfill Improved cultural or environmental values or visual amenity for greater than 25% of population	POSITIVE
					Negligible adverse impact upon social health and well-being of the community which has little or no impact upon established community relationships and links. No or minor injuries not requiring first aid treatment, or near miss Annual staff turnover of <10%	Minor adverse impact upon social health & well-being of the community that may have a minor impact upon established community relationships & links First aid treatment Negligible impact on morale Annual staff turnover of <20%	Social health and well-being of the community affected by moderately reduced opportunities for participation in community life and/or decision making, moderate incidences of increased isolation etc Medical attention required Short Term effect on morale and business Annual staff turnover of >20% of entire workforce or 30% of a work group Loss of member of Senior Management Team Loss of up to 4 Council members more than 12 months out from LG Elections	Mortality- 1 fatality per event/incident Social health and well-being of the community seriously affected by major community unrest and/or significant breakdown of established community relationships and links Extensive injuries - serious long term injury Temporary disablement Annual staff turnover of 30% - <75% Significant impact on morale and business Loss of 2 members of Senior Management Team Temporary loss of 6 or more Council Members	Mortality – multiple fatalities per event/incident Social health & well-being of the community hugely affected by major community unrest and/or significant breakdown of established community relationships & links. Death Long term effect on morale and performance of business Annual staff turnover of > 75% Loss of entire/majority of Executive Management Team Permanent loss of 6 or more Council Members	People / Community
					Low financial loss – impact of less than \$25,000 Negligible loss or damage to property / infrastructure. Minor failure of infrastructure – no inconvenience to stakeholders	Medium financial loss – impact of between \$25,000 and \$250,000 Minor loss or infrastructure damage Minor failure that cannot be rectified immediately – minor inconvenience to stakeholders	High financial loss – impact of between \$250,000 and \$1.25million Moderate loss/or infrastructure damage Significant failure of infrastructure that will require work-arounds - moderate inconvenience to stakeholders	Major financial loss - impact of between \$1.25million and \$5million Serious structural damage to infrastructure or serious loss of assets Major failure of infrastructure that severely limits functionality – significant inconvenience to stakeholders	Huge financial loss/exposure – impact greater than \$5million Critical loss, irreversible damage property / infrastructure Total failure of infrastructure	Financial / Infrastructure
					Small delays in undertaking routine needs or tasks for ½ day Insignificant interruption to a service – no impact to customers/business	Minor impact in undertaking routine needs or tasks for 1 day Minor interruption to a service with minimal impact to customers/business	Capability / production impaired, moderate impact on stakeholders & routine needs or tasks for 1 – 3 days non critical activities Moderate interruption to service delivery Customer impact up to 48 hrs Partial BCP action may be needed for critical activities	Loss of capability, disruption to production, major impact on stakeholders & routine needs or tasks for 3 – 5 days non critical activities Major interruption to service delivery or production capability Customer impact > 7 days Component of BCP action may be needed for critical activities	Loss of production/capability, failure to meet stakeholder's needs for more than 5 days non critical activities Projects & programs failure, inability to meet minimum acceptable standards, most objectives not met Major interruption to delivery of all or most services for more than 14 days. Full BCP action required for critical activities	Service Delivery
					Nil impact on achievement of key project objectives or project duration extended < 2.5% of total Project Budget < 2.5% of total Project Schedule Would cause the delivered capability to be functionally fit for all desired missions or tasks, but there may be some qualification to the level to which it would perform non-critical elements of the mission or task. Few such qualifications would exist. Little community interest, low profile, no media items Minor injuries not requiring first aid treatment, or near miss	Some impact on isolated key project objectives. Additional minor effect required to ensure all objectives are met. Project duration extended 2.5-10% of total Project Budget 2.5-10% of total Project Schedule Would cause the delivered capability to be functionally fit for all desired missions or tasks, but there would be some qualification to the level to which it would perform non-critical elements of the mission or task. Several such qualifications would exist Low impact, some passing interest, low media profile Minor Medical attention Negligible impact on morale	Impacts numerous key project objectives. Considerable effort required including some change in project scope to achieve required outcomes Project duration extended 10-14% of total Project Budget 10-14% of total Project Schedule Would cause the delivered capability to be partly functionally fit for purpose (i.e. degraded ability to perform desired missions or tasks; how ever, there are known workarounds). There would be some qualification to the level to which it would perform (e.g. due to issues of relationships, concurrency, etc.). Several such qualifications would exist. Moderate impact, moderate public interest, public embarrassment, moderate media profile Medical attention required Short Term effect on morale and project outcome	Significant portion of key project objectives impacted. Major changes to project scope and work necessary to achieve required outcomes. Project duration extended 15-19% of total Project Budget 15-19% of total Project Schedule Would cause the delivered capability to be only partly functionally fit for purpose (i.e. degraded ability to perform some core missions or essential tasks or unable to perform non-core missions or tasks, and there are no known workarounds). Sustained public interest, high negative media profile, Premier/Cabinet publicly involved, third party action Serious Long Term Injury Temporary disablement Significant impact on morale and project outcome	Significant portion of key project objectives impacted. Major changes to project scope and work necessary to achieve required outcomes. Project duration extended >20% of total Project Budget >20% of total Project Schedule Would cause the delivered capability to be functionally unfit for its intended purpose (i.e. unable to perform core missions or essential tasks). Widespread public agitation, Government censure, high multiple impacts, widespread negative media profile Death Long term effect on morale and project outcome	Project
					No adverse effect on public image Insignificant level of community concern Little community interest, low profile, no media items	Minor adverse effect on public image Minor level of community concern Low impact, some passing interest, low media profile	Moderate adverse effect on public image Moderate level of community concern Moderate impact, moderate public interest, public embarrassment, moderate media profile	Major adverse effect on public image Significant level of community concern Sustained public interest, high negative media profile, Premier/Cabinet publicly involved, third party action	Huge effect on public image Community outrage Widespread public agitation, Government censure, high multiple impacts, widespread negative media profile	Reputation
					"Nuisance" category under the SA Environment Protection Act (1993) met Contamination – on-site release immediately contained • Slight, quickly reversible damage to few species Minor instance of environmental (e.g. soil, vegetation, coastal) damage. can be reversed immediately Minimal (but discernible) disruption to Aboriginal site Minimal spill or litter able to be removed immediately	"Nuisance" category under SA Environment Protection Act (1993) met Some minor adverse effects to few species/ ecosystem parts that are short term and immediately reversible Minor impact to environment, e.g. on-site chemical release, spill or sand/soil movement that can be immediately contained. Can be reversed in the short term Minor disruption to Aboriginal site Litter able to be removed in a short time frame, (e.g. same day)	"Material" category under the SA Environment Protection Act (1993) met Contamination – on-site release contained with outside assistance Temporary, reversible damage, loss of habitat and migration of animal population, plants unable to survive, pollution requires physical removal, land contamination localised and can be quickly remedied Localised damage or chemical release that has potential to spread but can be contained or reversed with intensive efforts or outside assistance Noticeable disruption to Aboriginal site Litter removal requires outside assistance, (e.g. contractor or government agency)	"Serious" category under the SA Environment Protection Act (1993) met Contamination – off-site release with no detrimental effects Death of individual animals, large scale injury, loss of keystone species and widespread habitat destruction Off-site chemical release Severe loss of environmental amenity or danger of continuing environmental damage Significant disruption to Aboriginal site(s)	"Serious" category under the SA Environment Protection Act (1993) met Toxic release off-site with detrimental effect Death of animals in large numbers, destruction of flora species, air quality requires evacuation, permanent and widespread land contamination, irreversible soil erosion or severe compaction, widespread introduction of weeds. Major loss of environmental amenity or irrecoverable environmental damage Irreversible disruption to Aboriginal site	Environmental
					No noticeable statutory or regulatory impact Fines < \$10,000	Minor/temporary non-compliance with statutory requirements Fines less than \$250,000 for the organisation	Minor legal issues, non compliances and breaches of regulation Short-term non-compliance with moderate statutory requirements Fines < \$50,000 for an individual or <\$500,000 for the organisation	Serious breach of regulation with investigation or report to authority with prosecution and/or moderate fine possible Significant non-compliance with essential statutory requirements Fines <\$300,000 for an individual or < \$1,500,000 for the organisation	Major breaches of regulation, major litigation. Long term or indefinite non-compliance with essential statutory requirements and may result in criminal charges Fines > \$300,000 for an individual or > \$1,500,000 for the organisation	Legal / Regulatory / Policy
Almost Certain	90% chance	It is expected to occur again, immediately or within a short period – likely to occur most weeks or months.	Could be expected to occur more than once during the study or project delivery	Expected to occur in most circumstances	Medium 11	High 16	High 19	Extreme 23	Extreme 25	
Likely	50%-90% chance	Will probably occur in most circumstances – several times a year.	Could easily be incurred and has generally occurred in similar studies or projects.	Likely will occur	Low 7	Medium 12	High 17	Extreme 21	Extreme 24	
Possible	25%-50% chance	Could be incurred within a one – two year period.	Incurred in a minority of similar studies or projects	Moderate probability of an incident	Low 4	Low 8	Medium 13	High 18	Extreme 22	
Unlikely	5%-25% chance	Could be incurred in a two - five year time frame.	Known to happen, but only rarely.	Unlikely probability of an incident	Low 2	Low 5	Low 6	Medium 14	High 15	
Rare	<5% chance	May occur in exceptional circumstances. Could be incurred in a 5-30 year timeframe.	Has not occurred in similar studies or projects. Conceivable but in extreme circumstances.	Extremely low probability. Will only occur in exceptional circumstances	Low 1	Low 3	Low 6	Medium 10	High 15	