



ALLOCATION OF HOUSING POLICY

SPO10

Responsible Manager: Executive Manager Housing Services

Heads of Power: *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*
Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)
Housing Act 2003 (Qld)
Housing Regulation 2003 (Qld)
Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 (Qld)
Housing Policy PO12
Social Housing Application Policy SPO9

Authorised by: Council

Authorised on: May 2017

Implemented from: May 2017

Last reviewed: N/A

Review history: N/A

To be reviewed on: June 2019

Corporate Plan: Environment

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- a) Torres Strait Island Regional Council's processes for the allocation of social housing shall be transparent and accountable and decisions shall be made without favouritism or bias.
- b) Councillors and staff shall:
 - i. declare any conflict between their personal interests and the interests of Council, pursuant to Council's Code of Conduct;
 - ii. not disclose any confidential information about an applicant or tenant, their waitlist status or any financial information to any external party.
- c) Council shall use eligibility criteria for long term social housing when allocating new tenants. To be eligible for long term social housing, applicants must meet all eligibility criteria set out in the Social Housing Application Policy SPO9.
- d) Council shall allocate social housing based on a priority classification [level of need] centred on eligible applicants' needs and traditional and cultural considerations. Eligible applicants assessed with the highest needs shall be offered assistance ahead of applicants with lower housing needs.
- e) Council shall attempt to match client needs with a house which is appropriate to the client's housing needs. Bedroom entitlements shall be assessed by the household composition in accordance with the Assistance Agreement with the Department of Housing and Public Works.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all Council social housing applicants, being existing tenants, employees, Councillors, contractors, volunteers and agents of Council.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility for allocating all social housing is:

For existing housing

- i. Allocation decision shall be made in consultation with the Division Councillor.
- ii. Councillor may seek advice from the Prescribed Body Corporate [PBC] to confirm an applicant's connection to the land and suitability to live in the Division.

For new housing under a funded Federal Government building scheme

- i. Applicants shall provide Council with a proof of their cultural or traditional connection to the vacant land upon which housing is to be built, prior to Council commencing the allocation process on a given Division.
- ii. Council shall use a consultative process with Government representatives, PBC and the Councillor to deliver a joint decision on the allocation yield for new housing in each Division, taking into account Council's housing needs and Ailan Kastom.

Should no allocation decision be reached for existing and/or new housing through a consultation process within the allocated timeframe, the Executive Manager Housing Services shall intervene to resolve the issue.

4. PROCEDURE

This Policy is to be applied in conjunction with Allocation of Housing Procedure SPO10-PR1.

5. AUTHORISATION

This Policy was duly authorised by Council as the Torres Strait Island Regional Council Allocation of Housing Policy on 31 May 2017 and shall hereby supersede any previous policies of the same intent.



Chris McLaughlin
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Date: 31 05 / 2017