

## APPENDIX C

### Recommended Changes to the Council Plan 2013 – 2017

#### Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG) Submission

In addition to a number of general statements relating to the Council Plan and the Annual Budget, the submission thanks and commends Council for the opportunity to make a submission and makes a number of specific suggestions in relation to the Council Plan. A summary of the submission and the officer's comments in relation to these suggestions was provided to Council.

#### Officer's comments on the submission by the Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG)

Extract from submission	Officer Response
<p><i>General comments regarding the whole document.</i></p> <p>The plan should be available in community languages and should be summarised into a shorter 2-4 page document.</p> <p>There was some comment about the value of community members being able to find out more in depth information regarding key plans.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 1</b></p> <p>The final published version of the 2013-2017 Council Plan will include translations of the executive summary of the Council Plan in seven of the most commonly spoken languages within the Darebin Community, other than English.</p> <p>Council already provides residents with access to a translation and interpreter service to facilitate access to all its publications and services. It is not recommended that Council provide additional full translations of the Council Plan into languages other than English (LOTE).</p> <p>Council officers are already working to produce a shorter 2-4 page document that is accessible to the public that summarises the main points of the Council Plan.</p> <p>Council's four-year priority action 2 in the 'Excellent Service' chapter commits Council to providing regular feedback to the community on service and organisational performance. This process would provide the community with sufficient access to the detailed information they may be seeking with respect to the issues raised in their submission concerning reporting.</p>

Extract from submission	Officer Response
Modify p.9 What Are the Key Challenges and Opportunities.....: 5 <sup>th</sup> paragraph -	<p><b>Recommendation 2</b></p> <p>The following wording suggested by (DERG) does improve the Challenges and Opportunities section.</p> <p><i>“The natural environment is another significant concern for everyone. There is a need to take rapid, effective action on climate change to reduce impacts on our community. Our resource use and waste production is not sustainable and valuable natural assets need conservation and protection. Darebin needs to respond to these environmental issues to ensure our vision of “Liveability” is not compromised.”</i></p>
<p>P25 Strategies</p> <p>Strategies should be more specific and targeted</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 3</b></p> <p>There are already sufficient detailed performance indicators/targets in the chapter that are intended to evaluate the goals (and strategies) as per the requirements of the Act. These performance indicators and targets are achievable, specific, do identify a target and timescale and have appropriate wording that is not open-ended. Further, many of the Council supporting strategies and policies referenced toward the end of each chapter already include sufficiently detailed and specific performance indicators and targets in their strategies and action plans.</p>
<p>Strategy 3.3 – Include information about sustainability standards in design and separate landuse, WSUD and (sustainable) transport strategies</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 4</b></p> <p>Sustainability standards are important as they apply to operational concerns. These concerns are normally addressed in relevant action plans and in specific environmental assessments of projects at a lower strategic level, on a day-to-day basis. It is not necessary that such detailed (operational) design standards be included in the higher-level, strategic policy framework of the Council Plan.</p> <p>There is a close regulatory connection between land use planning, water sustainable urban design (WSUD) and sustainable transport which strategy 3.3 addresses to achieve the desired integrated environmental strategy outcome. This linkage and integration is important and would be lost if such issues are separated into individual strategies.</p>

Extract from submission	Officer Response
Strategy 3.4 – highlight water as a resource.	<p><b>Recommendation 5</b></p> <p>The existing strategy includes water use as a resource. the existing strategy 3.4 should be reworded to highlight water use as a resource in the title and that the title could read:</p> <p>“3.4 waste, water and resources”</p>
3.10 – include pride e.g. which promote awareness, behaviour change, leadership and <b>develop pride</b> around environmental issues.	<p><b>Recommendation 6</b></p> <p>Amendment be made to include the words “develop pride”.</p>
<p>P26 Four Year Priority Actions – What We Will Do.</p> <p>In Action 3. Amend the last sentence.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 7</b></p> <p>Amendment be made to include “Improve the energy efficiency of street lights, in partnership with other levels of government, to reduce greenhouse emissions and costs”.</p>
<p>P26 Four Year Priority Actions – What We Will Do.</p> <p>#7 could be incorporated with #6.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 8</b></p> <p>Action #7 concerning the promotion of cycle commuting be merged with Action # 6 and the remaining actions be renumbered accordingly in the plan.</p>
<p>Separate the action which states: “Review the Sustainable Water Strategy with a focus on the development of a Water Sensitive City, including water sensitive urban design.”</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 9</b></p> <p>Include a new action on page 26 that reads:</p> <p><i>“... Review the Sustainable Water Strategy with a focus on the development of a Water Sensitive City, including water sensitive urban design.”</i></p>

Extract from submission	Officer Response
<p>Page 28.  <i>replace the Sustainable Water Strategy with the Climate Change Action Plans and the last document should be Environment Policy (not Strategy).</i></p>	<p><b>Recommendation 10</b></p> <p>The suggested changes to policy and strategy titles and names be made.</p>
<p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>There was discussion that these should be around achieving actions.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 11</b></p> <p>The supporting strategic plans already include action plans with specific performance indicators and targets that can be used to assess individual Council performance in achieving policy outcomes in a given area. The higher level strategic performance indicators and targets included in the Council Plan while they do measure achievement of the strategic objectives (the goals) are also there to measure the community's perception of council's response to a given issue, above and beyond the base level included in a given strategy and action plan's specific performance indicators and measures.</p>

## Inner North Community Foundation (INCF) Submission

In addition to a number of general statements relating to the Council Plan, the submission made a number of specific suggestions in relation to the Council Plan. A copy of the submission and a summary of the officer's comments in relation to these suggestions was provided to Council.

### Officer's comments on the submission by the Inner North Community Foundation (INCF)

Extract from submission	Officer Response
<p><i>That Council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>acknowledges the Inner North Community Foundation in the Plan.</i></li> <li>• <i>works with the Inner North Community Foundation to cross-promote our complementary granting programs.</i></li> <li>• <i>promotes workplace giving strategies within both council and businesses in Darebin to expand the visibility and understanding of the Inner North Community Foundation.</i></li> <li>• <i>sees the Inner North Community Foundation as the first port of call as a resource to create philanthropic named sub-funds or "field of interest" funds to generate potentially matched philanthropic giving around particular Council areas of interest.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommendation 12</b></p> <p>Council note the contents of the submission.</p>

## **Recommendation 13**

### **Proposed Change to the Council Plan Aboriginal Acknowledgement Statement**

Darebin City Council's recently appointed, Aboriginal policy officer has made a request for Darebin Council to consider changing the Aboriginal Acknowledgement Statement in the Council Plan. This recommendation was provided to Council for its consideration.

Recommendation 13 asks to modify the existing Council Plan Aboriginal Acknowledgement Statement in the Council Plan 2013-2017 to read:

#### ***“DAREBIN’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ITS ABORIGINAL OR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE***

*First and foremost, Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people and the Kulin Nations, as both the traditional land owners and as the historical and contemporary custodians of the land on which the City of Darebin and surrounding municipalities are located.*

*Council recognises and pays tribute to the diversity of Darebin’s current Aboriginal community, valuing the unique and important role its Aboriginal community members and organisations play in progressing reconciliation, respect and the building of mutual understandings among and across the City and , its people, activities in the achievement of Council’s aspirations in recognising and paying tribute to and celebrating Darebin’s long standing Aboriginal cultural and heritage.”*