
1. SUSTAINABLE WATER STRATEGY

AUTHOR: Manager Environment & Natural Resources – Libby Hynes

REVIEWED BY: Director City Design & Environment – Daniel Freer

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS) is Council's overarching strategy to integrate the management of water use, stormwater quality and drainage asset integrity and planning.

Strategy started on:

The Sustainable Water Strategy was adopted by Council in 2007.

Strategy ends on:

The Sustainable Water Strategy will end in 2012.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

The Strategy it will also undergo a review upon completion in 2012

Advisory Committee:

Darebin Environmental Reference Group provides implementation advice regarding this strategy and all other environmentally-related policies and strategies. Cr Trent McCarthy and Cr Gaetano Greco represent Council on this committee.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The SWS incorporates Council's four major water policy documents into one strategic framework: Sustainable Water Use Plan (SWUP), Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), Darebin Drainage Strategy (DDS) and Drainage Asset Management Plan (DAMP). This enables an integrated water management approach through jointly considering the management of water consumption, stormwater quality and drainage asset integrity and planning.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

The SWS outlines key performance indicators (KPIs) which measure broad progress and achievements. As indicated in Table 1, significant progress can be seen against the KPIs during 2010/11.

Table 1 – Sustainable Water Strategy Key Performance Measures

Key Performance Indicator	Target	2010/11 Target Attainment
The % reduction in potable water use at council facilities*	25% reduction	65% reduction in potable water use achieved
The % reduction in residential and non-residential potable water use in the municipality*	15% reduction	23% reduction in potable water use achieved
The % of complaints in relation to drainage assets and flooding, dealt within target response times	80% compliance within target response times	81% of complaints were completed within target response times however, it has been identified that current measurements and timeline

		parameters are in need of review.
The % of customers surveyed satisfied with drainage maintenance work**	65% of the people surveyed are satisfied with the service	Based on a four quarter average, there is a 69% level of satisfaction with the drainage maintenance work**
The drainage inspection program as detailed in the Drainage Asset Management Plan (DAMP)	Assess and rate the condition of 3km of pipe (or 0.5% of the network)	8.5km of drainage pipe was inspected

* From 1999/2000 baseline

** (Darebin City Council, 2011 Community Survey – 2nd Quarter Report)

Challenges

Sustainable Water Use Plan (SWUP)

The overriding target of the SWUP is to reduce potable water consumption and targets to achieve this have been met. During 2010/11 Council achieved its best water savings yet - a noteworthy 65% - as water use dropped below 150 megalitres for the first time. Council's achievements are largely attributed to increased rainfall and less irrigation, coupled with Council's significant past and current works in our public realm and buildings.

The key expected challenge for 2010/11 was the potential increase in water use at sporting grounds (as Council's water use allocation was increased by Yarra Valley Water). Due to increased rainfall this was not needed, however challenges for future years will be in maintaining water consumption reduction achievements balanced against the potential use of increased volumes of water for irrigation and sports club expectations.

During 2010/11 with the relaxing of water restrictions, community water use increased by 5%, but is still well above Council's target of 15%. The non-residential community's water use remained relatively constant, with a slight increase of 1%. Challenges in coming years are expected to continue around community water conservation.

Table 2: Council and Community Water Use in the City of Darebin

	Council	Residential	Non-Residential
1999/2000 Base Year (kL water used)	426,662	10,602,541	4,049,269
Target for water use reductions from base year by 2010	25%	15%	No target established
2010/11 kL water used reduction from base year	149,978 65%	8,207,429 23%	2,295,820 43%

Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)

Darebin has developed a strong partnership with Melbourne Water on stormwater quality projects during the life of the SWMP, receiving significant funding for water sensitive urban design (WSUD) projects.

During 2010/11 WSUD projects experienced some minor challenges. High pollution inflows were experienced by one of the Depot WSUD raingardens however the system worked well and detained pollution from the adjacent Creek.

Darebin Drainage Strategy (DDS)

The DDS is currently under review. In support of this review Council has been undertaking extensive flood mapping of the City with Melbourne Water. The recommendations of the

review will be assessed once the flood mapping is completed (anticipated 2012/13). This information will be used to inform the development of an updated DDS.

The updated DDS will include:

- the process to determine the need for capital upgrade works and their prioritisation
- the review of existing drainage standards and potential climate change impacts
- community consultation on various drainage issues such as levels of service and design standards
- development of KPIs for future benchmarking
- consideration of the recommendations and implications of Melbourne Water's Flood Management and Drainage Strategy.

To support the above two key flood risk and associated emergency management documents are currently in progress, both due to be completed in 2012:

- Flood Management Plan (FMP) for the City of Darebin with Melbourne Water (understanding flood risks, clarifying responsibilities, ensuring suitable measures to manage flood risks have been (or are being) implemented etc)
- Flood Emergency Plan (FEP) with the Victorian State Emergency Service (operational document to be used when flooding occurs - assists in delivery of flood management responsibilities, resource utilisation, support from/to others, implementing emergency risk management measures and coordination with wider emergency management etc).

Drainage Asset Management Plan (DAMP)

The DAMP examines the drainage asset base, life cycle management, service levels, future demand and the financial costs of managing drainage assets. It also identifies actions to improve drainage asset management practices. A key outcome of the DAMP has been the formation of a Drainage Working Group establishing a cross Council collaboration to cohesively address drainage issues.

Key recommendations from the DAMP include:

- annual proactive CCTV inspection, condition assessment and monitoring program to identify and target critical drainage pipes
- review of the DDS – currently in progress
- review of the flood risk management process as part of the DDS Review
- implementation of an asset management information system for drainage assets and
- review and restructure the drainage maintenance workflow processes to improve service efficiency and effectiveness.

While the target for meeting complaint timelines was achieved, as this is the first year reporting has occurred against this, it has identified that the parameters and associated timeframes are in need of amendment. Emergency response is to remain as priority, but other timelines are to be amended to be reflective of their associated urgency.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

Actions and recommendations of the SWS and the four related Water Strategies/ Plans have strong environmental sustainability foci and outcomes. The primary drivers behind these actions are water quality and water consumption improvements, protection of stormwater infrastructure, climate change adaptation measures and enhanced environmental

sustainability outcomes. Continued focus on water consumption and quality in an environment of climate change remains a priority.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

Ongoing access to clean and healthy drinking water is a priority issue for all. Well maintained and managed drainage systems, flood and stormwater protection, improved water quality in waterways and access to irrigated open space have significant social impacts and health benefits for our community.

Actions proposed through the SWS and its related water strategies support the continued focus on supporting sustainable and healthy environments for our community, with equity of access to leisure opportunities and water environments.

CONCLUSION

Council continues to achieve excellent results in water savings during 2010/11, dropping below 150 megalitres of water use for the first time and achieving 65% water saving from the 1999/2000 baseline.

Challenges for future years are likely to centre on maintaining potable water consumption reduction achievements and balancing these against the potential use of increased volumes of water for irrigation of our public spaces as increased irrigation is now permitted by the lifting of restrictions and increased water allocations. Targets are planned for review in 2012.

Creek and lake water quality remain a high community priority and stormwater management and water sensitive urban design improvements to improve water quality will be explored in the review of the SWS, SWMP and SWUP .

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue implementation and review Sustainable Water Strategy and Stormwater Management Plan.
- Review Sustainable Water Use Plan.
- Continue implementation of Drainage Asset Management Plan.
- Finalise Darebin Drainage Strategy.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Sustainable Water Strategy.
- Darebin Drainage Strategy Review.
- Darebin City Council Stormwater Management Plan.
- Darebin City Council Drainage Asset Management Plan.
- Darebin Sustainable Water Use Plan.

1. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

AUTHOR: Manager Environment & Natural Resources – Libby Hynes

REVIEWED BY: Director City Design & Environment – Daniel Freer

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Waste Management Strategy sets targets focussed on waste avoidance and reduction within Council, households and businesses. This report provides the annual update on progress towards the Strategy's targets.

Strategy started on:

Council adopted the *City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy* in September 2007

Strategy ends on:

Strategy ends in 2014

Strategy to be reviewed by:

An overall review is due in 2014

Advisory Committee:

Darebin Environmental Reference Group provides implementation advice regarding this strategy and all other environmentally-related policies and strategies. Cr Trent McCarthy and Cr Gaetano Greco represent Council on this committee

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy maps a direction towards sustainable waste management in the Darebin community. The strategy includes a range of waste avoidance and reduction objectives, plus actions specific to three key stakeholder groups: Council, households and businesses.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

Targets have been identified in the Strategy and progress towards target achievement in 2010/11 is detailed below. The paper consumption target was separately adopted by Council in August 2008.

Strategy target	Progress against target in 2010/11
65% of solid waste generated by Council activity will be recovered for reuse or recycling.	Audits are to be conducted biennially to assess progress against this target. The 2010/11 audit indicates 82% of waste (by volume) from the Darebin Civic Centre was diverted from landfill. Outlying centres, including libraries and the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, have had improved recycling introduced during this period.
Council spending on goods assessed as having environmental benefit will increase as a percentage of total expenditure.	Expenditure on environmental goods as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding salaries, depreciation and bad debt) in 2010/11 was 15%. Council's spending on these goods has continually increased over the life of this strategy.
All significant contract specifications schedule detail of products and work practices in order to meet sound environmental standards.	Environmental checklists have been developed for buildings and projects through a guideline document for ESD Requirements in Council Buildings which incorporates an ESD brief. This is now included in tender documents. Building projects also now include a standard range of efficient fixtures and fittings. Other tenders are dealt with on a case by case basis.
Darebin representation and	Continued Councillor and Council Officer involvement with

input on or at all key industry waste management organisations and policy development programs.	Committees of the Metropolitan Waste Management Group (MWMG) and other relevant organisations and bodies. Continued advocacy on key waste avoidance and reduction issues and ongoing exploration of partnership opportunities.
Recover 45% of kerbside waste (by weight) for reuse and recycling by 2009. Recover 65% of kerbside waste (by weight) for reuse and recycling by 2014.	Recovery of kerbside waste for recycling continues to increase. During 2010/11, for the first time, Darebin recovered over 50% of kerbside waste (by weight) for recycling.
A sustained downward trend in the quantity of household waste generated and presented at the kerbside for collection per kg per person per year.	Total household waste generated and presented for kerbside collection during 2010/11 is 384 kgs per person.* This includes an increase of 6kgs of waste per person, a slight decrease (<1kg) in recycling and a significant increase in green waste recycling (19kgs).
Recover 60% of waste received at Resource Recovery Centre (by weight) for reuse and recycling.	During 2010/11, 37% of waste received (by weight) was recovered for reuse and recycling at the Resource Recovery Centre. This decrease from previous years is attributed to the reduction in heavy inert waste received at the site. New initiatives include the introduction of cooking oil recycling during 2010/11 and two pending programs: the introduction of extended polystyrene recycling and the commencement of commercial paint recycling with Sustainability Victoria (SV) and industry partners. With the introduction of a national computer and television recycling scheme in 2012, recovery rates associated with these items are expected to increase.
Complete an issues and options paper for improved waste recovery/recycling services for small to medium enterprises,	Following a survey of businesses a new business recycling service is being introduced in 2012. The service will be equivalent to the fortnightly residential kerbside service.
Reduce paper consumption by 10% based on 2007/8 data	8211 reams of paper were purchased in 2010/11, a decrease of 4% from the previous year. This still remains 9% above 2007/8 paper purchases. This includes some paper used in consultations**, estimated at 5%. New printers and technology are expected to improve office paper consumption over the coming period.

*Population data for 2010/11 is based on Darebin's ID forecast, assuming a population of 142,904

** This is based on a staff questionnaire regarding consultation in 2009/10 and reflects consultations of 500 or more.

Challenges

Household Waste and Recycling

Whilst 50% of kerbside waste was recovered through commingled or green waste recycling this year, household waste streams have grown with an estimated per capita: 3% increase in rubbish; 31% increase in green waste and a slight drop in commingled recycling of 1%. The green waste increase is largely attributed to increased rainfall providing improved growing conditions. The slight increase in rubbish and decrease in commingled recycling will be addressed during 2011/12 with education and communications on recycling and waste avoidance and increased recycling streams in the Recycling Contract.

Dumped rubbish has continued to be a key issue for Council during 2010/11. A suite of actions to address rubbish dumping has been outlined in the Darebin City Council Litter Plan 2011-14. Recently Council has been awarded a grant to fund a Litter Prevention Officer who will have a significant focus on dumped rubbish prevention via education, liaison and enforcement.

A significant challenge during 2010/11 was the development and tendering of the Recyclables Services Contracts. The new Recyclables Services Collection and Receivals

Contracts were awarded to Thiess Services and SKM Recycling. These contracts commenced September 2011 and provide an expanded variety of recyclables for household collections including all hard plastics and metal pots and pans.

Business & Public Place Recycling

Council's new recycling contracts include the potential to incorporate business recycling into kerbside collections. A survey of businesses conducted in October 2011, will inform outcomes for business recycling.

In addition to business recycling, a public place recycling trial was introduced at Station Street Fairfield Shopping Strip, supported by Fairfield Traders and to date has been well utilised.

Council has also been awarded a grant to undertake public place recycling with Nillumbik and Whittlesea Councils in conjunction with the Northern Football League (NFL) at targeted league grounds within Darebin (and the other Councils). Engagement of players and supporters will be challenging, but a detailed and multi-faceted communications plan has been developed to address this. This program will extend into the next financial year.

Financial and Resource Implications

Collection and processing of waste costs Council over \$6 million annually. Increases to waste disposal and recycling processing costs are anticipated in the near future due to ongoing landfill levy increases, potential green waste recycling rate increases, the introduction of the carbon tax and participation in organic waste and/or alternate waste technology processing as outcomes of the Victorian Advanced Resource Recovery Initiative. These issues will be the subjects of future reports to Council as appropriate.

All Waste Management Strategy activities from 2010/11 were within budget. Specific financial implications of an area based hard waste collection, the introduction of business recycling and any other arising issues will be reported to Council.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

Waste management, resource recovery and recycling are significant environmental issues. Council, through the Waste Management Strategy, is committed to sustainable waste management. The primary drivers behind the actions of the Waste Management Strategy are waste avoidance and reduction, improved recycling and reuse and decreased waste to landfill, which supports state government Towards Zero Waste Strategy and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan.

As waste in landfill generates approximately 3% of Australia's total greenhouse emissions, continued vigilance around waste management and particularly organic waste recovery will remain a focus for all levels of government.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

Waste management, resource recovery and recycling are significant issues across the community. It is recognised within the waste management industry that the need to engage culturally and linguistically diverse communities is strong as often these communities face multiple barriers that limit their recycling. Darebin is part of a regional project that is identifying and working to address these issues. Additionally we have partnered with Moonee Valley Council to develop recycling information in eleven languages for our diverse communities.

The consideration of people with a disability and elderly people is also foremost in our waste collection policies having been specifically built into our external Recycling Collection contract. This ensures support for those who would otherwise experience barriers to participating in kerbside collections.

Additionally, discounts are offered for pensioners, those with health care cards and carers for green waste collection services (the only fee-based kerbside collection). Not for profit organisations that support people who may experience disadvantage (eg: people with mental illness, people experiencing homelessness, people with a disability) are also given specific consideration in our waste management policies.

CONCLUSION

Council adopted the *City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy 2007-2014* in September 2007. The Waste Management Strategy sets targets until 2014 focussed on waste avoidance and reduction within Council, households and businesses.

Whilst 50% of kerbside waste being recovered through commingled or green waste recycling this year was a good result, household waste streams have grown compared to last year with an estimated: 3% increase in rubbish per person; 31% increase in green waste per person and a slight drop in commingled recycling of 1% per person. The green waste increase is largely attributed to a seasonal related outcome of good growing conditions. The slight increase in rubbish and decrease in commingled recycling will be addressed during 2011/12 with education and communications on recycling and waste avoidance.

Initiatives are underway with businesses, in shopping centres and at sportsgrounds and are particularly focussed on recycling potential. Initiatives within Council continue to focus on increasing recycling – especially paper. Council awarded new household recycling contracts to Thiss Services and SKM Recycling during 2010/11. These contracts enable an expanded range of recyclable items and materials.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Future actions will include:

- Continued advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders on resource recovery and waste issues impacting on local government.
- Continued implementation of the Waste Management Strategy.
- Continued implementation of the Litter Plan, including a focus on dumped rubbish and engagement of Litter Prevention Officer.
- Implementation of household and community recycling initiatives, including participation in local and regional projects (eg: Recycle Right at Home, *Paint Care* Trial, Cleaning Up Our Game NFL Recycling Project).
- Implementation of an area based hardwaste collection service.
- Continued Eco Buy reporting and expanded engagement on Council waste initiatives.
- Continued involvement in regional green waste contract to develop long-term green organics recycling solutions.
- Continued involvement in regional and local waste management initiatives with key stakeholders eg: Victorian Advanced Resource Recovery Initiative, television and computer recycling scheme, container deposit legislation outcomes etc.
- Continue work with Outlook Environmental to improve operations and advance waste reuse and recycling opportunities at the Resource Recovery Centre.
- Finalise public place recycling trial and extend to other shopping sites.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy.
 - Darebin City Council Litter Plan.
 - City of Darebin Environment Policy.
 - City of Darebin Environmental Purchasing Code.
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- Darebin City Council Climate Change Action Plan.
 - Recyclables Services Receiving Contract CT 201062.
 - Recyclables Services Collection Contract CT 201062.
 - Victorian Government Towards Zero Waste Strategy.
 - Victorian Government Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan.
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1. GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2008 - 2012

AUTHOR: Manager Community Planning Partnerships and Performance – Dalal Smiley

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance – Fred Warner

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The City of Darebin's Graffiti Management Strategy 2008-2012 articulates Council's long-term plan and commitment to reducing graffiti in Darebin to enhance perceptions of public safety. The Strategy outlines Council's stance in relation to the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007, and promotes a coordinated graffiti management response across Council, combined with an approach that encourages the community to take responsibility for graffiti prevention, reporting and clean up, particularly in relation to private property.

Strategy started on:

The strategy was adopted by Council in June 2008

Strategy ends on:

The strategy expires on 30th June 2012

Strategy to be reviewed by:

The strategy will be reviewed between February – June 2012 as part of the consultation and development of the new Safety Strategy which will incorporate the Graffiti Management Strategy.

Advisory Committee:

The Darebin Local Safety Committee provides advice regarding the implementation of the Graffiti Management Strategy. The Darebin Local Safety Committee is co-chaired by the Mayor and Darebin Police Inspector.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

Council's plan for reducing graffiti is based on an evidence-based, three pronged graffiti management approach which focuses on: *graffiti prevention; clean up and enforcement of the criminal law*. The City of Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group assists the implementation of Council's Graffiti Management Strategy. The Working Group is a subcommittee of the Darebin Local Safety Committee that was formed in late 2006 to coordinate a partnership approach to respond to graffiti vandalism in Darebin. The Darebin Graffiti Management Working group meets quarterly and is comprised of a wide range of representatives across Darebin with an interest in graffiti management including Victoria Police, Yarra Trams, Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM), the Department of Justice, local trader associations, VicRoads and internal Council officers from Youth Services, Arts and Culture, Community Planning Partnerships & Performance, Roads Infrastructure, Facilities Maintenance, and Darebin Parks.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

- Victoria Community Corrections removed over 10,000 square meters of graffiti from Council and private property equating to a commercial value of \$150,000.
- Audit recorded a total of 4600 incidents of graffiti, equating to \$342,000 worth of graffiti damage in the City of Darebin.
- Department of Justice Graffiti Removal Program will be exploring the potential of extending its existing program to cover the entire Epping line
- Direct response to 141 requests through subsidy program including 46 paint vouchers, 67 graffiti removal kits and 28 contractor vouchers.
- Updated website information. Review and updated graffiti brochure and distributed at related community events
- Community Action Project undertaken with Parade College involving removal of graffiti from private properties in Northcote
- Project designs and consultation complete for youth focused public art project at Bridge Park Northcote.
- Engagement of community arts in urban art project which featured at Northcote Town Hall as part of projectART
- Facilitation of 3 public mural projects for private residences in Darebin
- Register developed as a key outcome of graffiti audit.
- Training provided for Police on use of tag register

Challenges

Resource limitations are a key factor in determining Council's capacity in being to implement actions to the capacity that would have a substantial effect on reducing graffiti across the municipality. It has also been difficult to provide a cost effective response to graffiti as there are a number of Departments across Council responding to the issue.

Benchmarking against other neighbouring Councils indicates that Darebin's expenditure on graffiti removal is relatively low. Most Councils contribute between \$130,000 and \$500,000 directly to graffiti removal in addition to work undertaken by Community Corrections Victoria. A number of other Council's also have a dedicated Graffiti Officer who is responsible for coordinating graffiti responses across the municipality.

Financial and Resource Implications

The implementation of the strategy has occurred within existing resources with an additional \$12,000 contributed from across City Works and Development and City Design and Environment for the completion of the Graffiti Audit undertaken in June 2011.

As there is no dedicated budget line for graffiti removal from parks or road infrastructure it is difficult to determine Council's exact expenditure on graffiti removal, however it is estimated to be approximately \$60,000 per annum.

In addition, in the last financial year Victoria Community Corrections removed over 10,000 square meters of graffiti from Council and private property as part of the Graffiti Removal Program, equating to a commercial value of \$150,000. Council contributes approximately \$5000 per year in paint to this program.

There is currently 8000 square metres of graffiti on Council's laneways, walkways and parks. This amount comprises 28% of the total amount of graffiti damage and would cost approx \$110,000 to clean up.

The new strategy will look into developing a coordinated approach to graffiti management and resources required.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

Graffiti is linked to environmental damage specifically due to aerosol spray paint can litter, and paint and chemicals being washed down drains during the graffiti removal process, thereby polluting stormwater systems. Effective graffiti management and prevention processes can help reduce the overall environmental impact of graffiti.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

Graffiti Management is strongly linked to the Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013, Strategy 3.3: Design and maintain our city to reduce crime, and enhance public safety and perceptions of safety. Graffiti negatively impacts on perceptions of safety and can distort understanding regarding actual levels of safety and crime. When individuals feel unsafe in their environment this can decrease their participation in the community and negatively impact on their sense of wellbeing.

Disadvantaged and at-risk youth are more inclined to participate in graffiti with the impacts of graffiti often having a greater impact on older residents who feel fearful in the local areas as a result of incidences of graffiti.

CONCLUSION

The Graffiti Management Strategy has had a number of key achievements during 2011/12, the key achievement being the completion of a municipal wide graffiti audit and development of a tag register. This work has instigated rigorous internal discussion regarding more effective ways of responding to this issue into the future. The new Safety Strategy will look into developing a coordinated approach to graffiti management and resources required.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Work will commence in February 2012 on the development of a new Safety Strategy to incorporate graffiti management. This new strategy will have greater emphasis on working in partnership with MTM to address graffiti along the rail corridor. An increased focus of the new strategy will be further development of partnerships and educative projects with local high schools.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy, 2008 – 2012
- Council Report, Annual Progress Report on the Darebin Graffiti Management Policy and Strategy and the Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group, 21st December 2009
- Briefing Paper, Darebin Graffiti Audit, 8 August 2011
- Briefing Paper, Council's response to graffiti management on Council owned, private

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- and public infrastructure, 24th October 2011
- Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 (Strategy 3.3: Community Safety)

1. STREETS AHEAD PROJECT

AUTHOR: Streets Ahead Project Officer – Janet Bailie

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance – Fred Warner

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Streets Ahead project is a 3 year VicHealth funded initiative which took a place based approach to facilitate travel behaviour change in children. Within Darebin, the key focus was on encouraging the community to take a lead role in developing locally appropriate solutions to promote active travel and independent walking and cycling to local children. The project worked intensively with 4 primary schools in neighbourhoods within Darebin that face the greatest health inequalities and risk of chronic disease to address barriers to active travel and increase the number of active travel trips that students took to school. The schools that participated in the project are all located in the East Reservoir and East Preston area and are: Holy Name Primary School, Preston Primary School, Reservoir East Primary School and Preston North East Primary School.

Strategy started on:

September 2008. Darebin received funding along with six other Local Government Areas across the state for a demonstration project between 2008 and 2011.

Strategy ends on:

October 2011 is the official end of the funding period however as there are unspent funds and tasks to be completed it has been extended to end December 2011.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

No review required funding ceases October 2011

Advisory Committee:

Not applicable

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

Within Australia over the past three decades, there has been a major shift in how parents transport children to school. Specifically, within Melbourne, VicHealth have reported that the proportion of students walking to school between 1974 and 2003 fell from 45% to 15%, while car travel to school increased from 23% to 70%. Research shows that the car is the most frequently used form of transport for children to travel to and from school in Darebin. Streets Ahead has increased rates of active travel (cycling, walking, scooting, skate boarding) amongst children at the 4 targeted primary schools via health promotion activities, direct participation programs and advocacy.

The 4 schools have been supported by Streets Ahead to develop and implement their own School Travel Plans which have incorporated direct participation programs such as 'Kids on Bikes', 'Walk Across Australia' and 'PARKing Day'. Streets Ahead has also worked closely with community stakeholders and internal council departments to implement Streets Ahead initiatives. This has been a significant aspect of the project as the collaborative nature has

ensured greater success of local initiatives put in place by Streets Ahead as well as by other stakeholders and it has built sustainability into the project.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

- Tangible behavioural change at schools with a noted rise in active travel of students – Reservoir East Primary School has reported a 10% increase and Preston north East Primary School a 30% increase of students cycling to school.
- Excellent relationships with schools and a real culture change to promote active transport – carousel stands within their admin area, newsletter articles, event days organised with little council input now.
- Active Travel message integrated across Council and community events.
- Lower rates of antisocial behaviour in East Preston – fewer complaints regarding youth and children on bikes behaving inappropriately in community.
- Transport Planning and Management adopted eleven recommendations made by Streets Ahead relating to road safety education with schools, children and families as part of the *Safe Travel Strategy 2010-2015*. These recommendations will inform the work Council undertakes with the whole community to promote active travel and independent mobility in children, expanding Streets Ahead initiatives to the whole municipality.
- Strengthened working relationships across council, particularly with Transport Management and Planning and Youth Services. These areas have committed to sustain the momentum of Streets Ahead with schools and via youth outreach as much as possible.

Challenges

- Having resources (such as Active Travel Kits and Neighbourhood Maps) completed for distribution as per timeframes developed at start of year. This was mainly due to the time taken up with competing aspects of the project such as events, financial management, VicHealth and Council reporting, administration and managing relationships with project stakeholders. Fortunately the project funds have not been fully expended and a project officer has been employed until the end of the year to complete the stated actions.
- Working with schools is challenging due to competing demands and commitments within the school setting however the project officer was able to link to members of staff who have championed the Streets Ahead message and helped implement programs.
- As ongoing funding will not be available to continue the positive work with other schools in the municipality work has had to be undertaken to integrate the active travel message into other Council strategies such as Transport Management and Planning's *Safe Travel Strategy 2010-2015*.
- Engaging communities who experience financial and social disadvantage in active travel and the benefits of physical activity is difficult when their focus is on more urgent matters such as food and financial security.

Financial and Resource Implications

Streets Ahead Project is externally funded by VicHealth at \$80,000 per annum due to finish October 2011, Council contributed \$15,000 per year to the project with additional funds allocated for Capital Works for pedestrian and road infrastructure improvements through the Transport Planning and Management Branch. There is currently a carry forward amount from the VicHealth grant which will be used to complete the project actions till end of December 2011.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

Streets Ahead has had a positive impact on the environment by reducing the number of car trips used to transport children to school. Increasing active travel modes for children in Darebin supports the key objectives related to sustainable transport as part of the Darebin Transport Strategy. This in turn supports Council's Climate Change Action Plan through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

Streets Ahead focussed on 4 schools in the most disadvantaged area of Darebin according to ABS SEIFA Index 2001, namely East Reservoir and East Preston. These residential precincts are dominated by public housing and renters and have the highest Aboriginal and culturally diverse population in Darebin. Around half of the population of these areas are health care card holders, the unemployment rate is at its highest and 85% of parents in East Reservoir reported receiving the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2005. The area population reports lower levels of education with 45.4% in Reservoir East and 31.8% in Preston East with no qualification post high school. (Source 2006 Census of Population and Housing, City of Darebin's 2007 Household Survey and the 2001 Burden of Disease Report).

Streets Ahead was able to address some of the disadvantage experienced by children in the area by giving them access to bicycles and bike education, providing free helmets and providing workshops on bicycle maintenance so the roadworthiness of bikes was maintained. Two schools had bike banks (shipping container with set of 30 class bikes and helmets) installed and through the bike education sessions that followed were able to provide a cycling experience to children who had never cycled before, particularly those from newly arrived communities.

Normalising active travel through cycling, scooting and walking to school also helps families who do not have access to a roadworthy vehicle feel confident they appropriately supporting their children to get to school. Research has indicated that walking to school not only enhances health but also enhances connections with local communities and neighbourhoods. This supports the key directions of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and Social Inclusion Agenda.

CONCLUSION

The Streets Ahead program has been an extremely successful initiative that has increased active travel and independent mobility in children aged 4-12 years in Reservoir and Preston. Through a number of locally developed initiatives the profile of active travel has improved and Council has demonstrated its capacity as a key authority to deliver health promotion projects to children in the community.

The functions of the Streets Ahead Project Officer have been integrated into other areas of Council that will continue to support schools and the community in the active travel movement. Particularly Transport Management and Planning will have an integral role in working with schools around active travel and have embedded aspects of the Streets Ahead project in the *Darebin Safe Travel Strategy 2010 – 2015*.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Completion of outstanding project activities such as finalising and printing Neighbourhood Maps and Active Travel Kits.

- Distribution of Active Travel Kits to all schools in Darebin.
- Transport Management and Planning to continue supporting schools in their active travel activities.
- Youth Services to continue to support young people to participate in active travel by providing workshops on bike maintenance and provision of helmets to disadvantaged young people.
- Final financial acquittal and report to VicHealth.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- VicHealth Streets Ahead Program Evaluation Report
- Streets Ahead Final Report to VicHealth – Learnings from the Darebin Streets Ahead Project

1. **DAREBIN OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

AUTHOR: Coordinator Public Realm (acting) – Flynn Hart

REVIEWED BY: Director City Design & Environment – Daniel Freer

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Open Space Strategy is one of the key policy and planning documents for Darebin's Public Realm and informs the development of Darebin's Open Space network. The Strategy was adopted by Council in July 2008 and is intended to be active for 10 years with a mid year review after 5 years of use and implementation. The Strategy is a reference and referral document for other sections of Council when dealing with Open Space issues. The development and planning priorities listed in the strategy form the basis for capital works submissions presented to Council for consideration each year.

Strategy started on:

The Darebin Open Space Strategy was adopted by Council in July 2008

Strategy ends on:

The Darebin Open Space Strategy will be active for ten years and ends in 2017

Strategy to be reviewed by:

The Darebin Open Space Strategy will be reviewed mid term after five years 2012/13

Advisory Committee:

Not applicable

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

Council continues to implement the actions and recommendations in the Open Space Strategy. This report describes and lists the achievements for the 2010/11 financial year. The results include considerable achievements in project delivery, strategy development, site development planning, and applications for external funding.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

Main objectives and achievements for the year:

Open Space Strategy Vision: A well connected network of accessible open spaces that meets the diverse needs of the community and provides a range of social and environmental benefits.

Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
Continue to implement Open Space Strategy master plans, site development plans.	Plan and deliver master plan and site development plan improvements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Darebin Parklands Masterplan - TW Andrews Reserve Masterplan - Edwardes Lake Masterplan - Neighbourhood without Parks Program - East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal Program - Busy Parks Program - Northern Sewer Community Project (LE Cotchin Reserve). 	Master plan and site development plan improvements such as path works, furniture, signage fencing, lighting and tree planting completed for the following Parks and reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Darebin Parklands - TW Andrews Reserve - Edwardes Lake Park - GH Mott Reserve - JC Donath West Reserve - Frank AA Dunstan Reserve - Sugargum Drive Reserve - LE Cotchin Reserve.
Continue to implement the Playspaces Strategy.	Design and assist in the delivery of new and upgraded playspaces across Darebin.	13 playspace upgrades including 4 new playspaces.
Implement improvements to streetscapes and urban areas.	Plan for and deliver Retail Activity Centres capital works program focused on furniture upgrades.	Minor furniture and associated works were delivered in 35 Retail Centres across Darebin.
Review Streetscape Strategy (Greenstreets).	Engage a consultant to review current 1995 Greenstreets Strategy	Consultant engaged. Review underway and is scheduled to be completed in February 2012.
Continue to consult with Darebin's diverse community during the development of strategies, policies, and implementation of projects.	Consult with the community on Projects based on standards set out in the Open Space Strategy.	Most projects were consulted to an acceptable level however on some occasions with Playspace projects consultation was not undertaken. Procedural changes have remedied this issue.
Continue to plan for and implement all abilities access in open space.	Plan for and deliver All Abilities Open Space Access capital works program to improve access.	Path improvements in parks and streetscapes have been undertaken as identified..
Continue to plan and implement off-road shared path system outlined in the Open Space Strategy and Cycle Strategy.	Plan and assist with the implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bundoora Park Bicycle Path Tee Street to Waters Way - Darebin Creek Shared Path Gronn Street to Holt Parade Stage 1 – North section - Kendall/Harding Street Bridge replacement feasibility study and Design Options - Shared path link to Darebin Creek form TW Andrews Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bundoora Park Bicycle Path - Tee Street to Waters Way Complete - Darebin Creek Shared Path Gronn Street to Holt Parade Stage 1 – Works commenced - Kendall/Harding Street Bridge replacement feasibility study and Design Options complete - Shared path link to Darebin Creek form TW Andrews Reserve complete as part of Masterplan works.
Continue membership of the Merri Creek Management	Attend Committee Meetings.	Officers attended Committee meetings throughout the

Committee and the Darebin Creek Management Committee.		year. Darebin contributed funding to both committees for their ongoing works and operation.
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Challenges

With increasing population density and the urbanisation of the City the demand to renew and upgrade landscapes that cater for an increasing and more diverse population whilst reflecting current climate conditions have been challenging.

Meeting community expectations with regards to open space improvements is becoming increasingly challenging. The Open Space Strategy is now 4 years old and the resident demographic, particularly in the south of the municipality, is rapidly shifting requiring innovation in project delivery to accommodate 'nowism'. During 2010-11 the Public Realm Unit developed a full set of Site Development Plans covering every open space in Darebin to assist in the efficient planning and delivery of sites over the life of our current strategies.

Financial and Resource Implications

Public Realm Capital expenditure in open space and urban areas totalled \$1,707,000 which includes works in parks, retail activity centres, and creek corridors. Grants totalling \$522,000 were received for the year.

A ten year capital works program was developed to plan for the implementation of the Open Space Strategy. At current levels of expenditure, the majority of the priority 'A' projects will be delivered over that period of time.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

The implementation of works and the development and maintenance of Darebin's Open Space areas continue to evolve and respond to changing environmental and market conditions.

Landscapes are designed and maintained with the recognition of water restrictions and the need to establish robust hard and soft landscapes. Plant material selection and mulching is carried out to ensure that plant material can establish and thrive in our parks. Whilst some watering may continue in the establishment phase all areas are being designed to accommodate natural rainfall.

When the opportunity arises rain water gardens have been established. Using effectively water that falls into our parks and reserves is considered when ever areas are being redesigned.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The consultation for the Open Space Strategy and development of projects is based on social inclusion principles with the outcomes reflecting our diverse community. Consultation for the Open Space Strategy, Playspaces Strategy, and Master Plans has provided for the opportunity for the Darebin Community to participate in and influence the actions in open space areas.

Construction of park facilities including signage, new paths, and playgrounds is based on the principle of access for all to ensure that the entire community is able to use and enjoy the open space system.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Open Space Strategy continues to see the standards of Open Space facilities and landscapes improved for the Darebin Community. A ten year capital works program developed for the Open Space Strategy indicates that only the A priorities in the strategy can be delivered in that time frame. The adoption of the new Playspaces Strategy and 15 year implementation program will improve playspace provision and play experiences in a timely manner.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- The Open Space Strategy will continue to be implemented in 2011/12.
- Grant applications will be made wherever possible to augment Council Budgets.
- An annual report for 2011/12 will be presented next year.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Open Space Strategy 2008
 - Darebin Playspaces Strategy 2010
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1. **DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2009-2013**

AUTHOR: Disability Access Planner, Natalie McGlone

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance, Fred Warner

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

Darebin's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 is a four-year strategic document comprised of annual action plans, outlining Council's agenda for enhancing access to Council's planning processes, services, communications and employment systems, and the broader community. The plan also demonstrates Council's commitment to compliance with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights Act 2006, the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, the Disability Act 2006, and the relevant Australian Standards for Access and Mobility AS1428.

Strategy started on:

5 October 2009

Strategy ends on:

5 October 2013

Strategy to be reviewed by:

Council reviews and reports on the progress of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 through an annual report at a public Council Meeting as required by s38(3) of the Disability Act (2006).

Advisory Committee:

The Implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is monitored by the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee, chaired by Cr Diana Asmar.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan combines a whole-of-Council approach with a community capacity building approach to enhancing access. The Plan is a four-year document underpinned by eight key priority areas, and annual action plans.

The eight key priority areas of the Plan are:

- 1. Activities and events:** Acknowledging the rights of people with a disability to actively participate in all aspects of Council's planning, and hosting of community events.
- 2. Advocacy and lobbying:** Influencing people who make decisions about disability at higher levels of government, and empowering people with a disability to have stronger voice.
- 3. Building, infrastructure and planning:** Planning for, and providing disability access in all aspects of Darebin's built environment.

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4. **Governance:** Protecting the rights of people with a disability to play an active role in public affairs and decisions that will impact their lives.
 5. **Health, safety and wellbeing:** Identifying risks and barriers to community health and safety and protecting the rights of people with a disability to enjoy wellbeing.
 6. **Information and communication:** Protecting the rights of people with a disability to access information and communicate ideas.
 7. **Services:** Provision of universal access to all Council services and programs including homecare, delivered meals, library programs and waste removal services.
 8. **Workforce development:** Protecting the rights of people with a disability to participate equally in the labour force.

Actions for completion under each of the Plan's key priority areas are integrated with Council's Corporate Planning software. Departments across Council undertake the actions set out in the Plan and report on outcomes in conjunction with their annual service planning and reporting.

Key bodies supporting disability access planning at Darebin

The Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) and Internal Disability Action Group (IDAG) are the key bodies supporting implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. DDAC is a group comprised of residents with a disability, service providers and internal Council staff officers who advise Council on issues relating to access and inclusion for people with a disability living, working, studying or visiting Darebin. The group is also concerned with promoting and advocating for improved disability access within Council and the broader community. DDAC meets bi-monthly and is chaired by a nominated Councillor.

IDAG was formed in 2009 to oversee the development of Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013. This team comprises representation by managers and staff from the Aged and Disability Services unit, Community Development unit, and Leisure Services. The group meets monthly to monitor Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 and collaborate on community based initiatives.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

At the time of writing, the second year action plan of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is 96% complete, with four items outstanding in a total of 110 actions. Of the remaining four items outstanding, two are scheduled for completion in late 2011, and two items will be carried over for completion in early 2012.

The second year action plan of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan key outcomes are:

- Celebrations held at Northcote Town Hall on 2 December 2010 to raise awareness about IDPWD including entertainment for visitors, giveaways and a film screening about disability prepared by Darebin Youth Services.
- Mental Health Week events held in October including two events for Darebin staff and support of the Open Mind Fiesta in Preston Central on Saturday 15 October 2011
- Two Deafness awareness sessions and two Disability Access training sessions held for Darebin staff involving a minimum of 20 staff members at each session, plus an additional training session held for Darebin staff regarding the new Access to Premises Standards (Buildings).

-
- Conducted project examining need of older people living in group homes and developed a project report including recommendations for DHS about how to progress this project further.
 - Establishment of Aboriginal Disability Working Group, comprising Aboriginal Workers from Darebin Council and external services, DHS and MetroAccess Officers from neighbouring Councils.
 - Update of Darebin Disability Services English brochure and English and translated recordings of brochure for audio format.
 - Update of Darebin Disability Database and increased subscriptions to Darebin Disability Access e-Newsletter.
 - Establishment of project with Darebin Neighbourhood House Network regarding more inclusive practices to support people with a disability in Darebin
 - Installation of accessible toileting facilities at Preston Library
 - Installation of accessible toileting facilities at Bundoora Park Visitor's Centre to support use of the accessible children's playground.
 - Installation of accessible hoists in toilets at Reservoir Leisure Centre
 - Provision of accessible, automated doors at the Darebin International Sports Centre (DISC)

Challenges

Staff turnover has delayed the delivery of some disability access projects.

Financial and Resource Implications

Actions and strategies identified in the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan will be met within existing operational budgets. Additional resources when required will be sourced from relevant organisations such as the Department of Human Services. The current capital works program includes an allocation of \$110,000 per year to undertake disability access upgrades at Council facilities.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

The Disability Access and Inclusion Policy and Plan 2009-2013 articulates a number of commitments that may have an impact on the environment with respect to their implementation. Commitments include the provision of documents in large print upon request which may increase paper usage, and ensuring that Council owned buildings are accessible in accordance with Australian Standards for Access and Mobility AS1428.2 which may result in an increase in building processes and materials.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The Disability Access and Inclusion Policy and Plan 2009-2013 seek to reduce disadvantage by enhancing disability access to Council's services, facilities, activities and programs. These documents comply with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and are consistent with Council's commitment to respect, diversity and wellbeing.

CONCLUSION

There have been a number of successful initiatives implemented in the second year of the Disability Access and Inclusion Policy and Plan 2009-2013, with key projects aimed at

enhancing the involvement of people with a disability in community festivals and events, and advocacy on disability issues. Council will continue its capacity building approach to disability access, and continuously improve access to Council services, communications, employment systems and buildings throughout the lifetime of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013, and in doing so, maintain the City of Darebin's position as leader in disability access in Local Government.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Council staff will continue implementing the Disability Access and Inclusion Policy 2009, and commence development of the third year Action Plan as part of implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013.
- Future progress reports on the development of the Disability Access and Inclusion Policy and Plan 2009-2013 will be provided to Council on an annual basis.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Building Code of Australia, specifically Australian Standards for Access and Mobility AS1428
- City of Darebin, Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013
- City of Darebin, Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013
- City of Darebin, Disability Access and Inclusion Policy 2009
- City of Darebin, Diversity Policy 2003
- City of Darebin, Social Inclusion Agenda
- Disability Access to Premises Standards 2010
- Disability Act 2006
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Victorian Charter of Human Rights Act 2006
- Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

1. COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2009-2013

AUTHOR: Dalal Smiley, Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance

REVIEWED BY: Fred Warner, Group Manager People and Performance

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The City of Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 is Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, a planning requirement for all local governments under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. The Plan provides a broad, four-year strategic framework that encompasses all of Council's activities that relate to health and wellbeing across the built, natural, social and economic environmental domains. The Plan is primarily focused on the prevention of ill health and creating environments that encourage good health rather than the treatment of illness or disease.

There are three key priority areas which underpin the Plan which encompass a range of strategic response areas including:

Priority One: Promoting Mental Health and Social Wellbeing – encompassing strategies addressing social inclusion, prevention of violence in families and against women and children, alcohol and drug use and mental health issues.

Priority Two: Improving Physical Health – encompassing strategies addressing physical activity, access to healthy food and nutrition and health promotion.

Priority Three: Creating a Safe, Supportive and Sustainable Environment – encompassing strategies addressing access to health and community services, community safety, housing, transport, climate change and other environmental issues.

Strategy started on:
November 2009.

Strategy ends on:
November 2013.

Strategy to be reviewed by:
The Strategy action plan is developed and reviewed annually with report provided to Council to outline progress.

Advisory Committee:
The Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan receives advice from the DAREBINhealth Steering Committee co-chaired by Cr G. Greco and Cr S. Chiang.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

This report provides a review of progress across year two of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan, from November 2010 to November 2011.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

The following section outlines a snapshot of key achievements from November 2010- November 2011 that address the strategic areas outlined in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013.

- 11 Street Parties held over 2011.
- A Walker Street Housing Estate Reference Group and Safety Committee has been established. They have implemented a community safety audit at Walker Street Estate and developed an action plan to address issues identified.
- Worked with faith leaders to prevent violence against women through the Northern Respectful Relationships Project.
- Sponsored and coordinated the annual Women's Self Care Day as part of the International Week Without Violence. 65 survivors of family violence attending for a day of relaxation and to take time out to care about themselves. This is an increase of 40 participants from 2010.
- The Staff Family Violence Policy was launched and a training package developed and piloted. Darebin is the first Council in Victoria to develop and implement this training.
- Council held a stall at the 2011 Open Mind Fiesta on 16 October 2011, to promote Council's mental health activities.
- 80 youth attended the 2011 Youth Summit on 26 August 2011 with the theme 'promoting positive body image'.
- 6000 Darebin Mental Health Support Services Guides have been distributed to every neighbourhood house, mental health service, GP clinics, Police stations, outreach support services and more.
- 10 Youth Services staff completed Mental Health First Aid training.
- A Community Outing Guide has been developed to promote social activities that can be alternatives to gaming venues and gambling.
- Alcohol Accord Forum held on 27 September 2011. 50 licensed premises were in attendance.
- Council responded to incidence of chroming across the municipality.
- Council hosted a state-wide seminar, in partnership with Anex Australia on the misuse of pharmaceuticals to provide education to front line workers on how to deal with at risk clients. 150 local service providers attended.
- Darebin Council made a submission in September 2011 to the Department of Health Victorian Alcohol and Drug Strategy.
- 12 CycleWise free bike training for adults courses were run since June 2010 with 37 participants.
- A Free Exercise in the Parks program has been established. Programs include outdoor fitness, yoga, Pilates and Tai Chi for 8 weeks from October to December 2011 in up to 5 of Darebin's parks.
- Council's first Food Security Policy was adopted November 2010. Key outcomes for 2010/11 include article in Melbourne Times 15 December 2010, two sustainable food officers appointed to develop a new community garden and community workshops on

healthy eating/food growing, development of a Budget Bites Guide, Backyard Harvest event and a food security needs assessment for newly arrived populations.

- Two Health Days were run, one for women and one for men in East Reservoir. 70 women and 40 men participated.
- New Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) Unit opened at 131 Wood Street, Preston.
- 134 graffiti subsidy applications processed, 46 paint vouchers, 67 kits and 28 contractor vouchers. Additional Graffiti removal from over 30 residential and commercial properties. Approximately 10,000 sq meters of graffiti removed through partnership with Reservoir Community Corrections Service, commercial value \$150,000.
- Implementation of Operation Bounceback Campaign including 3 community education stalls with Metro Trains, 3 community mail drops, 6 month advertising campaign at Northland Cinema Centre and installation of 86 engine immobilisers, total value \$17,200.
- Implementation of 2 community safety month walking events in Northcote and Reservoir.
- Initiated the 'Drive with your Heart' program, a behaviour change program and campaign placing focus directly on those who drive cars, highlighting their enormous responsibility in the traffic.
- 1081 fans (and heat wave information) were delivered and installed free of charge to Darebin residents vulnerable to heat waves. More than 200 homes of residents receiving home care services and vulnerable to heat wave impacts have been retrofitted with external shading and 50 with draught proofing to date.
- Delivered the second year of the Talking my Language Project with a focus on translating environmental information into Macedonian and lead the Sustainability Accord funded Talking My Language partnership program with three other municipalities.
- The Northcote Food Garden was launched in September 2011.
- Delivered two workshops on good food on a budget and food growing targeting members of the community vulnerable to food insecurity.
- Begun the Open Backyard Garden Scheme as part of the Backyards Harvest Festival to provide an opportunity for people to visit and learn from existing productive gardens. There have been 16 new gardens added to the program since the first year it was held in 2010.

Over 2010/2011, the Darebin Health Committee has continued to oversee the implementation of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 through bi-monthly meetings. Over this time, the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy was also a standing agenda item to provide a governance body throughout the development of this key Council strategy. The commitment to this Committee is strong, with the majority of representatives being long-term members sitting on the Committee since it began in 2003. Membership is also consistent with an average of 11 representatives attending each meeting.

Challenges

Reporting back to the community in meaningful and accessible ways in relation to progress made on the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan was tackled as a challenge in 2011 and A Health and Wellbeing Forum was held on 14 April 2011. The purpose of this Forum was to report back to the community on progress over year one of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 and seek their input on our progress. The majority of respondents rated the forum as good (61%) to very good (33%), with 70% indicating that they were very

to extremely satisfied with the role Council is playing in addressing the health and wellbeing needs of the Darebin community.

Financial and Resource Implications

Actions and strategies identified in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan are met within existing operational budgets. Additional resources when required are sourced from relevant organisations and funding bodies.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

Factors in our natural environment such as the provision of open spaces, access to clear air and water and natural vegetation, and protection against climate change are important in maintaining health and wellbeing. The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 contains a number of strategic directions which are specifically designed to reflect Council's commitment to environmental sustainability, with one of the three key priority areas to 'create a safe, supportive and sustainable environment'. This priority area includes specific strategies to address and respond to the potential impacts of climate change. The plan also promotes and encourages sustainable living and healthy behaviours such as active travel, eating fresh foods and using local parks for recreation and leisure pursuits.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 contains a number of strategic directions which are specifically designed to address social inclusion and diversity in the Darebin community, with one of the three key priority areas being to 'promote mental health and social wellbeing'. There have been a number of successful initiatives implemented over the second year of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013, with key projects targeting vulnerable population groups in order to reduce their health inequalities. Some of the key vulnerable groups who have been involved in targeted activity over the past year include: international students, people from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds, people from diverse cultural backgrounds, women and men, older adults, youth and people with a mental illness or disability.

CONCLUSION

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 continues to achieve good outcomes for the Darebin community. Over 2010/2011, out of the 62 actions identified for action, 87% were completed, 10% are still in progress and 3.2% have been delayed. Overall, 97% of the actions for 2011 are completed or on track and the remaining 3% will be carried over to the 2012 action plan.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Development of the 2012 Action Plan

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin, Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013
- Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 - Year Two Progress Report 2010/11

1. DAREBIN PLAYSPACE STRATEGY

AUTHOR: Coordinator Public Realm (acting) – Flynn Hart

REVIEWED BY: Director City Design & Environment – Daniel Freer

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Playspace Strategy is the major planning document for playspace provision across the municipality. The Playspace Strategy adopted by Council in July 2010, is both a review of the previous Playground Strategy and establishes a move for Council to deliver playspaces rather than just play equipment into the future.

The Strategy acknowledges that play takes many forms and is not limited to static play equipment and incorporates the holistic view that the playspace setting including access paths, seats, tables, tree planting for shade and other landscape elements are an integral to these facilities being provided for our community.

This strategy is intended to inform and guide the strategic development of the more than 130 Council playspaces in public parks, children's services centres, and neighbourhood houses within the City over a 10-15 year period.

Strategy started on:

Council adopted the Darebin Playspace Strategy in July 2010

Strategy ends on:

The Darebin Playspace Strategy ends in 2020

Strategy to be reviewed by:

The Darebin Playspace Strategy is due to be reviewed in 2019-20

Advisory Committee:

Not Applicable

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The Darebin Playspace strategy provides a development plan for the construction of new and/or refurbishment of existing playspaces. The 2010-2011 financial year has seen a number of major achievements in playspace development in Darebin including 13 new and upgraded playspaces and the completion of a 15 year development lifecycle matrix for all the city's playspaces. Council was also able to secure significant Federal Grant funding towards the development of four of these playspaces.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

Main objectives and achievements for the year:

Playspace Strategy Vision: A well connected network of accessible open spaces that meets the diverse needs of the community and provides a range of social and environmental benefits.

Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
Continue to implement Playspace Strategy recommendations	<p>Upgrade Playspaces: Allan Shephard Reserve - Thornbury Batman Park – Northcote Frank AA Dunstan Reserve – Reservoir Fyffe Reserve – Reservoir I W Dole Reserve – Reservoir Judith Scott Reserve – Kingsbury Nisbett Reserve – East Preston Walter Reserve – Preston W K Larkins Reserve - Regent</p> <p>Create New Playspaces: Broomfield Reserve – Alphington G H Mott Reserve – Preston Sugargum Reserve – Bundoora John Cain Memorial Park – Thornbury</p>	Thirteen new and redeveloped playspaces have been constructed in Parks and Reserves across the municipality including four new playspaces in locations previously having no play equipment.
Complete planning for entire lifecycle of Darebin's Playspaces	Develop a 15 year playspace lifecycle matrix for all current and future playspaces in Darebin.	A long term capital program has been developed to implement the strategy. Forward planning for playspaces Council to be successful in receiving a grant of \$255,000 from the Federal Government to build four new playspaces.
Secure funding	Undertake detailed planning for next round of playspaces	Funding has been secured to continue the development plan into the 2011-12 financial year.
Promote Playspace Strategy	Establishment of a broader range of promotional material and methods of providing information for Darebin's playspaces, with particular attention paid to the inclusion of young people, people with a disability and culturally and linguistically diverse communities	Playspace Strategy flyer completed for general use and distribution.

Challenges

The greatest challenge in the delivery of the Playspace Strategy is the changing community expectations for what they wish to see encompassed within a playspace. There cannot be a one size fits all approach as the diversity of Darebin leads to different community needs and desires in different areas of the City. Although the Playspace Strategy consulted heavily at the time of its preparation any future development or redevelopment of playspaces requires additional consultation with the local community.

Managing this additional consultation and the community expectations it raises a further challenge along with the time that this takes

Financial and Resource Implications

Capital expenditure on playspaces in 2010-11 was \$623,370 of which \$245,000 was secured externally from Federal funding. Recurrent expenditure for maintenance of existing playspaces \$276,474.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

The Playspace Strategy has minimal implication for environmental sustainability as the strategy incorporates a requirement to maintain sustainability and incorporate the use of environmentally sustainable design principle, sustainable and recycled materials and water sensitive urban design within the development of new playspaces and refurbishment of old playspaces.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The provision of playspaces maintains Council's commitment to community health and wellbeing as well as the support and contribution to enhancing social cohesion within the community. The Playspace Strategy pays particular attention to ensuring equitable access for all community groups to playspace facilities with design considerations that incorporate features that encourage diverse and all abilities access.

All Abilities playgrounds are provided at the District and Regional Park level with major playspaces at All Nations Park, the recently open Bundoora Park.

CONCLUSION

The Playspace Strategy is a major planning tool enabling Council to provide playspace facilities for the Darebin community and implementing the recommendations of the strategy will continue to enhance the services that Council provides to local communities.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- The Playspace Strategy will continue to be implemented in 2011-2012.
- Grant applications will be made wherever possible to augment Council Budgets.
- An annual report for 2011/12 will be presented next year.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Playspace Strategy 2010 (copy attached)

1. COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

AUTHOR: Manager, Environment and Natural Resources - Libby Hynes

REVIEWED BY: Director, City Design and Environment - Daniel Freer

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The key objective of the Community Climate Change Action Plan is to support the Darebin community to significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The three key strategic directions of the plan are to: advocate to State and Federal Governments; strengthen community networks and mobilisation; and provide targeted services and programs for the Darebin community. New targeted programs initiated through the Action Plan include the Light\$mart program to help businesses use energy more efficiently; the Talking My Language program to work in partnership with culturally and linguistically diverse communities to develop targeted climate change and energy efficiency information; and energy efficiency retrofits for low income and disadvantaged members of the community. The Darebin Solar Hot Water roll-out was also an initiative of the plan completed in 2010/2011.

Strategy started on:

The Community Climate Change Action Plan was adopted in June 2009. This report reviews the second year of implementation - 2010/2011.

Strategy ends on:

The scope of the strategy is until 2020.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

The major review of the Plan is scheduled for 2014.

Advisory Committee:

Darebin Environmental Reference Group provides implementation advice regarding this strategy and all other environmentally-related policies and strategies. Cr Trent McCarthy and Cr Gaetano Greco represent Council on this committee.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The implementation of the Community Climate Change Action Plan continues to deliver positive outcomes for the Darebin community including:

- more energy efficient homes assisting with lower energy costs
- weatherproofing of homes to assist vulnerable people with health and safety outcomes in extreme heat
- climate change and energy efficiency information available in community languages
- uptake of solar panels and solar hot water by the Darebin community
- energy and cost savings for Darebin businesses.

Darebin has leveraged or added value to the following funding:

- \$110,000 from the Department of Human Services to ameliorate the impacts of climate change for elderly and vulnerable members of the community
- \$125,000 for the Talking My Language partnership program being delivered across four Victorian municipalities - led by Darebin.

Strengthening community networks has occurred via the schools incursion regarding electric vehicles, renewable energy and green jobs and ongoing support for local community groups.

Darebin continues to advocate to the State and Federal Government regarding climate change action including input into the Federal Government's Low Carbon Communities consultation process.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
Targeted Programs		
Low Income Households - Assist low income households to increase energy efficiency, improve comfort and weatherproofing of homes and reduce energy costs.	Darebin Fan Fair project	1081 fans (and heat wave information) delivered and installed free of charge to residents vulnerable to heat waves. Project completed in May 2011.
	Darebin Cool Shade project.	More than 200 homes retrofitted with external shading and 50 with draught proofing to date. Project has continued into this financial year and will be completed by December.
Working in Partnership with CALD communities	Talking My Language - Macedonian Energy Efficiency Brochure	Brochure completed in partnership with the Macedonian Bigla Senior Citizens Group with 40 people attending the launch in May 2011.
	Talking My Language Partnership Program - a Darebin leadership project funded by the Sustainability Accord to spread the	A leadership program to spread the benefits of the Talking My Language program across Victoria. By the end of December the following materials will have been developed with the following communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northcote Italian Pensioners Club are developing an energy efficiency brochure • The Australian Vietnamese Women's Association in Yarra City Council are developing fridge magnets with energy efficiency tips • The Indian community is represented by parents from Footscray North Primary School in Maribyrnong and are developing an energy efficiency DVD in Hindi • The Goulburn Valley Afghan Association in Greater Shepparton are developing an energy efficiency DVD
'Bulk buy' roll-outs of energy efficient products	Darebin Solar Hot Water Roll-out	275 Darebin households had energy efficient solar hot water systems at

		highly competitive prices installed as a result of the program. Four Darebin child care centres had systems installed.
	Delivering Clean Energy Solutions (Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action) Solar Panel and Solar Hot Water Roll-out led by Moreland Energy Foundation on behalf of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.	50 Darebin households have installed a new solar system - 160 installs have occurred across the region. The program is still being implemented and has been affected by changes in the Solar Feed in Tariff and significant fluctuation in the value of Small Scale Technology Certificates (STCs) which impact on the cost of solar systems.
Support Community Networks		
	Green Jobs and Technology Incursion for schools. Showcasing electric bikes, cars and green job opportunities.	More than 200 students from 3 schools participated with great feedback.
Advocacy		
One Million Homes	Darebin Council endorses the One Millions Home campaign to advocate for the retrofitting of low income homes.	The Baillieu Government has not acted on recommendations from the One Million Homes report.

Challenges

The Policy context and funding opportunities for environmental and climate change programs continues to change.

It was anticipated that Federal and State energy efficiency programs for low income households would now be finalised and operational so that Darebin could review how best to add value in this area for Darebin residents on an ongoing basis. The Federal Government is yet to finalise their Low Carbon Communities funding for low income households (grant applications for large consortia will be available in 2012) and the Victorian Government continue to deliver support in an unstructured manner. Darebin has continued to deliver programs to enhance the energy efficiency of low income households, particularly Home Care recipients, taking advantage of other programs and funding opportunities as they arise.

Following the delivery of the Darebin Solar Hot Water Roll-out, review of the feasibility of delivering ongoing 'bulk buy' programs to broker cost effective energy efficient or environmental products for Darebin residents has been postponed. This is because the Sustainability Accord grant to the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action to deliver bulk buy programs across the region also incorporated a review of the business model for future opportunities. This project is due to be completed in March 2012.

The supplier engaged to deliver the Darebin Solar Hot Water roll-out unfortunately went into receivership in early 2011 due to issues unrelated to the program. All participating households were written to by Council and follow up was undertaken by Council on behalf of a small number of households.

Financial and Resource Implications

The program continues to be delivered within the existing operating budget.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

The aim of the Action Plan is to assist the Darebin community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly by using energy more efficiently and/or switching to renewable energy options. No recent data is publically available for electricity and gas use across the Darebin community. Through a Sustainability Accord funded program the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) is pursuing community data, working with the Department of Sustainability and Environment and energy distribution companies.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan has specifically targeted low socio-economic households for free energy efficiency retrofits including the provision of fans and heat wave information, draught sealing and external blinds. The Darebin Fan Fair program was promoted via range of social support and health and emergency networks to ensure broad uptake by residents most in need. The Darebin Cool Shade program that provides external blinds and draught sealing to houses with high summer heat uptake targeted recipients of Darebin's home care services who are at risk of heat wave impacts. The Talking My Language program has worked with the Darebin Macedonian community via the Macedonian Bigla Senior Citizens Group and the partnership program is working with four CALD communities across Victoria including the Italian community in Darebin.

CONCLUSION

The Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan continues to deliver good results for the Darebin community. People from low socio-economic backgrounds have benefited from energy efficient fans and heat wave response information; others have had external blinds fitted to windows, particularly west facing living areas and draught sealing to improve energy efficiency and weatherproofing. The Talking My Language program continues to engage CALD communities in positive partnership programs and is now delivering translated energy efficiency information across the state.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continued implementation of the Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan
- A report to Council regarding the energy efficiency program and Council's own greenhouse reduction target will be scheduled for later in 2012.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan

1. FOOD SECURITY POLICY

AUTHOR: Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance, Dalal Smiley

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance, Fred Warner

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Food Security Policy provides a framework to inform and guide local level action around improving food security and its determinants including:

- Improving the ongoing supply of nutritious and sustainable food available in Darebin; and
- Improving access to the availability of food supply, particularly for those who are the most vulnerable to food insecurity.

This report provides details of projects in the 2010/2011 year to outline progress made over the first seven months of the Policy.

Strategy started on:

29 November 2010.

Strategy ends on:

November 2014.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

The Food Security Policy is due for review in 2014. Council will be provided with annual progress reports over this time.

Advisory Committee:

The Food Security Policy is informed by advice from the DAREBINhealth Steering Committee co-chaired by Cr G. Greco and Cr S. Chiang

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The Darebin Food Security Policy has five key action areas. The following provides an overview of key projects and outcomes over the 2010/2011 year to outline progress so far.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

- Council participation in the Department of Health Food Security Network to provide input into the development of a Food Security Framework for the North/West Region of Metropolitan Melbourne.
- New initiative funding of \$50,000 to support sustainable food initiatives and \$5,000 for a new home garden food award was included in the 2010/2011 Council budget. This funding was used to employ two casual project officers to implement sustainable food initiatives and resulted in the development of the Northcote Library Food Garden, a series

of healthy eating and gardening workshops for disadvantaged population groups and the development of the Budget Bites community resource.

- A workforce development workshop was run for Council staff and community agency representatives on *Food Sensitive Planning and Urban Design* on 21 June 2011. The workshop was run in partnership with the Victorian Eco Innovations Lab (VEIL) and was based on the Victorian Heart Foundation's new resource FSPUD. 14 people attended the workshop. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and suggested that a valuable learning experience did take place.

- Three new community gardens have been constructed and launched including:

East Reservoir Community Garden has 31 plots and is managed by community volunteers. The garden was officially launched by Craig Ondarchie MP and the Mayor on 26 September, 2011.

A Food Garden was constructed at Northcote Library. The garden was officially launched on 3 September, 2011 with a Garden Party. The event attracted 80 people and included a garden tour, food swap, children's gardening activities and free community resources on sustainable food and gardening.

A new community garden was created at SPAN Neighbourhood House, Thornbury.

- Food security has been identified as a key consideration in the Reservoir Structure Plan project discussion papers with food growing a key element to the vision for Reservoir 2030. Two new supermarkets have been earmarked, alongside food production embedded into the urban landscape to enhance access to fresh food in this area which has been identified as Darebin's key food desert.
- Food security has been considered in the review of the Municipal Strategic Statement, the Integrated Housing Strategy and the potential Pipeworks Relocation into Darebin.
- Food Security added to the Darebin Community Risk Register in case of an extreme weather event or natural disaster resulting in barriers to accessing food which may require a large scale emergency relief effort.
- The Food Security Policy has been used to inform the review of the Municipal Strategic Statement and the development of the Darebin Integrated Housing Strategy.
- A Food Management checklist was included in the Darebin Events Guide in 2011 to ensure that any large events run in Darebin provide a range of food options to suit a culturally diverse community.
- Home style cooking classes are being run through the Darebin Intercultural Centre, featuring food from different cultures.
- A series of community workshops were run including:
Good Food, Good Value workshops focused on low cost recipe ideas, food budgeting, healthy eating and nutrition. In partnership with a Dietician from Darebin Community Health, healthy meals were prepared for \$3 per person. These workshops targeted vulnerable groups, and were run with public housing residents at High Street, Northcote and Agg Street, Thornbury.

Budget Food Growing workshops were run in partnership with CERES. These workshops provided hands on learning. Workshops were held at SPAN Community House and East Reservoir Community Garden, one tailored to newly arrived Horn of Africa women and their families and an open workshop with the general community.

The workshops effectively engaged groups of 10-15 participants from vulnerable communities and received excellent feedback.

- The theme of the 2011 Youth Summit was on Body Image. As part of the Summit events, a Healthy Cooking Workshop was run by a Dietician from Darebin Community Health with 15 high school students to teach them how to prepare healthy and affordable afterschool snacks.
- An International Students Food Security Survey was put together and disseminated through various student portals. 129 international students from Darebin and across Melbourne completed the survey. Results are currently being assessed.
- A focus group was run with 10 newly arrived women aged between 17-55 years to assess issues around food access, food utilisation and vulnerability to food insecurity. The women were from a variety of backgrounds including Iraqi, Sudanese, Liberian and Sierra Leone. The women had arrived in Australia as refugees and had been living here for less than 5 years.
- Council's new Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy identifies five actions for 2011/2012 to enhance food security of older adults.
- Two student placements from Deakin University conducted a Victorian Healthy Food Basket Survey to assess and monitor the cost of an average healthy food basket in local supermarkets across Darebin. A final report has been completed.
- Through the Sustainable Homes and Communities Program, two workshops were held to educate the community on how they can eat more sustainably, eat healthily and save money. The workshops held included:
 - Sustainable Food Workshop* on 12 May 2011. 80 people attended.
 - Create a Sustainable Garden* workshop on 13 October 2011. 120 people attended.Both workshops had excellent feedback, and reflected an increase in knowledge.
- The Backyard Harvest Festival was held in early 2011 in partnership with DECC. This consisted of 7 open gardens, a garden competition and culminated in a celebration and awards ceremony. To improve coverage and promote the benefits of productive gardening, a video of gardens, gardeners and techniques was developed and has been loaded onto the website and YouTube for wider viewing.

New resources were developed and include:

- *Darebin Budget Bites Guide* – a local guide to healthy, cheap and sustainable food, including emergency relief and community organisations.
- *Sow What When* – a seasonal seed planting guide for Darebin gardens.
- Revised *Sustainable Gardening in Darebin* booklet, updating Council's existing booklet developed in 2004, which includes information on design, plants, compost, water, food and sustainable gardening practice.
- Continued to co-convene Good Food Alliance forums in partnership with Banyule Council to network, share learnings and seek opportunities on community food security projects. Two meetings held by Darebin Council in April and June 2011.
- Convened bi-monthly meetings of the Darebin Emergency Relief Network to provide a forum for networking and support to local emergency relief providers.
- Promoted food security forums, summits and training opportunities to Council staff.

Challenges

While there is a lot of momentum around this work, action is limited by the availability of staff resources and capacity. The Council funding received in 2010/2011 was essential in delivering some of the key achievements around sustainable food outlined above. In order to maintain that level of output in future years, further funding and investment will need to be sought. Work will also need to focus on building the existing capacity of the workforce and community to ensure we are coordinating efforts across the City of Darebin. This can be achieved through the development of a Darebin Food Action Group or Network which can oversee the work stemming from this Policy, assist with the sharing of resources and knowledge, and drive collective advocacy. The establishment of an Action Group or Network will be the key activity for 2012.

Financial and Resource Implications

The implementation of the Food Security Policy is as per allocated budget. Some further funding will need to be sought to support the implementation of future activities in 2011/2012 and beyond.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

Food security is fundamentally linked to environmental sustainability with food insecurity an issue that will continue to grow in importance as the capacity to produce and distribute food decreases due to pressures such as water scarcity, land degradation and loss of arable land due to urban growth. Simultaneously, there will be increasing demand for food as the population grows. The Darebin Food Security Policy strives to enhance sustainable food practices from paddock to plate (i.e. from growing food through to food waste) as a key strategy to enhancing food supply and access and therefore, food security.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

Food insecurity typically is associated with poverty and disadvantage. The Darebin Food Security Policy identifies population groups who are vulnerable to food insecurity in Darebin to ensure that intervention can be targeted to those most in need with the aim of minimising the impact of food insecurity in their lives. Work over 2010/2011 has focused on the following population groups:

- International students
- People with a low proficiency in English including newly arrived migrants and refugees
- Households in the Northern suburbs of Darebin
- Frail older adults or people with a mental illness or disability who require support for meals

CONCLUSION

There have been a number of significant achievements over the first year of the Food Security Policy. These achievements have seen increases to the local food supply through the development of new community gardens and embedding food security into key planning processes and policies across Council. It has also seen an increase in supports available to the community in accessing food through skill based workshops and new information resources to support healthy and affordable shopping and cooking. 2010/2011 has also involved key research and consultation on the food security needs of vulnerable population groups in the community and partnership building such as the development of the Darebin Emergency Relief Network, which will provide a solid foundation for future work in this area.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Development of a Food Security Action Group/Network to oversee the annual action planning and implementation of the Darebin Food Security Policy.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin, Food Security Policy 2010-2014

1. RESPONDING TO HOUSING STRESS A LOCAL ACTION PLAN.

AUTHOR: Housing Project Officer- Andrea Levey

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager, People and Performance- Fred Warner

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The City of Darebin “Responding to Housing Stress Action Plan” 2010-2013 provides a framework for the council’s commitment to becoming actively involved in reducing housing stress within the municipality. The action plan has 10 key objectives with a number of actions under each objective. The plan is currently in the implementation phase.

Strategy started on:

The Strategy was adopted by Council on 6 September 2010.

Strategy ends on:

The strategy ends 30 June 2013.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

Review currently taking place and will be reviewed annually.

Advisory Committee:

The Darebin Housing Advisory Committee chaired by Cr G. Greco provides input and advice regarding the implementation of this Strategy.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The Responding to Housing Stress Action plan was developed after numerous consultations with the not for profit sector, local residents and State Government representatives. The plan was adopted by Council in September 2010. The plan is now in the implementation phase.

Under the plan, Council committed to actively pursue the development of different types of housing to fill the gaps in the service system, including social housing, community managed rooming houses and a crisis support centre. Further actions included continued provision of direct services and support to people affected by the lack of affordable housing and housing stress and forming partnerships with developers and Affordable Housing Agencies to encourage high quality, sustainable and affordable housing options.

The Plan also establishes a clear role for local government in relation to affordable housing and explores a range of functions that can influence local housing outcomes. Local government being the ‘closest level of government’ to the people is in a critical position of recognising and addressing the very real impacts that a lack of a safe and secure affordable housing has on individuals and communities. The Darebin Local Action Plan focuses on planning and land use as well as crucial social impacts.

The plan has been an effective tool to date on raising the profile of the issues around housing stress both within Council and the general community. Whilst some of the actions

have been impacted on by the change in State Government the implementation is progressing steadily.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

- Private Rooming House Owners Forum was held on 10 November 2011.
- Six Meetings were held with developers and registered Housing Agencies organised and facilitated by the Housing Officer
- VicUrban have undertaken a study of 9 Darebin car parks as potential development sites
- The Darebin Housing Advisory committee is well attended with a good representation of local agencies and workers. There is a guest speaker at each meeting presenting on a topical issue or campaign in the housing sector
- A forum attended by over 40 people was held in conjunction with Darebin Ethnic Communities Council on Housing Affordability and Diversity
- Two surveys were conducted to get a sense of the public's views on public/social housing
- Four meetings were held with City of Yarra and the City of Moreland to work together on an educational Affordable/Social Housing kit for the Northern municipalities

Challenges

A lot of the actions in the Strategy cannot be significantly progressed as they depend on changes in State legislation. The State Government has released its housing policy recently and has placed a lot of responsibility on local government to proactively pursue social and affordable housing options and outcomes. Donating land to social housing agencies is an option available to Council, however Darebin Council has very limited free land for development. Achieving substantial outcomes in social housing stocks remains a significant challenge to Darebin.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council funds a part time Housing Project Officer to undertake the implementation of the plan. Actions from the plan are delivered within existing operational programs.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

N/A.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

Housing is fundamental to our standard of living and quality of life. An absence of housing has far reaching social and economic effects including social exclusion, homelessness, mental health, income insecurity, family breakdown and families and individuals experiencing housing stress.

Today housing is a scarce resource everywhere and the lack of affordable housing and homelessness are of concern in the municipality. All marginalised groups are at risk of housing stress and homelessness.

The Action plan focuses on working at the local level to address these issues and to ensure Darebin is a city that is affordable for all, diverse and inclusive.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the “Responding to Housing Stress Action Plan” continues to gather momentum. Now that the new government has released its vision for the housing and homelessness sector for the next four years Council can start to work within the framework set out.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Consultations with the community on the Darebin Integrated Housing Strategy with planning department
- Further work on investigating affordable housing solutions (taking into account the Victorian government housing strategy)
- Continue to implement the ten objectives outlined in the strategy

RELATED DOCUMENTS

“Responding to Housing Stress” a Local Action Plan.

1. DAREBIN ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINE POLICY AND STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2014

AUTHOR: Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance – Dalal Smiley

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People & Performance – Fred Warner

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2010 – 2014 (The Darebin EGM Policy) provides a framework to support Council's position in relation to electronic gaming machine (EGM) activity and identifies key areas for action to reducing gambling harm in the municipality.

Strategy started on:

The Strategy was adopted by Council in August 2010, (superseding the Darebin Electronic Gaming Strategy 2001)

Strategy ends on:

August 2014

Strategy to be reviewed by:

The strategy is reviewed annually.

Advisory Committee:

Not Applicable

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

Council's policy position in relation to Electronic Gaming Machines activity within the municipality is articulated in the Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Action Plan 2010-2014.

The policy provides Council with a clear position and actions in relation to:

- Community benefit
- Council as responsible planning authority
- Council-owned or managed property or land
- Venue applications and permits

Darebin residents experience greater losses through gambling on EGMs than any other northern municipality in Melbourne. In 2010/2011, losses exceeded \$87 million, with 8.78 EGMs for every 1000 adults in Darebin, well above the state average of 6.28. Darebin is ranked the sixth highest of any municipality in Victoria in terms of net annual EGM expenditure. (Source: www.vcgr.vic.gov.au).

Officers within Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance, have been progressing strategic actions contained within *Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2010-2014*. In particular, the past twelve months has seen strong partnerships fostered with local stakeholders and the community to reduce the impact of gambling losses in the municipality. Work has been progressed broadly across all areas of the EGM Policy. Particularly, outcomes have been achieved in community benefit and community development and engagement areas.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

- Enhanced partnerships with VLGA and other Victorian Councils.
- Development of Social and Economic Impact Assessment Framework in collaboration with Northern Council's and VLGA
- Continuous improvement with increased capacity for Council to remain informed around impacts of problem gambling on the local community, decision making and strategic actions supported by expertise of Gambling Policy Officer
- Outings Guide completed and distributed via North East Primary Care Partnership
- Copy of guide sent to all groups receiving community grants for community outings
- Policy and Action Plan have been referenced in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and incorporated into the Action Plan.
- No Pokies policy position promoted across council programs and services.
- Adoption of Differential Rates on gaming venues resulting in an additional revenue of \$160k for community related projects and activities
- Reservoir Bowling Club will not be renewing pokies licenses and machines to be removed.
- Information session for Statutory planners provided – all gaming applications referred to Council Planning Committee

Challenges

Section 3.3.6 of the Strategy states that Council Officers will: *Engage with venues to explore ways they can develop and promote other recreations and social activities within their own venues as a sustainable alternative.*

This engagement has been limited due to the competing priorities of the Darebin EGM Policy, including introduction of a Differential Rates scheme. There has not been a process to engage with venues around this, which has limited ability of staff to implement this aspect of the policy.

What actions were taken to address the challenges and were they successful?

Council adopted a resolution on Monday 21 November to re-engage with local gaming venues and work collaboratively to address problem gambling

Financial and Resource Implications

As per allocated budget.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

NIL

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Action Plan is informed by the following Council plans and strategies:

- Darebin Council Plan 2009-2013
- Darebin Municipal Strategic Statement 2010
- Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013
- Darebin Diversity Policy 2001
- Darebin Leisure Services Strategy 2010

The social and economic cost of problem gambling is of ongoing concern to governments and the community and is a significant public health issue.

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, women and socially/economically disadvantaged communities, are particularly vulnerable.

CONCLUSION

The Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2010 – 2014 (The Darebin EGM Policy) provides a framework to support Council's position in relation to electronic gaming machine (EGM) activity and identifies key areas for action to reducing gambling harm in the municipality. Officers within the Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance Department have sought to ensure a coordinated approach to implementation of the plan both internally and externally with venues, problem gambling agencies, other local governments and community. This work is supported with adequate resourcing, strategic planning and clear understanding of Council role in minimising impacts of problem gambling on the local Darebin community.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to advocate for mandatory full pre-commitment to be introduced by the Federal Government including through advocacy platforms including the VLGA
- Continue to work with key agencies and communities at the local level to reduce harms of EGM gambling by identifying opportunities to collaborate on events and developing primary health prevention resources and social marketing materials
- Revise the *no pokies policy* and promote across Council
- Clarify with the Department of Community Planning and Development, changes to the Community Support Fund and advocate for funding grants to be allocated to Darebin on a needs based formula as per the EGM Policy .

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Strategic Action Plan (August 2010)
- *Pokie-free Places & Activities for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Communities in Darebin Project* (October 2005)
- *Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Strategy* (November 2001)

1. LEISURE STRATEGY 2010 - 2020

AUTHOR: Manager Leisure and Public Realm – Adrian Burns

REVIEWED BY: Director City Design and Environment – Daniel Freer

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Leisure Strategy aims to create an inclusive environment where Darebin's diverse community can experience physical and mental wellbeing by participating in sustainable sport and recreation activities. The implementation of the Leisure Strategy will encourage higher participation rates in sport and recreation activities. The Leisure Strategy will provide support to traditionally disadvantaged communities so that people from all walks of life have the same opportunities to be active.

Strategy started on:

The Leisure Strategy was adopted by Council in October 2010.

Strategy ends on:

The Leisure Strategy will end in 2020.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

The Leisure Strategy directions and priorities will be reviewed and reported upon annually and it will also undergo major review upon completion of the strategy's initial 4 Year Action Plan in 2014.

Advisory Committee:

Not Applicable

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The Leisure Strategy informs the types of leisure related services that Council offers and intends to offer to the community and influences how these services are delivered. The Strategy also provides Council with a 4 Year Action Plan which is more specific and lists each key action and the target year in which the action will ideally be completed.

Since the adoption of the Leisure Strategy and 4 Year Action Plan in October 2010, we have been working through the year one priority actions and planning for the year two priority actions. This is the first annual report under this strategy.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
Develop a range of methods to communicate	Create and distribute 'The Club Kit' – A guide for	Completed. Clubs have access to information that

with Darebin's diverse community and actively promote leisure opportunities	sports clubs in Darebin	will support them and provide information about a broad range of areas relevant to Club committee's.
Facilitate and partner with community groups to support participation in leisure activities, with a specific emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	Work with the Fitzroy Stars Football Club to secure a home ground	Council has funded a significant capital works project to reconstruct the Sir Douglas Nicholls Oval. This will provide certainty for the club and become an important meeting place for the Aboriginal community.
Develop a pavilion hierarchy and development plan to guide the future development of pavilions with priority	Develop a 15 year capital works program that ensures an equitable and consistent process for the future upgrade, development and renewal of community sporting facilities	A draft document has been developed which assesses sporting ground facilities, including pavilions, based on a wide ranging criteria that includes existing condition, functionality, social inclusion, future development and utilisation in order to develop a prioritised list for works. This will be finalised and presented to Council.
Develop a pavilion hierarchy and development plan to guide the future development of pavilions with priority	Develop an electronic management tool to inform the 15 year capital works planning	Completed. The electronic management tool provides one central collection point for a broad range of detailed information relating to sports ground infrastructure and user groups. This has also supported the work conducted on the 15 year capital works planning document.
Commit to appropriate infrastructure planning and management models for Darebin's major leisure facilities	Prepare a Masterplan for Bundoora Park	Underway. This plan will provide a number of options for Council to consider at Bundoora Park.
Encourage co-contributions from sports clubs and community groups to improve community facilities	Develop a minor capital grants funding program aimed at sporting clubs allocated on Council leisure facilities	Completed. Clubs have a mechanism to make minor infrastructure improvements to facilities through a combination of

		Council and Club funds.
Plan for facilities to be resilient to the ongoing impacts of climate change including reducing reliance on water and energy	Implement warm season grass conversions on sports grounds	Ongoing. Converting a sports ground from cool season grass to warm season grass reduces water use by around 70%.

Challenges

In this first year of the Strategy the key challenge has been staff turnover impacting on the ability to finalise and complete projects undertaken as a part of the Action Plan. In order to mitigate this in the future, the implementation of Action Plan objectives projects will be undertaken from a greater team focus with team members able to deputise for each other when required.

Financial and Resource Implications

The major financial and resource implications of the Leisure Strategy will be the budgetary demands of managing the provision of infrastructure necessary to deliver the Action Plan and Leisure Strategy objectives. Darebin has an aging sporting infrastructure and increased demands for diverse recreational experiences and the community expectation of higher standards for facilities requires Council to address this as a matter of some urgency. In response to this issue Council are preparing a sporting infrastructure improvement plan and 15 year lifecycle matrix which will inform the capital resource allocation required, through our next 10 year Long Term Financial Plan.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no significant Environmental Sustainability implications however the Strategy will continue to promote and support Councils environmental sustainability objectives by:

- Identifying ways to reduce the environmental footprint of the operations of leisure facilities and sporting clubs
- Using environmentally sustainable design principles in any development of leisure facilities 3. Planning for facilities to be resilient to the ongoing impacts of climate change
- Committing to the provision of facility infrastructure and behavioural change initiatives to enhance sustainable transport opportunities
- Continuing to develop facilities at Darebin Parklands and Bundoora Park to enhance their environmental and educational value.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

A key driver of the Leisure Strategy is to reduce the barriers to participation in sport and recreation activities faced by people from disadvantaged communities. Leisure Services has developed partnerships with external organisations to fund staff to work with disadvantaged communities in order to facilitate access to sport and recreation activities. Leisure Services also encourages and supports sporting clubs to become more inclusive of marginalised groups.

Leisure Services has an Access for All Abilities Coordinator and Community Recreation Facilitator to support people with a disability to participate in sport and recreation activities and to work with sporting clubs to be inclusive of people with a disability. We have worked with over 90 individuals, supported programs attended by over 270 participants and supported 16 clubs, agencies and associations.

The Leisure Services Unit also includes a Social Sport for All Coordinator who works on a range of projects with a number of disadvantaged groups. In particular, the last twelve months has seen the development of a tennis program for the Sudanese community and those from low socio economic backgrounds, the All Nations Cup (soccer) for CALD communities and the development of a Sudanese based soccer club to establish its own committee and participate in competition soccer.

Female participation in sport has been supported by allocating the Northern Youth Girls Australian Rules Football competition to be based at the C.T. Barling Reserve. We have also worked with the Victorian Roller Derby League, who had 500 women on a waiting list to join the club, to find a training venue within the City of Darebin and increase their membership.

CONCLUSION

The Leisure Strategy has achieved some significant milestones in the first year of implementation. Given the change in sport and recreation trends over the past 10 years, the Leisure Strategy now accurately reflects the needs of the community and the sport and recreation industry. The Leisure Strategy has ignited the development of long term capital planning for leisure infrastructure, identified the need to increase participation opportunities for traditionally disadvantaged and marginalised communities, and places an emphasis on ensuring that we are proactive in the environmental sustainability of our leisure facilities, their operations and user groups.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Year 2/3/4 actions implemented
- Capital bids to support year 3/4 actions
- Evaluate 4 Year Action Plan and review Leisure Strategy
- Recommend second phase implementation plan to Council

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Leisure Strategy 2010-2020
- Leisure Strategy 4 Year Action Plan 2010 – 2014

1. EARLY YEARS STRATEGY

AUTHOR: Manager Family and Children – Cheryl Hermence

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager, Community Services – Katrina Knox

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Early Years Strategy aims to:

- to identify early years needs of Darebin’s children;
- to define the role of Council in meeting these identified needs; and
- to form the structure for an early years infrastructure plan and a municipal early years services plan that articulate Council’s strategic directions for responding to the identified needs.

Darebin’s Early Years Strategy is composed of three documents: Darebin Early Years Strategy, Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan and Darebin Early Years Plan.

Strategy started on:

The Early Years Strategy was adopted by Council in December 2010. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan and the Early Years Plan were adopted by Council in October 2011.

Strategy ends on:

The Strategy is a 10 year plan 2011-2021.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

Components of the Strategy will be reviewed annually to maintain relevance in the rapidly changing early years sector.

Advisory Committee:

The work regarding the implementation of this strategy is informed by Darebin Early Years Reference Group chaired by the Mayor.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The Strategy has recently been adopted by Council and is only in initial stage of implementation.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

Strategy objective	Activities	Tasks
1. Services and Programs <i>Family and child centred services are delivered that</i>	1.1 Council will continue the provision of inclusive and integrated family and children’s services.	Each Activity has a series of tasks.

<p><i>improve outcomes for the whole community.</i></p>	<p>1.2 We will provide services for those with diverse needs and actively remove barriers to access services for those who face the greatest disadvantage.</p> <p>1.3 Council will work to attract a strong local mix of services to meet the needs of all families and children. We will actively work with all providers to enhance the quality of services.</p> <p>1.4 Community based services will be supported by the provision and maintenance of facilities. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan outlines the direction towards early years hubs, multipurpose community facilities and local</p>	
<p>2. Context and Influence <i>Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.</i></p>	<p>2.1 We will create opportunities to enhance the wellbeing of families and children through community participation.</p> <p>2.2 Council's planning of the natural and built form of the city will consider how families and children participate in community activity and spaces.</p> <p>2.3 We will work to further understand the diversity of family and children needs and advocate on behalf of our community.</p> <p>2.4 We will increase community understanding of the importance and opportunities of the early years.</p> <p>2.5 Council will work to strengthen the capacity</p>	<p>Each Activity has a series of tasks.</p>

	of the early years workforce through the provision of local training opportunities and advocate on behalf of services.	
<p>3. Collaborative Partnerships <i>Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children</i></p>	<p>3.1 We will engage with families and children who access our services and encourage involvement in Council decision making processes.</p> <p>3.2 Council will continue to provide strong local service leadership through its coordinated family and children services team.</p> <p>3.3 We will build partnerships with government, local agencies, support groups and early years service providers to realise our common commitments to meeting the needs of families and children. Together our advocacy will be strengthened.</p> <p>3.4 We will facilitate local early years networks to enhance service integration and build collective wisdom.</p>	Each Activity has a series of tasks.

Challenges

The Strategy has only recently been adopted by Council and is in initial stage of implementation.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Strategy is per allocated budget.

A 10 year financial model is being developed outlining both capital and operational funding to support the implementation of the Darebin Early Years Plan and Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan according to Council's corporate planning systems to ensure our commitments align with our business planning.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

The impacts of climate change and peak oil are significant to the ongoing provision of staff, costs of service delivery, health and well-being of those who are vulnerable and community infrastructure. Council's Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan as well as Environmental Sustainable Design principles will guide the development of appropriate and sustainable responses and actions throughout the Early Years Strategy, Early Years Plan and Early Years Infrastructure Plan.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The Darebin Early Years Strategy, Early Years Plan and Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan align with the Darebin Social Inclusion Agenda, Diversity Policy, Human Rights Check List and Council's broader commitment to respect community diversity and wellbeing. The research and consultation processes consolidate Council's understanding of the composition, strengths, opportunities, vulnerabilities and attitudes of the community in relation to families and children.

CONCLUSION

The Strategy is in the initial stage of implementation as it has only recently been adopted by Council.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Darebin Early Years Reference Group will monitor implementation of the Strategy
- Summary document of the Darebin Early Years Plan to be developed for partner agencies and community for circulation.

1. ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING STRATEGY 2011-2021

AUTHOR: Manager Aged & Disability Department – Bridget Monro-Hobbs

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager Community Services – Katrina Knox

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy describes Council's approach to start building our community over the next 10 years to be an 'Age Friendly City', one that fully embraces and celebrates older people and values their wisdom and contribution. This is in line with The World Health Organisation which describes an Age Friendly City as having policies, services, settings and structures that support and enable people to age actively and respectfully.

Strategy started on: 29 November 2010

Strategy ends on: 30 July 2021

Strategy to be reviewed by:

Annual Review via Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board and departmental service plan reporting.

Advisory Committee:

The implementation of the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy is overseen by the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy Board chaired by Cr Gaetano Greco.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021 was formally launched at a community event in March 2011. Since that time, an Annual Action Plan for year One of the Strategy has been developed and includes a variety of cross Council initiatives and external partnership opportunities. Internal work of the Aged & Disability Department, as articulated in the Strategy and Action Plan, has been incorporated into Departmental Service Plans and staff work plans. A community event was held on 20 October 2011 – as an opportunity to inform community leaders of the key initiatives under the action plan for Year One, as well as acknowledging the current participation of our diverse older adult community in programs and projects that are progressing the Strategy.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
Operationalise the Vision and Key Policy Directions of the Strategy.	Develop Annual Action Plans that involved agency, community and whole of Council initiatives	Year One (2011/2012) Action Plan complete outlining the range of actions Council will undertake in partnership with the community and other key stakeholders throughout the first year of the 10 year lifespan of the Strategy.

<p>Community Support and Health Services: To ensure the provision and promotion of community and health services that help to maintain the health, wellbeing and independence of older people.</p>	<p>Integrate an “active and healthy ageing” philosophy in Aged and Disability Department through the Active Service Implementation framework.</p>	<p>Aged & Disability Department Active Service framework implemented with all staff involved in the following elements: Goal Directed Care; Partnerships Steering; Initial Contact and Assessment; Service Delivery; Care Planning; Communication.</p>
<p>Civic Participation and Employment: To engage with Darebin older residents in the planning, development and implementation of an Age Friendly City.</p>	<p>Establish an Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board to Council.</p>	<p>Work commenced in 2010/2011 financial year and finalised in October 2011. Council endorsement of Board, Terms of Reference and recruitment model. Nominations to the Board open until 30/11/12 with inaugural meeting February 2012.</p>

Challenges

The resources of the Ageing Communities Unit during 2010/2011 was primarily dedicated to finalising and consolidating the consultation findings, finalising the Strategy for Council endorsement and the Strategy Launch. During that year, only the most essential core services of the unit were undertaken (ie, Funding and Support Model for Clubs and Groups, Hiring of Community Facilities, Hiring of Darebin Bus and Internal Bus and providing limited support to Clubs and Groups for assistance with disputes and AGM’s). Juggling the crucial stage of the Strategy development with core business within existing resources was a challenge for the Ageing Communities Unit, however this did not impact on the overall goals or milestones of the Strategy in 2010/2011.

Financial and Resource Implications

The development of the Strategy was within existing Council budget resources for 2010/2011. The Annual Action Plan identifies where initiatives are within the budget resources of the lead council Departments, and where potential funding gaps may exist. For example – Capital Works funding will not become known until the completion of the Integrated Feasibility Study rolls out.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

Consideration to environmental impacts related to the Strategy have been identified and measures are in place – such as: ensuring the Strategy, supplementary reports and Annual Action Plans, Advisory Board Information Packs are distributed electronically first, with printed version only being made available upon request and only printed in limited number for appropriate distribution.

The impacts of climate change and peak oil are significant to the ongoing provision of staff, costs of service delivery, health and well-being of those who are vulnerable and community infrastructure. Councils Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan will be a key driver in developing appropriate and sustainable responses and actions in the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy.

Year One Annual Action Plan includes initiatives and actions undertaken by the Environmental Strategy team that involve older adults and community leaders, as well as initiatives that can be supported by the Aged & Disability department (eg, cool shade program, etc).

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy aligns with the Darebin Social Inclusion Framework; Diversity Policy; Human Rights Check List, and Council's broader commitment to respect community diversity and wellbeing.

The research and consultation phases will consolidate Council's understanding of the composition, strengths, opportunities, vulnerabilities and attitudes of the community in relation to ageing well and staying connected; assist in setting new directions for services; determining priorities, and further enhancing networks and partnerships.

Some strategies used to ensure diverse participation in our consultations include:

- Community Conversation:
 - Developed partnership with Spectrum MRC to engage under-represented CALD communities – (including Vietnamese, Chinese, Assyrian, Filipino and Congolese).
- Older adult group and senior citizen club focus groups:
 - Gender specific focus group – women;
 - Achieving gender balance in non gender specific focus groups (Inviting one male and one female from older adult clubs and groups to take part in focus groups);
 - Targeting groups that have a relationship with Council but have been under represented in civic affairs;
 - Including older adult clubs based on interests, eg, social, physical, cultural and life long learning activities;
- Indigenous engagement:
 - Working with Councils Co-ordinator Indigenous Policy and Programs to ensure Indigenous participation on Project Steering Group, as well as joint planning of Indigenous Community Event to engage directly with elders;

CONCLUSION

The Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy was endorsed by Council in November 2010. The Strategy was launched with community in March 2011, with the timeline to commence operationalising the strategy in the 2011/2012 financial year. Aged & Disability Department utilised 2010/2011 to prepare team, staff and current roles for 2011/2012 (for example – Active Service Implementation Framework; consulting across Council to develop Year One Action Plan).

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board to be established and operational February 2012.
 - Reporting on Annual Action Plans via Advisory Board and Service Plan reporting.
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RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Report Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board, 3 October 2011;
- Council Report Darebin Draft Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021, 29 November 2010

1. PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2011-12 AND WHITE RIBBON ACTION TEAM STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2012

AUTHOR: Equity and Diversity Coordinator, Mandy Bathgate

REVIEWED BY: Group Manager, People and Performance, Fred Warner

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Strategic Action Plan and White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan are two key strategies supporting Council's primary prevention work in reducing violence against women and children in our community. Both plans, while to be formally endorsed by Council, have been progressed through the work of the Preventing Violence Against Women Project officer position of Council. This position sits within Equity and Diversity.

Strategy started on:

Both strategies commenced 1st July 2011. Formal endorsement of both strategies will be incorporated under the Women's Equity Action Plan being developed to ensure Council adopts an integrated approach in relation to this area of work.

Strategy ends on:

Both strategies end on June 30, 2012.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

These strategies will be reviewed April/May 2012 in line with key milestone dates of the Women's Equity Action Plan.

Advisory Committee:

The Darebin Women Advisory Committee provides input and advice on the implementation of both plans.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on activities relating to Preventing Violence Against Women initiatives, including White Ribbon activities, being undertaken by Council. Council has achieved many highly-acclaimed successes in the prevention of family violence field and is widely recognised as a government leader and innovator of prevention strategies.

Council is now in the final year of the three-year, Council-funded Preventing Violence Against Women Project. This project, funded by Council at \$50,000 a year for three years, has resulted in some ground breaking work in the local government sector for prevention strategies and initiatives. Internally this has seen delivery of a suite of mutually reinforcing strategies to prevent violence against women and their children. This includes implementation of a new Darebin Family Violence Policy, development of a Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan, endorsed at Darebin White Ribbon Action Team meeting

on 12th September 2011 and focus on gender equitable programs and policies and violence prevention initiatives through Council strategies including Leisure Services, Children's Services, Youth Services and Aged and Disability Services.

These successes are outlined in the Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) Achievements Report 2006-2011 attached.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

Preventing Violence Against Women Achievements Report

Council is now in the final year of the three-year, Council-funded Preventing Violence Against Women Project. This project, funded by Council at \$50,000 a year for three years has resulted in some ground breaking work in the local government sector for prevention strategies and initiatives. The role of the PVAW Officer has been to coordinate the delivery of a suite of mutually reinforcing strategies to prevent violence against women and their children. Progress has been strong in all areas.

The PVAW Achievements Report 2006-2011 provides an overview of developments made in this area at Darebin over the last five years. The key achievements of the last two years since the Council-funded position has commenced include:

- The inclusion of preventing violence against women in Council Plan 2010-2014 and Municipal Community Health & Wellbeing Plan 2010-2014 as a key human rights and public health issue.
- Extensive White Ribbon Campaigns have raised staff and community awareness. These have included community events, arts and cultural events, media articles and other social marketing.
- Darebin White Ribbon Action Team has gone from strength to strength. The Action Team has developed a new Strategic Plan – see below.
- The Staff Family Violence Policy was launched and a training package developed and piloted. Darebin is the first Council in Victoria to develop and implement this training.
- Work has been undertaken with Leisure Services, Children's Services, Youth Services and Aged and Disability Services to support a greater focus on gender equitable programs and policies and violence prevention initiatives.
- A series of professional development sessions involving guest speakers were provided to staff on the topics of family violence and violence prevention.
- Partnerships have been developed with health services, sporting groups, traders groups and community members. Darebin also supported the formation of the North Eastern White Ribbon Community Group.

Darebin has also been involved with the development of Women's Health in the North's (WHIN) Northern Region Preventing Violence Against Women Strategy. This will be launched by WHIN during Week Without Violence on Tuesday 25th October, at Northcote Town Hall.

The final year of the project will focus on sustainability of the changes that have already occurred and further embedding prevention strategies across the work of relevant departments at Council.

White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan

One of the focus areas of the Preventing Violence Against Women Project has been supporting the work of the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team. This Action Team has recently created a new Strategic Plan for 2011-2012. Actions include:

- To support community organisations that provide family violence support services, such as the Good Samaritan Inn, though working bees
- To attend the North Eastern White Ribbon Community Group
- To run social marketing activities including White Ribbon magnets on garbage trucks; provide White Ribbon bookmarks at libraries and display flags.

Of particular note is the new White Ribbon Foundation 'White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation Program' funded by the Federal Government. The Action Team will be striving to have Darebin City Council become one of the first workplaces to achieve top level accreditation. This program is still being developed and will be launched in November 2011. Further information will be provided at that time.

Further detail is outlined in the Violence Against Women Achievements Report 2006-2011 (attached) and respective action plans.

Challenges

The challenge for both strategies has been ensuring sustainability beyond the life of the Preventing Violence against Women Project Officer Position – with funding for the role ceasing in June 2012.

However, while there have been resources available, implementation of both strategies has been on track, with Council demonstrating significant leadership and commitment in the area of women's equity and prevention of violence against women and children.

There has been benefit in strategically positioning this work within Equity and Diversity and coordination through women policy which includes carriage of the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee and Darebin Women's Leadership and Equity Group. The development of the Women's Equity Action Plan will ensure this work is integrated and supported over the long term.

Financial and Resource Implications

Funding for the Prevention of Violence Against Women Officer position ceases in June 30th 2012. It is essential that adequate resourcing continues to support this work through external funding and ongoing operational.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

Nil

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Violence against women is now recognised as one of the most prolific, yet hidden, human rights abuses in the world. Women who experience violence suffer from decreased physical,

mental and emotional health, social isolation and are less able to participate in community life. Children exposed to violence are less able to form healthy attachments and may experience significant emotional, physical and developmental issues.

Disadvantaged groups are most at risk. Women from Aboriginal and CALD backgrounds and women with disabilities suffer higher rates of violence and have less capacity to access support and leave violence situations. For example, evidence show that a vast majority of women with an intellectual disability experience sexual assault.

Family violence affects not just women and their children, but our whole society. By increasing women's safety, and thus the capacity to participate in community life, we are making a significant investment in the health and wellbeing of the whole Darebin community.

Other

The work of the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team strongly supports Darebin's strategic direction of '*Our people. Our place. Our future.*' The Council Plan 2009-2013 states an overarching commitment to gender equity: "We will work to support the right of women to fully and equally engage and participate in the life of the community". Darebin's Community health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 also includes a priority strategy to "integrate violence prevention activity across our organisation and in partnership with the community to reduce violence against women and children".

CONCLUSION

Work being progressed in the Equity and Diversity under Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance Department , including development of a comprehensive Social Inclusion Framework and its associated planning and audit tool, Human Rights Action Plan and Women's Equity Action Plan will further advance Councils work in supporting gender equity and prevention of violence against women and children. The Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Strategic Action Plan and Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan are an integral part of this work.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Development of a Women's Equity Action Plan by mid 2012.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- The Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Strategic Action Plan 2011-2012
- White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan 2011-2012
- Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) Achievements Report 2006-2011
- Darebin Council Gender Equity Initiatives Progress Report July 2011

1. RESERVOIR STRUCTURE PLAN PROJECT

AUTHOR: Strategic Planner – Kylie Long

REVIEWED BY: Manager City Development – Darren Rudd

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The preparation of structure plans by local Councils for their activity centres is a requirement under State Government's policy drivers for the future sustainable growth of Melbourne.

The Structure Plan will establish a framework for future investment in the centre including major infrastructure upgrades, housing, commercial and civic developments, streetscape improvements, and community development projects.

Strategy started on:

The Reservoir Structure Plan project was first started on February 2009 however, project consultants were not appointed until April 2010, when the bulk of the project work commenced.

Strategy ends on:

It is anticipated that the Final Structure Plan will be delivered for adoption March 2012.

Strategy to be reviewed by:

Council's seeks to prepare a future oriented structure plan with built in flexibility to reduce the need for review in the short to medium term. However, the plan will be updated as new data becomes available (approximately every 3 years).

Advisory Committee:

The work on the Reservoir Structure Plan is informed by the Reservoir Structure Plan Community Reference Group represented by Cr Stanley Chiang, Cr Gaetano Greco and Cr Tim Laurence.

PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction and Background

The project is being undertaken by the CoD in conjunction with a number of specialist consultants through a five stage process. The first stage involved stakeholder engagement and research to gain an understanding of key issues affecting the future planning of Reservoir. The second stage focused on developing a shared vision for Reservoir.

The third stage of the project involved testing of options and scenarios for key strategies and sites within the Structure Plan area. In November 2010, Council released a Vision Scenarios Discussion Paper for public consultation.

Key Outcomes for 2010/2011

The first three stages of the project have been generally completed. The following work and papers have been successfully delivered:

- Extensive background investigative work – *Strategic Transport Plan, June 2010, Economic and Market Feasibility Report, June 2010, Background and Issues Paper, September 2010*
- A series of community visioning activities– *Place Essence Report, September 2010*
- The identification of ‘small wins’ to improve the amenity and cleanliness of the centre during the project process – *Capital Works Budget for 2010 (\$50,000) and Small Wins Action Plan, August 2010*
- The analysis of future options for the reconfiguration of Reservoir Junction – *Reservoir Junction Discussion Paper, August 2010*
- The preparation of a series of future land use and design scenarios for precincts and key sites in Reservoir MAC – *Vision Scenarios Discussion Paper, November 2010*

Challenges

To finalise the Reservoir Structure Plan, further engagement with the community is required to confirm the outstanding development issues as described below:

1. Previous community engagement in early 2011 focused around series of vision ‘scenarios’ that included a mix of principles, development options, transport implications and housing issues;
2. Images and publications used to relate the visions scenario’s were detailed in presentation which potentially limited community engagement opportunities;
3. One single ‘vision’ was not presented for consideration – accordingly, Council received mixed feedback and comments on a wide series of vision concepts;
4. Following an assessment of initial feedback, Council is of the view that a series of unresolved development issues require additional insight in order to prepare a robust Structure Plan for Reservoir MAC – these topics are centrally around:
 - a. Housing design and height;
 - b. The location of new housing;
 - c. Transport and infrastructure trade-offs.
5. It is important that further engagement which aligns with the statutory planning process and focuses on investigating the remaining design and development questions that relate to the centre is undertaken to finalise the Structure Plan

Financial and Resource Implications

The preparation of the Structure Plan is as per the allocated budget.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

The Reservoir Structure Plan project seeks to maintain and enhance the long term environmental sustainability of Reservoir MAC via a number of strategies including but not limited to:

- The integration between Reservoir Village and Broadway by creating an environment where appropriate land uses and transport infrastructure are arranged so as to promote walking and cycling for local journeys and public transport for access to nearby Activity Centres and the CBD,
- The development of appropriate design principles that will provide directions for future development to ensure ecologically sustainable development and practices, such as passive design,
- Direction for how the above principles may be incorporated into streetscape design such as relating to public spaces, public lighting, water sensitive urban design and the like,
- Identification of opportunities for local renewable energy generation in both the public and private realm,
- Identification of opportunities for using waste as a resource and the overall reduction in waste generation,
- Identification of necessary initiatives required to improve the food security in Reservoir.

Social Inclusion and Diversity Implications

The consultation strategy for the Reservoir Structure Plan is to develop a vision for Reservoir that is shaped by the community and captures and builds on the essence of the place. In addition the structure plan seeks higher levels of community participation and empowerment through activities such as the small wins actions and the role of the Community Reference Group.

The up and coming community engagement period will provide much needed resourcing to reach the 'hard to reach' groups in Reservoir such as women's groups, CALD community groups, youth and indigenous groups to ensure their needs and aspirations are considered as part of the project outcomes.

CONCLUSION

The first three stages of the Reservoir Structure Plan project are generally complete and the Reservoir Structure Plan will be delivered March 2012 following the further engagement period and finalisation of the outstanding development issues.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Community engagement on the aspects of the Draft Structure Plan
- Preparation of the Final Structure Plan for Reservoir MAC

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- See outputs listed above (under Key Outcomes)
-