

## 1. DAREBIN TRANSPORT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Senior Coordinator Transport Management – Nathan Moresi

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Assets and Business Services – Steve Hamilton

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee (DTAC) was established following a request from Council to set up a committee to provide community input and advocate to the State Government into the provision and priorities for transport improvements, and in particular public transport, in and impacting on the City of Darebin. The committee is a formal advisory body to Darebin City Council.

#### Committee members

- Twelve Darebin residents (initially the committee started with 14 however two members resigned during the year)
- Team Leader, Transport Strategy – Council Officer
- Transport Planner – Council Officer

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Li, Cr Villella
- Cr McCarthy stood down from the committee in March due to a conflict of interest with State Election campaign

#### Frequency of meetings:

Monthly

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

The committee is due to sunset in November 2014. A report on the committee will be taken to Council, including a review of the committee, in December.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

Following a Council resolution in September 2013, the Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee (DTAC) was established in December 2013 to provide community input to Council's advocacy for improved transport within Darebin.

---

---

The Committee has identified transport priorities and prepared an advocacy strategy (both of which have been endorsed by Council). DTAC has also provided advice and community support to Council in delivery of the advocacy strategy.

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Developing the transport advocacy campaign in advance of the State Election.
- Implementation of advocacy for Transport that Works Campaign.
- The terms of reference were reviewed in July 2014 to ensure alignment with the finalisation of the Darebin Advisory Committee Guidelines for Council Officers (March 2014).

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- An Advocacy Specialist (The Civic Group) was appointed to assist with facilitating initial DTAC meetings and the preparation of the Advocacy Strategy.
  - The Committee reviewed the Advocacy Strategy and a final Strategy was agreed with the group, including two major transport projects to advocate for in advance of the Victorian state election.
  - Council endorsed the two major transport projects in May 2014, namely the “Great Northern Bikeway” upgrade (St Georges Road/Cheddar Road shared path) and grade separations at Bell Street and Reservoir.
  - At its meeting on the 30 June 2014 Council endorsed a revised Terms of Reference for the committee.
  - A campaign plan has been created, along with collateral including a Council webpage ([www.darebin.vic.gov.au/dtac](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/dtac)), online petition, facebook page, twitter account, postcards, posters, real estate boards and large posters at key locations.
  - The committee provided valuable input to both the campaign plan and collateral.
  - Letters introducing the campaign have been sent to all local MPs.
  - The Leader Newspaper agreed to support the campaign and has published three stories focusing on different aspects of the campaign, and continue to express an interest in further stories about the campaign.
  - The campaign was publicised at the Metropolitan Transport Forum / Leader Northcote Community Transport Forum on 9 September 2014.
  - A school holiday event was run where children constructed models of how they would like to see Reservoir; a similar exercise is planned for the Greenbelt Parklands Party on the 25 October 2014.
  - Bi-weekly posts are being made on social media.
  - Almost 600 signatures have been received through a combination of the online petition and postcards.
  - Further attendance at events is planned for committee members and Council Officers promoting the campaign.
-

- 
- Darebin Bicycle User Group and Bicycle Network Victoria have endorsed the shared path upgrades.
  - RACV has confirmed support for the grade separations.
  - The Mayor and Council Officers met with Robin Scott MLA to discuss the campaign.
  - Letters are being sent to all local MPs to update them on the campaigns progress.

### Challenges

- Developing an advocacy campaign for Council within the constraints of an Advisory Committee.
- The short timeline to develop and run the campaign in the lead up to the State Election in November 2014.
- Lack of clarity as to the role of the committee within the campaign and the appropriateness of members implementing key elements of the campaign, including social media and acting as community spokespeople.
- Resourcing the campaign through existing budgets without compromising other responsibilities for delivery and customer service.
- Running a transport campaign of this type and scale in relative isolation from other Council advocacy.
- Requiring the transport management department to lead the advocacy committee given their limited expertise in the field of advocacy.

### Financial and Resource Implications

As the committee is due to sunset in November there should be minimal further resource requirements.

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

The advocacy for the selected campaign priorities will contribute to the long term implementation of better transport solutions for Darebin. These projects offer the opportunity to reduce traffic congestion, increase public transport patronage and active transport trips and reduce the need for private vehicle use, which are all aspirations of the Darebin Transport Strategy. This will have a positive impact on the environment, improving air quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

In selecting members for DTAC it was intended to include people from a range of ages and backgrounds. DTAC has successfully achieved this with representatives of various ages, abilities, and areas of Darebin.

The advocacy campaign should reach all members of the community; therefore its activities are intended to have universal application.

The shared path upgrades will benefit cyclists and pedestrians, and alleviate traffic congestion with increased uptake of these active modes. The Darebin grade separations will

---

---

provide better rail infrastructure and therefore improved train services on the South Morang line are possible as well as better quality roads for motorists.

Although, at this stage no detailed Equity and Inclusion considerations have been taken into account, the priority projects were selected because of their wide reaching community benefits, particularly for those without access to a vehicle. Many of the most vulnerable members of the Darebin community are without access to a vehicle.

### Economic Development Implications

Grade separations reduce vehicle congestion and improve bus and train efficiency as well as creating substantial land parcels for development. Therefore they provide a substantial economic boost.

The upgrade of the shared paths provides improved transport links, which supports economic growth and creates jobs. It also reduces road traffic congestion by supporting reduced car trips.

### **Other**

These two projects facilitate safety and amenity improvements across Darebin's transport modes (public transport, road, footpath, shared paths, etc.) and will assist in the realisation of existing strategic areas identified for rejuvenation including those detailed in the Reservoir Structure Plan, Junction Masterplan, Preston Central and St Georges Road corridor.

## **CONCLUSION**

The committee has been highly committed and professional, given generously of their time and expertise, and been respectful of Council process and governance. Their input has been essential to the implementation of this campaign. They have advised Council on a wide range of topics, shared information, and engaged their community through events and news stories.

While the campaign was late, and slow starting, there has been strong community support and interest in the two priority projects, which has assisted Council in advocating to politicians.

Council will continue to advocate and investigate avenues for the implementation of these projects both in advance of the State Election, and into the future.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Review of committee and agree closure of the committee.
  - Final campaign implementation up to the State Election
  - Update to Council on outcomes of the committee in December.
-

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Council Minutes – 1 July 2013, 2 September 2013 and 2 December 2013, 5 May 2014, 30 June 2014 and 18 August 2014.
  - Revised DTAC Terms of Reference – July 2014
-

## 1. ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

**AUTHOR:** Coordinator Community Participation and Development – Gillian Damonze

**REVIEWED BY:** Acting Director Community Development – Bridget Monro-Hobbs

### COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The Active and Healthy Ageing Community Advisory Board is a community representative body whose role is to assist Council in considering and understanding the Issues, policies and drivers that are influencing aged care and their relevance to and impact on Darebin.

#### Committee members

- 10 community members including 1 professional sector representative from Lincoln Institute – La Trobe University

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Gaetano Greco – Co-Chair
- Cr Angela Villela – Co-Chair
- Cr Bo Li – Co-Chair

#### Frequency of meetings:

Bi-monthly

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

Annual review by measuring work plan achievements and Terms of Reference – completed December of each year.

## STATUS REPORT

### Introduction and Background

This Board functions as a Community Advisory Committee to Council, and is not established as an incorporated or legal Board entity to Council. The Statement of Purpose for the Board includes: representing the interests of older adults in Darebin, including carers and family members; advocacy at local, State and National levels; providing input into the design and planning of key events and community celebrations such as Darebin Seniors Festival; and communicate Council achievements to the broader community.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms – Confirmation that Victoria will continue to receive funding for HACC services up until 30 June 2018. The reforms will completely reshape the provision of HACC services and its impact Darebin residents and Council as a service provider.
- Workshops and feedback with regard to the following Council strategies: Development of corporate photographic brief templates; Review of the Darebin Heatwave Strategy; Museum of Me – An Intergenerational project; Wiser Traveller Program

- Review of the VOICE Forum 2013.
- Opportunities to build on and improve Darebin Seniors Month for 2013.

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Key issues and challenges identified in 2013/2014 report were all addressed this year and no longer present as challenges.
- A new pamphlet has been developed to promote and raise awareness of the work of the Board.
- Human Rights – The Board has included a focus on Human Rights as part of its Work Plan. Discussions have focussed on exploring the idea around developing an Older Citizen's Charter as a long term objective.
- Worked with Women's Advisory Committee to develop Molly Hadfield commemoration – annual social justice lecture.  
In partnership with CP2 and Community Safety, Uncle Reg Blow was remembered through a featured event in the Darebin Seniors Festival 2013 – Spiritual Healing Walk – led by Uncle Reg's son, in recognising the legacy left behind by his work.
- Input from the Board regarding the development of a pilot focusing on the Reservoir Village Age Friendly Precinct Project Plan.
- Commemorations – through recommendations of this Board and working in partnership with Darebin Womens Advisory Committee – Molly Hadfield commemorations will occur through Council hosting Social Justice Oration on International Womens Day 2014. Through working in partnership with CP3 and Community Safety, Uncle Reg Blow will be remembered through a featured event in Darebin Seniors Festival 2013 – Spiritual Healing Walk – to be led by Reg's son, in recognising the legacy left behind by his work.
- Voice Forum 2013 – Connect Inspire Activate – The Board took a lead role in partnership with Maribyrnong Older Persons Reference Group to host a one day forum on 15 November 2013 by and for older persons representative bodies to Councils across Victoria – connective, inspiring and activating these reference groups across the state to progress action in their local councils on the following issues/concerns of older persons reference groups: Older Mens Social Health; Social Inclusion/Isolation; Transport; Intergenerational Initiatives; Life Long Learning; Being Effective Board Members; Civic Participation; Physical Health.

#### Challenges

- Limited information regarding the Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms from Federal and State Governments impacts the Boards ability to actively contribute to the work of Aged & Disability in this field.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

Hosting the VOICE Forum 2013, in theory is a full cost recovery exercise by charging delegates to attend the event, however some additional costs were incurred.

Hosting the Forum will be achieved in current Ageing Communities Unit budget resources.

Increased work load on current staff/EFT in resourcing VOICE forum this year has stretched resources within Ageing Communities Unit this year.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

Consideration to environmental impacts relating to convening the board have been identified and measures are in place – such as: distributing minutes and resources for the Board electronically, and only providing printed hard copies upon individual request; central location of meetings allowing for public transport access and car pooling between Board members.

### Human Rights Equity and Inclusion Implications

The recruitment model for the Board aimed to achieve balance in representation of participation by our diverse older adult community, inclusive of age, gender, economic, GLBTIQ and ethnicity. This balance has been achieved.

Voice Forum 2013 is an example of work achieved by this Board highlighting older peoples experiences of the following social inclusion and diversity agenda's:

- Aboriginal Elders and issues affecting eldership in Darebin; Older Mens Social Health; Social Inclusion/Isolation; Life Long Learning; Civic Participation; Intergenerational Connections; Intercultural exchanges; GLBTIQ.

### Economic Development Implications

Nil

## **CONCLUSION**

This report outlines achievements of the Board over a 12 month period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. In that time the Board has given great energy and momentum to: Council Strategies and Plans; engaging the community in conversations; discussing issues and matters of importance; working in partnership across other Darebin Advisory Committees and in particular, a great commitment to inspiring statewide movement on key issues of concern through the Voice 2013 Forum.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Maintain focus on Aged Care Reforms, Human Rights and explore key themes that emerge from Board Planning.
- Review AHAB Work Plan and setting direction for 2015

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Annual Report to Council on Advisory Committees – Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board, October 2014;
- Annual Report to Council on Advisory Committees – Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board, September October 2013;
- Council Report –Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board, 3 October 2011
- Council Briefing – Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board, 26 September 2011



- Council Report – Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy Advisory Board, 15 August 2011
- Council Report – Darebin Draft Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021, 29 November 2010

---

## 1. DAREBIN ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Team Leader Equity and Diversity – Karin Linden

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Community Development – Katrina Knox

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC) was launched in September 2011 as an official community advisory committee to Council. The committee plays an important role in monitoring the implementation of Darebin's Aboriginal Action Plan (2012-2015).

The DAAC's focus is to:

- Provide strategic advice to Council and advocate on issues and barriers to access and equality, which affect Aboriginal people in the City of Darebin.
- Promote and advocate for social inclusion and social justice outcomes for Darebin's Aboriginal communities, with a view to informing and improving Council decision making in relation to policy, program, and service delivery.
- Assist Council in gaining a greater awareness and improving responsiveness to address Aboriginal cultural heritage responsibilities.
- Advocate for and support Aboriginal community engagement.
- Assist Council to achieve more effective relationships and partnerships with the Aboriginal community wherever possible and demystify complex cultural issues and sensitivities requiring cooperation and collaboration.

### Committee members

Committee membership is drawn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who study, work and/or live within the Darebin municipality.

The current membership of the committee comprises ten Aboriginal community members, many of which either live in Darebin or have strong associations through their employment with or board associations with Darebin-based Aboriginal community, organisations and service providers.

Collectively the organisations represented by member of the committee include: Aborigines Advancement League Incorporated (AALI); Victorian Aboriginal Community Service Association Limited (VACSAL); Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC); Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS); Darebin Community Health Service; Banyule Community Health Service; Songlines Music; Local Torres Strait Islander Organisations.

### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Gaetano Greco
- Cr Vince Fontana
- Cr Trent McCarthy
- Cr Tim Lawrence

### Frequency of meetings:

---

---

The committee meets bi-monthly.

Committee to be reviewed by:

The Terms of Reference for the committee are currently under review with the aim of adopting a new Terms of Reference before the end of 2014.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee supports a healthy and inclusive local democracy by acting as a conduit between the Aboriginal community and Council, aiming to enhance Council's capacity to progress resolution to issues faced by the Aboriginal community. A primary objective for Council is to work collaboratively with the Aboriginal community to address discrimination and entrenched inequalities around health, employment, education and social justice, supporting the *Closing of the Health Gap* between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. An integral part of this work involves work around the recognition of Aboriginal people and the reinforcement of respect through the recognition and celebration of culture and heritage.

The work of this committee is largely progressed through the *Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan 2012-2015* and the *Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015*. DAAC assists Council in progressing key areas of work.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

#### **Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan**

Progressing implementation of the Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan and progressing the development of several key initiatives including:

- Progressing employment and workforce development strategies
- Establishing and formalising community relationships
- Information and clarity around Traditional Owners/ Acknowledgements
- Consultation on Darebin Plans and Strategies
- Darebin Human Rights Conversation on constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal people
- Progressing the completion of the Stolen Generation Marker

#### **Membership**

Member participation has continued to fluctuate over the past year. The turn-over of the Aboriginal Affairs Officers role has contributed to the challenge of ongoing participation and engagement by members. Attendance rates have fluctuated between July 2013 and June 2014.

---

---

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Progression of the Aboriginal Action Plan: a number of actions continue to be worked though and report to the committee is a standing item on the DAAC agenda.
- Aboriginal representation on other committees promoted thought DAAC.
- Aboriginal employment initiatives: DAAC provided advice around the formulation of the work to progress an Aboriginal Employment Strategy (new initiatives bid). While the new Initiatives bid was not successful in 2013/14 Council did engage five Aboriginal Trainees in the 2013/14 period. A new bid will be put forward for 2014/15.
- DAAC informed the discussion about identity and the notion around how Council can support the Aboriginal community to access funding and business reserved for its community.
- Phil Cooper was nominated on behalf of the DAAC for the Victorian Indigenous Honour Roll.
- A number of Strategies were brought to the committee for familiarisation, advice and feedback, including the Arts and Culture Strategy, Forest Strategy, Land Use Strategy, Disability Action Plan, Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan, Electronic Gaming Strategy,
- Feedback provided on the recruitment process of the Aboriginal Affairs officer role regarding the advertisement of the position and what aspect of the role was seen as important to the Aboriginal community.
- Discussion around the process for Council resolution to change the name of Batman federal electoral division and Batman Park.
- A discussion was held with DAAC around the recognition of Aboriginal people in the constitution connecting it to the Human rights conversations progressed by Council. DAAC also provided feedback on their thoughts on the referendum of constitutional recognition and the Recognise campaign.
- Advice was also provided around a number of Council sponsored and run Aboriginal specific events such as NAIDOC week (where the DAAC committee participated in a staff event at the Intercultural Centre ) and Reconciliation week.

### Challenges

The main challenges continue to be to build rapport and meaningful relationships with committee members, Councillor and Council officers. It is imperative to re-affirm and ensure clarity of the role of the committee and on the consultative mechanisms applied to ensure ongoing inclusion of Aboriginal advice across Council activities. A new Terms of Reference in 2014/15 means yet another change for the committee and hopefully the commencement of a new partnership where these issues can be addressed.

### Financial and Resource Implications

The committee has operated within allocated budget. A significant part of the Aboriginal Affairs officer's time is dedicated to supporting the committee.

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

Nil.

---

---

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

The DAAC represents the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, a key group identified as at risk-of-exclusion in the *Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015*.

In the *Council Plan 2013-2017* Council acknowledges the contribution by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the first page. The DAAC helps build Council's capacity to respond to issues faced by the Aboriginal people in Darebin and provides an avenue for a conversation to be held with the Aboriginal community on an ongoing basis. This contributes towards the Council goal of a "healthy and connected community".

The work of the Committee advances Council's commitment to support social inclusion and to develop actions to address and promote equality for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, making Darebin a fairer and more cohesive community. The Committee also plays a role in providing opportunities for engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the interaction falls within the deliberation spectrum in the Darebin Community Engagement Framework.

### Economic Development Implications

There are actions in the Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan that promotes and contributes towards job creation for Aboriginal people in Darebin. The committee provides an important role to monitor this plan.

## **CONCLUSION**

The DAAC is a highly regarded advisory committee to Council and managed in 2013/2014 to provide strategic input and advice to key Council policies such as the Health and Wellbeing Plan, Disability Action Plan and the Arts and Culture Strategy. Following the Advisory Committee review new Terms of Reference will strengthen its role and better reflect its aspirations in influencing Council's direction and decisions. The DAAC committee is a key element in Council's work around greater inclusion of the 12 groups identified as at risk of exclusion in the *Equity and Inclusion Policy*.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Adoption of a new Terms of Reference
- Endorsement of new members including a Wurundjeri representative
- Support implementation of Aboriginal Action Plan
- Formal and ongoing partnerships with the wider Aboriginal community through DAAC to be strengthened

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that

---

---

no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference
- Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan
- Equity and Inclusion Policy
- Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy
- Human Rights Action Plan

---

**1. DAREBIN ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE**

**AUTHOR: Multicultural Affairs Officer – Cesar Diaz**

**REVIEWED BY: Director Community Development – Katrina Knox**

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the Darebin Anti-Racism Steering Committee is to oversee the implementation of the Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015 to address the findings of the Darebin Racism Inquiry conducted during 2011. The Darebin Anti-Racism Steering Committee evolved from the former Racism Inquiry Steering Committee as per a provision in part 4F of the Anti-Racism Strategy.

Committee members

**Organisation Represented**

- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Darebin Interfaith Council
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council
- VEOHRC
- Darebin Women's Advisory Committee
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- Centre for Ethnicity and Health
- Deakin University
- Darebin Community Health
- VACSAL
- Centre for Dialogue – LaTrobe University
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
- City of Whittlesea
- Victoria Police
- ADEC

Councillor Representative:

Cr. Angela Villela  
Cr. Gaetano Greco

Frequency of meetings:

Quarterly

Committee to be reviewed by:

Annually

Introduction and Background

---

---

The Darebin Racism Strategy 2012-2015 was endorsed by Council in 2012 and embedded across three key action plans:

- The Darebin Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015
- The Darebin Multicultural Action Plan 2012-2015
- The Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan 2012-2015

The Darebin Anti-Racism Steering Committee's role is to:

- provide advice and guidance on the implementation of the Anti-Racism Strategy
- provide support in engaging the community and ensuring knowledge of the Anti-Racism Strategy is disseminated widely;
- receive progress reports to monitor outcomes and impacts

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

- How organisations embed diversity in the workplace and the use of formal processes to effect change
- Human Rights breaches Incident reporting: The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission as member of the Committee advocated in regard to the importance of substantiating complaints of racism
- The role of partnerships in resourcing organisations to progress complex issues in a holistic way such as support and networks for asylum seekers
- Promotion and communication around diversity and anti-racism needs an all of Council approach in particular with regard to communication issues
- Collaborative projects on Committee -there is an appreciation that this would be a reasonably significant alteration to its original purpose
- Terms of Reference update - the endorsement was pending finalisation of Council reviews of Advisory Committees
- Meeting frequency: This Committee initially met only twice a year and this year it was decided to meet on a quarterly basis. This has proved ineffective in terms of allowing enough time to advance on key actions to report back to the committee for discussion

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

The key responsibility of the Darebin Anti-Racism Committee was to support and monitor the implementation of the Darebin Anti-Racism Action Plan 2013-2014. The key outcomes as reported and discussed by the Committee included:

1. Discussions with Committee members informed the development of Darebin's Diversity Capabilities Framework and with reference to the Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy.
  2. The Committee suggested new partnerships be established at the beginning of the year as part of a recruitment drive to make the membership relevant to the implementation of the Darebin Anti-Racism Action Plan.
-



- 
3. Human rights, the contributions of Aboriginal and newly arrived communities and asylum seekers were reported to the Committee as per the implementation of Equity and Inclusion Action Plans.
  4. Reports on the Say No To Racism project became a regular item for reporting and discussion. The Committee assisted with discussion and recommendations to progress this project.
  5. The Committee was part of the discussion and its members participated in key events to highlight Councils and community partnerships to fight racism which received broad community promotion through the media. This included the Joint Local Government Statement on Asylum Seekers lead by the City of Darebin and the endorsement of the Local Government Joint Statement on Advocacy lead by the City of Greater Dandenong.
  6. The Committee assisted with advice regarding the renewal of the MOUs with the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council and the Islamic Society of Victoria which were completed successfully
  7. A number of activities across Equity and Diversity Action Plans were successfully implemented with the support and participation of Committee members such as:
    - Reconciliation Week
    - NAIDOC Flag Raising at Rydges
    - Organisation of activities to commemorate Refugee Week with a focus on anti-racism, refugees and asylum seekers
    - Launch of Darebin Community Passport and Local Government Joint Statement on Asylum Seekers
    - 'Opening Doors' Forum on the needs of Asylum Seeking women
    - Interfaith Forum on 'Restoring Hope'
    - The Committee assisted with the organization of the Say No To Racism Project Pilot Training sessions which were conducted successfully and it also supported the completion of the training package and the complementary video "Voices from the Community".
    - Launch of the Training Package held successfully in the September.
  8. The Committee supported Council with the development of a Submission to repeal sections 18C and 18D of the Racial Discrimination Act
  9. The Committee supported a funding submission for a second stage of the Say No To Racism Project to assist community stakeholders to build their training capacity to effectively deliver bystander anti-Racism training.

### Challenges

While the committee has been operating with vitality and engagement it was necessary to broaden the membership scope of the Committee. A recruitment drive was implemented successfully at the beginning of the year to respond to the supervision of the implementation of the Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy. The previous Committee was made up by representatives who assisted with the Darebin Racism Inquiry. At the June 2013 meeting a

---

---

decision was made to have four quarterly meetings instead of two meetings a year. Due to the amount of work to be progressed between meetings and the recommendations around collaborative projects the TOR and frequency of meetings will be reviewed again. More formal processes will be applied to ensure advice provided by the committee is properly incorporated into work processes.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

Coordination and implementation of actions within currently allocated budget.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

N/A

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

The coordination of the Darebin Anti-Racism Steering Committee is part of the Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy implementation and fully supported through the Council Plan and the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015. The strategy is implemented through the Multicultural, Aboriginal and Human Rights Action Plans. The EIPAT tool was applied in the development of these action plans to consider groups identified as at risk of exclusion and discrimination such as Aboriginal people, CALD community members especially asylum seekers, members of religious minorities and women.

#### Economic Development Implications

Racism has been identified as one of the key contributors to ill health and depression. It is a barrier to people's participation in employment and it has a negative impact on building a diverse and inclusive work force.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Darebin Anti-Racism Committee has effectively provided advice to Council and it has advanced the strategic discussion of issues. The actions for 2013-2014 have been successfully implemented through the delivery of key actions contained in the Human Rights, Aboriginal and Multicultural Action Plans.

The key focus of the Committee this year was on building and strengthening partnerships, raising awareness and community education activities through events, equity and diversity internal promotion of anti-racism messages and in partnership with both internal and external stakeholders.

The Committee's work has been very productive in assisting the discussion regarding the implementation of actions from the Equity and Inclusion Action Plans, the coordination of a Joint Local Government Statement on Asylum Seekers, the launch of the Darebin Community Passport, the Diversity Capabilities Framework and the development of the Say No To Racism Training Package.

---

---

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Implementation of actions in Equity and Diversity Action Plans for 2014/15
- Planning, update, endorsement and implementation of the Darebin Anti-Racism Work Plan for 2015
- Endorsement of new Terms of Reference
- Coordination of quarterly Darebin Anti-Racism Committee meetings
- Annual review at the end of 2015
- Follow up on the implementation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage of the Say No To Racism Project

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Anti-Racism Steering Committee's Terms of Reference
  - Report of the Anti-Racism Strategy implementation 2012-2015
  - Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015
  - Aboriginal Action Plan 2012-2015
  - Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015
  - Multicultural Action Plan 2012-2015
  - Local Government Joint Statement on Asylum Seekers
-

---

## 1. DAREBIN ARTS AMBASSADORS

**AUTHOR:** Manager Creative Culture – Vanessa Pigrum

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Culture, Leisure & Works – Daniel Freer

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the Darebin Arts Ambassadors Reference Group is to advise Council on any matters relating to the arts and community in Darebin, support Council in the development of the Arts Strategy 2014-2020 and provide feedback, support and guidance for the life of the strategy. The committee consists of 10 appointed community positions, Council officers (where appropriate) and Councillors.

#### Committee members

- Aliey Ball
- Andrew Mansfield
- Chris Reynolds
- Deanne Wild
- Julian Abrahams
- Linda Catalano
- Sari Braithwaite
- Susan Doel
- Valentina Maxwell Tansley
- Scarlett Widlend

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Walsh
- Cr Villella
- Cr McCarthy

#### Frequency of meetings:

The committee meets four times a year.

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

Membership is reviewed annually with 5 positions becoming vacant every year.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

In April 2013 Council endorsed the establishment of the Darebin Arts Ambassadors Reference Group and the dissolution of the Darebin Arts Forum. The Darebin Arts Ambassadors Reference Group was created to advise Council on any matters relating to the

---

---

arts in Darebin as well as support Council in the development of the Arts Strategy 2014-2020 and provide feedback, support and guidance for the life of the strategy.

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Participation in community consultation to develop the new Arts Strategy

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Adoption of the Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020 in December 2013

#### Challenges

Nil

#### Financial and Resource Implications

Nil

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

The Darebin Arts Ambassadors (DAA) Reference Group has little, if any, environmental impact. The formal committee structure and reduced number of members DAA ensures a reduction in waste and paper requirements and reduced greenhouse emissions through motor vehicle transport.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

The Darebin Arts Ambassadors (DAA) Reference Group has an emphasis on social inclusion and engaging with Darebin's diverse communities. Arts and Culture has worked to ensure community representation includes a balance of gender, age range and cultural diversity.

#### Economic Development Implications

nil

### **CONCLUSION**

The Arts Ambassadors were a constructive sounding board for developing the Arts Strategy 2014-2020. Now that the Strategy is in the early implementation stage, the Arts Ambassadors are turning their attention to discussion of industry trends and challenges within the arts sector more broadly.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- 5 new members will be appointed in November 2014
-

---

## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020

---

## 1. DAREBIN AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Events and Marketing Projects Coordinator- Deborah Equid

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Corporate and Planning Services – Paul Crapper

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The role of the Darebin Australia Day Committee is to promote the Australia Day Award nominations and Australia day event in the community, to judge the entries for the Awards in accordance with the judging criteria, select winners and to attend celebrations in January each year. Australia Day celebrations include an Awards ceremony, Citizenship Ceremony on Australia Day and the 26'ers club birthday cake celebration on Australia Day.

The Committee is supported by the Project Support Officer, Communications and Marketing.

#### Committee members

The Committee includes:

- Mayor – Chair of the Committee
- Can be two to three nominated Councillors
- Representative of the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council
- Two community representatives.

The community representatives are selected by the Mayor and Councillor appointed by Council as Australia Day Committee representatives and Council staff on the basis of:

- Leadership role in the Community
- Relevance to the Awards categories
- Reflecting the Diversity of the Darebin community
- Availability to attend Australia Day Committee meetings and event celebrations.

The community representatives are appointed for a two year term. Members of the Committee are excluded from consideration of themselves, or organisations with whom they are associated in the Award.

#### Councillor Representative:

- Following Council elections on 11 November 2014, the elected Mayor will be the Chair of the Committee and Councillors will be nominated as representatives.

#### Frequency of meetings:

The Committee meets on several occasions including December of each year to review nominations for the Darebin Australia Day Awards. The Committee also attends and assists with the presentation of the Darebin Australia Day Awards at an event to be held in January of each year and attends a Citizenship Ceremony held on Australia Day and a cake celebration for the 26'ers club.

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

---

---

The current community committee representatives are appointed for a two year term and were appointed in September 2013. They will be reviewed in 2015.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The Committee met in December 2013 and selected winners of the 2014 Awards and celebrations were held on the 23 January to present the Awards and a Citizenship Ceremony on 26 January 2014 for over 100 new Darebin Australian citizens.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Committee were happy with the number of nominations received for the three award categories. Each year we do look at additional avenues to attract nominations.

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

The key achievements for 2013/2014 of the Committee are:

- Selection of a winner for the three categories of Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Group of the Year.
- Awards ceremony was held on Thursday 23 January 2014 as a separate event
- A Citizenship Ceremony was held at the Preston City Hall with over 100 citizens conferred and 350 people in attendance.

### Challenges

There were no difficulties encountered in 2013 by the Committee in selecting winners for the three Awards for 2014.

### Financial and Resource Implications

The committee is supported by Communications and Marketing within the Australia Day Awards and Event budget annually.

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

Event planning and promotions for the Awards include reducing environment impacts and the Awards encourage community groups to nominate.

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

Darebin celebrates Australia Day each year with Awards to recognise the achievements of our community members as individuals and groups, a Citizenship Ceremony to welcome new Australians in our city and a birthday cake for the 26'ers club. We encourage more diverse nominations from the community by meeting with the multicultural press and gaining their support to promote the awards and consider nominate champions in their community. A high proportion of ethnic media were also in attendance at the 2014 Australia Day Awards event.

---



---

### Economic Development Implications

The Darebin Australia Day Awards and event include supporting and using where possible local suppliers for event logistics including; catering, flowers, Awards, printing etc.

### **CONCLUSION**

The committee successfully met and selected winners of the 2014 Darebin Australia Day Awards and attended celebrations on the 23 January to present the Award winners and celebrations on 26 January 2014 with a Citizenship Ceremony.

Planning for the 2015 Darebin Australia Day Awards and event has started, with consideration to hold two events once again, one for the presentation of the Awards and another to include a Citizenship Ceremony.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Mayor elected for the City and to Chair this committee on 10 November, 2014
- Councillor/s nominated as representatives for committee on 10 November, 2014
- Committee meetings to be scheduled
- Event planning for two events in January 2015 to commence
- Continued promotion for nominations for the 2015 Awards

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Australia Day Awards and Events Policy
-

---

## 1. DAREBIN BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Senior Coordinator Transport Management – Nathan Moresi

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Assets and Business Services – Steve Hamilton

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee (DBAC) is a formal advisory body to Darebin City Council. Its purpose is to provide strategic advice and inform Council on cycling issues affecting the community, and to improve Council decision making in relation to policy, program, and service delivery where it relates to bicycles. The committee will provide ongoing community input into the provision of cycling infrastructure facilities and education programs, and the delivery of the Darebin Cycling Strategy.

#### Committee members

The committee currently consists of 14 members which are made up of the following representatives:

- Senior Constable, Victoria Police, Preston Police Station
- Preston Cycling Club representative (Darebin resident)
- Darebin Bicycle User Group (Darebin resident)
- La Trobe University student representative
- Five other Darebin residents
- Team Leader, Transport Strategy – Council Officer
- Sustainable Transport Officer – Council Officer

#### Councillor Representatives:

- Cr Trent McCarthy
- Cr Angela Villella
- Cr Bo Li

#### Frequency of meetings:

Bi-monthly

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

According to the DBAC Terms of Reference, the committee is due to retire half of the community representatives in August each year, replacing them with new or returning applicants.

---

---

Two Darebin residents have volunteered to step down from the committee at the end of 2014 and another committee member, a representative from a local bicycle shop, withdrew from the committee in July 2014 after selling his business. The remaining members will stay on until August 2015. Recruitment of 3 new community representatives will commence once the Council-wide review of advisory committees is complete.

The committee Terms of Reference are due to be reviewed in August 2015.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

DBAC provides ongoing community feedback to Council in relation to the provision of bicycle infrastructure, facilities and education programs. DBAC objectives are to:

- Advise Council on delivery of the Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013 – 2018 and inform other relevant Council program and policy development.
- Inform Council about issues relating to improving the municipality for cycling, and the promotion of cycling.
- Support Council to develop projects that encourage a culture of cycling in Darebin, so that people travelling within or through Darebin make more of their trips by bicycle.
- Advise Council on the development of a high quality network of cycle friendly routes accessing popular destinations both within Darebin and the larger Metropolitan network that are suitable for use by those of all abilities, ages and backgrounds.
- Support Council to promote safe behaviour by all modes on roads and paths.
- Assist Council to effectively promote cycling.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Proposed bike ride with Councillors to tour bicycle facilities and projects in Darebin (this has been deferred due to lack of interest/availability from Councillors)
- How to improve cross municipality linkages in the bicycle network including improvements to signage on shared paths
- Raised issues with lighting and vegetation that needed fixing on shared paths
- Ongoing interest in bicycle education and school projects including Bike Ed, training for parents, cycle training courses

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Provided advice to Council on Fairfield bike corral.
  - Championed a study of parking and bicycle infrastructure conducted by University of Melbourne in the Croxton area of High Street Northcote
-

- 
- Provided feedback on improving bicycle routes between La Trobe University and Preston
  - Had input into selecting the alignment of back street shimmy routes
  - Generated ideas about raising the profile of cycling in Darebin
  - Provided feedback on a range of bicycle capital works projects including Normanby Ave Merri Creek crossing, St Georges Path improvements and shared path at High Street Reservoir
  - Suggested possible locations for bike repair stations

### Challenges

Although the committee provides valuable advice to Council on a range of bicycle projects and initiatives, there are a limited number of actions within the Cycling Strategy action plan that are appropriate for the committee to provide input or advice on. For this reason, it is sometimes challenging to find sufficient appropriate topics of discussion at DBAC meetings without generating significant additional workload for Officers. One action that could address this is holding the committee meetings quarterly rather than bi-monthly.

Students who are co-opted onto the committee often do so in their final year, and so only remain with the committee for 12 months. A new student representative was appointed in 2014. Sustaining active ongoing participation from the student committee representative remains a challenge. Additional efforts have been made to make contact with the student representative, to encourage their attendance at meetings and input into relevant bicycle projects.

The police representative rarely attends due to other commitments; however Council has other links within the police through the Local Safety Committee, so their attendance is not essential. If they continue to be unable to attend, an alternative member could be considered within the next review of the Terms of Reference.

Recruitment for new members was scheduled for August 2014; however this process has been delayed due to the Council-wide review of advisory committees.

### Financial and Resource Implications

Costs associated with this committee are covered within existing budget streams.

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

The Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee informs and provides ongoing community input to Council into the delivery of the *Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013 - 2018*. This strategy aligns with the *Council Plan 2013 - 2017*, *Darebin Transport Strategy 2007 – 2027*, *Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan 2009*, *Darebin's Food Security Policy* that aim to ensure Council is encouraging and supporting sustainable travel choices, and working with stakeholders towards a more effective and holistic transport system and reducing the impact of climate change and peak oil through our services, programs and civic structures.

---

---

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

This committee informs and provides ongoing community input to Council into the delivery of the *Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013 - 2018*. This strategy aligns with the *Council Plan 2013 - 2017*, and *Equity and Inclusion Policy* that aim to ensure Council is inclusive and responsive to the needs and aspirations of local communities through our services, programs and civic structures.

The *Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013 – 2018* acknowledges that cycling is of special value to communities at risk of ill health, or with limited access to transport including CALD communities, the elderly, youth and children, and those from a low socio-economic background. Bicycles offer an affordable transport option for people from a low socio-economic background and can reduce social isolation by improving mobility. The level of use of bicycles by women is also often used as an indicator of how bicycle safety is perceived in the community.

The Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee Terms of Reference highlight the need for diversity of membership, representing Darebin's diversity. Assessment of initial applications considered gender, age, geographic location and areas of interest. The need to target particular communities when seeking further members will be considered when recruiting new committee members.

### Economic Development Implications

Improving conditions for bicycles can have a positive impact on economic development. Allowing people to ride and walk to activity centres has been shown to have a significant positive impact on local businesses. Urban environments that cater for the needs of people riding bikes and walking independent of their age, gender or mobility are regarded as vibrant, active, and economically successful.

## **CONCLUSION**

DBAC members are committed and highly supportive of Council's approach to cycling delivery. They have provided thoughtful feedback and advice throughout the year on a wide range of bicycle projects and initiatives from strategic issues like development of new cycle routes to local issues such as the design of bicycle capital works projects. A number of new projects and directions have been taken by Council due to the input of the committee. The committee has provided valuable feedback on project proposals and capital works plans. Having the support of the committee has added weight to Council applications and proposals where support or approval is needed from external organisations such as VicRoads, Melbourne Water or neighbouring Councils.

---

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Recruit new community members to commence with the committee in 2015
- Review the DBAC TOR in the light of the Council wide review of advisory committees
- Continue to support the delivery of the *Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013-2018*
- Continued provision of advice to Council on bicycle projects

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee Terms of Reference - Revised November 2013 (Objective ref: A1776174)
-

---

## DAREBIN COLLECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Vanessa Pigrum – Manager Creative Culture

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Culture, Leisure & Works – Daniel Freer

### COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The role of the City of Darebin Collections Advisory Committee is to provide advice to Council regarding the development of the City of Darebin Art and History Collections, as well as oversee the implementation of the Collections Policy.

#### Committee members

Community representatives x3 – artist, arts industry professionals

#### Councillor Representative:

Councillor Greco, Councillor Villella and Councillor Laurence

#### Frequency of meetings:

Quarterly

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

February 2015

## STATUS REPORT

### Introduction and Background

The role of the Collections Advisory Committee is to provide advice to Council regarding development and management of the Art and History Collections. The committee oversees the implementation of the Collections Policy, which includes:

- Acquisition and de-accessioning of objects in the collections
- Adequate and ongoing resources to ensure the well being of the collections.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Acquisition of artwork and historic objects of Significance through purchases and donation
  - Art and History Collection management and storage
  - Increase access points for the general public and City of Darebin staff to the City of Darebin Art and History Collection
  - Administration for Museums Australia re-accreditation program
-

---

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Investment in Significant works of art through acquisition by purchase and donation
- Some alleviation of storage difficulties through off-site storage solution
- Increased access points for the general public and City of Darebin staff to the City of Darebin Art and History Collection
- Successful re-accreditation as a member organisation of the Museums Australia Program
- Production of a Preventative Conservation Plan and a draft Collections Access Policy

### Challenges

- Storage of Art and History Collection objects is an ongoing challenge, with limited onsite storage. Offsite storage has been sourced and funded for a range of objects.
- Allocation of additional resources to alleviate backlog of cataloguing and condition reporting Collections objects to ensure the wellbeing of the collection: options have been investigated by Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Curator and reported back to the Collections Advisory Committee. Action includes contracting an expert to work with Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Curator and Intern on an Art Collection audit.
- A successful Capital Works application will result in some additional support to catalogue and digitise the Collection in 2014/2015
- Sustainable workloads of Collections staff to ensure that the Collection is properly catalogued: options have been investigated by Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Curator and reported back to the Collections Advisory Committee. Action includes contracting an expert to work with Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Curator and Intern to reduce current built up workload. This solution relies on ongoing resources to assist in avoiding build-up of catalogue work in the future.

### Financial and Resource Implications

The Art and History Collections have operated with the budget parameters set by Council.

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

The Preston Art Store requires regular monitoring to ensure correct energy consumption.

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

The Collections Advisory Committee continues to ensure that there is broad community representation through the acquisition of new objects to the art and history collection. In the past 12 months there have been a number of acquisitions from diverse artists and groups, many from within the City of Darebin and some from surrounding municipalities. The committee ensures acquisitions fall within the acquisition criteria outlined in the Collections Policy, and that these objects will benefit a broad range of groups within the community.

---



### Economic Development Implications

None of significance

### **CONCLUSION**

The Collections Committee has successfully managed the acquisitions process in 2013/2014.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Recruitment of new Committee members in December 2014

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020
  - Existing Terms of Reference
-

---

## 1. DAREBIN CREEK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Coordinator Public Realm – Alison Breach

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Culture, Leisure & Works – Daniel Freer

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) is responsible for advocacy, education and conservation of the Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands.

#### Committee members

- DCMC Creek Coordinator
- Councillor –City of Whittlesea
- Representative – City of Whittlesea
- Councillor – Banyule City Council
- Representative - Banyule City Council
- Councillor – Yarra City Council
- Representative – Yarra City Council
- Councillor – Darebin City Council
- Representative – Darebin City Council
- Representative Darebin Parklands
- Representative – Latrobe University
- Community Members

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr. Oliver Walsh

#### Frequency of meetings:

Every 3 months

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

Darebin has just entered into a three year MOU agreement with Darebin Creek Management Committee that began in 2014/2015.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

DCMC has undertaken conservation works including planting of indigenous vegetation, clean-up and education surrounding issues affecting the Darebin Creek as well as management and maintenance of Darebin Parklands. The committee does a lot of outreach work with school groups around conservation and water quality.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

---

- 
- Report underway to assess the water purification and filtration system that prevents leachate from restored tip site (Darebin Parklands) from entering into Darebin Creek.
  - Managing feral animals, weed infestations and increasing habitat for native flora and fauna.
  - Vandalism and theft in the Darebin Parklands.
  - Need for repair and upgrade to aging infrastructure including the toilets in the parklands.
  - Create a more formal entry way into Darebin Parklands from Separation Street.

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Education to school groups
- Repairing damage to Darebin Parklands after several storm events
- Maintenance and conservation within the parklands

#### Challenges

Increasing development pressure negatively impacting the creek.

Reduced availability of grant funding.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

Darebin City Council contributed \$162,702 toward conservation and management work of the Darebin Parklands and \$52,868 toward funding the Darebin Creek Coordinator.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

DCMC is a very environmentally conscious and sustainable organisation that works toward improving water quality in the Darebin Creek and managing the Darebin Parklands. The group has a positive impact on the community through education activities.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

- Elderly, Youth, Children <12

School groups take class trips to the parklands for conservation education.

Many of the members of DCMC are retired and get positive social benefits from their involvement in DCMC.

#### Economic Development Implications

Nil

## **CONCLUSION**

Darebin Creek Management Committee is an organised and highly functioning group dedicated to conservation and preservation of the Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands.

---

---

Development of an MOU will assist with reporting of and clarify goals and responsibilities of Council and DCMC.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Continue to provide a management presence on the DCMC committee.
- Implement the MOU with Darebin Creek Management Committee.
- Undertake investigation of the filtration system.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- DCMC Memorandum of Understanding July 2013-June 2018

---

## 1. DAREBIN EARLY YEARS REFERENCE GROUP

**AUTHOR:** Manager Children, Families and Community – Cheryl Hermence

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Community Development – Katrina Knox

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the Darebin Early Years Reference Group was initially to inform the development of the Darebin Early Years Strategy and to guide the actions arising from the strategy. The Darebin Early Years Reference Group forms the strategic arm of the governance structure for Darebin Best Start and oversees the broad strategic direction of the Darebin Best Start Partnership and Action Plan.

#### Committee members

- representatives of local early years care and education providers, including community, not-for-profit and commercial organisations
- representatives of family support agencies
- representatives of early intervention services
- Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- relevant Early Years peak bodies
- local organisation representing families experiencing disadvantage in Darebin

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Gaetano Greco
- Cr Julie Williams

#### Frequency of meetings:

Bi-annually

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

An informal review of the committee, its structure and purpose was undertaken at the March 2013 meeting. The committee is currently undergoing review in line with the general review of all City of Darebin advisory committees.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The role of the Early Years Reference Group is to:

1. provide advice, input on processes and evaluate the relevance of the Darebin Early Years Framework and the Darebin Best Start Action Plan
  2. provide strategic thinking for effective planning
-

- 
3. ensure alignment with relevant Council policy including: the Darebin Social Inclusion Agenda; Diversity Policy; Human Rights Check List and the Darebin *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009- 2013*
  4. advise Council on the delivery of actions that arise from the plans.

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

The Early Years Reference Group provided advice and guidance on:

- Partnership opportunities and directions for Council's plans to further develop Council's involvement in supporting early years programs such as playgroups.
- Models and strategies for further integrating service provision to families across the municipality.

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Annual implementation of the Darebin Early Years Strategy, Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan and Darebin Early Years Plan.
- Input to program reviews of Council services to ensure programs are in accordance with the overall directions of the Darebin Early Years Strategy and Darebin Early Years Plan.
- Overseeing the annual communication of the Strategy to the community and partner agencies.
- Opportunities to further develop the role Council plays in supporting community playgroups.
- Partnership opportunities in further improving the systemic integration of facilitated playgroups and parenting groups for vulnerable children and their families.
- Partnership opportunities on infrastructure development.

#### Challenges

Implementation of the Strategy with sector groups that focus on related but not same service provision. The Reference group has evolved by identifying and understanding the gaps in service provision across Darebin. Through the Best Start Working group relationships have formed, creating working partnerships with internal and external programs. Partnerships have reviewed current programs and created new partnerships and linkages aimed at addressing identified gaps.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

The Strategy is per allocated budget.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

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.

---

---

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion 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.

### Economic Development Implications

Nil

## **CONCLUSION**

The Darebin Early Years Reference Group has been central to Council's implementation of the Darebin Early Years Strategy and in providing a broader strategic base for discussion and feedback.

The Early Years Reference Group has provided the platform for knowledge exchange with relevant universal, secondary, tertiary or specialist service providers as well as funding bodies to ensure Darebin City Council delivers accessible programs, services and new initiatives that make a genuine contribution to the well-being of children and their families.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Darebin Early Years Reference Group continues to provide strategic direction to Early Years providers.
- Annual review of the Darebin Early Years Strategy to be completed.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Early Years Strategy 2011-2021
  - Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2011-2031
  - Darebin Early Years Plan 2011-2021
-

---

**1. DAREBIN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PREVIOUSLY  
DAREBIN PUBLIC EDUCATION ADVOCAY COMMITTEE)**

**AUTHOR: Acting Team Leader Community Wellbeing - Jackie Mansourian**

**REVIEWED BY: Director Community Development – Katrina Knox**

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

In 2011, the Darebin Public Education Advocacy Committee was established in response to growing Council concern about school closures in Darebin. The primary role of this Committee was to oversee the development and implementation of an inquiry into public education which took place throughout 2012/2013. A report with a set of recommendations was finalised in early 2014 which in turn prompted a review of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and role of the Committee. The Darebin Education Committee was established with a new TOR approved by Council in June 2014. The primary role of the Darebin Education Committee is to oversee and add value to the implementation of the Darebin's Education Inquiry Report recommendations

Committee members

- Nominated Councillor/s to co-chair the Committee
- Manager Community Planning and Customer Service
- Council Officer from Business Development Unit
- Manager Libraries, Learning and Youth
- Manager Family and Children
- Aboriginal Affairs Officer
- Up to 12 representatives of schools in Darebin including principals, deputy principals, coordinators and school council members
- Representative/s of the Inner Local Learning and Education Network (INLLEN)
- Two Community representatives with interest in education

Councillor Representative:

- Councillor Gaetano Greco
- Councillor Vince Fontana
- Councillor Angela Villella

Frequency of meetings:

The Committee meetings are held bi-monthly.

Committee to be reviewed by:

According to the TOR, the Committee and its terms of reference will be reviewed in October 2016, however, the Committee will now be reviewed as part of the overall review of all Darebin Advisory Committees.

---



---

## STATUS REPORT

### Introduction and Background

The Darebin Public Education Advocacy Committee was transformed into the Darebin Education Committee with the completion of the Darebin Education Inquiry in early 2014 and with the new TOR passed by Council in June 2014.

The objectives of Darebin's Education Committee are to:

- Oversee and add value to the implementation of the Darebin's Education Inquiry Report Recommendations
- Assist in building and strengthening relations between Darebin Council and Darebin-based schools
- Advocate to relevant authorities on the educational needs of Darebin's children and young people
- Keep abreast of innovation and best practice in education and advocate for improvements in the quality and diversity of education available to children and young people in the municipality
- Act as a forum for information exchange and exploration of new ideas in education
- Play an active role in informing and organising an annual signature event by Council on Education
- Support and promote community partnerships and the sharing of good practices in education and schooling

### Key issues for 2013/2014

Findings of the Darebin Education Inquiry Report including:

- Importance of education for economic and social prosperity
- Major differences between public and private education systems
- Major educational risk factors in Darebin
- Addressing equity issues in education is critical for the Darebin community
- Important role of Council in achieving educational outcomes

Eight recommendations of the Darebin Education Inquiry Report including:

- Dialogue with selected local primary and secondary schools to develop strategic education partnership agreements – in particular with schools that have high enrolments of students from high equity groups
- Advocacy to State and Federal Governments about the educational needs of Darebin

Transforming the role of the Darebin Public Education Advocacy Committee to include representation and involvement of all schools in Darebin including, public, Catholic and independent schools.

Local educational advocacy matters including:

- Changes in Koorie education funding and the consequences for Thornbury High
- High School for Preston.

Prioritising mapping of current work between Darebin Council and all schools in Darebin.

---

---

New developments affecting education such as the structure of DEECD and Victoria's Vulnerable Children's Strategy.

The launch of Darebin Education Inquiry Report.

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Significant feedback and review of the research, consultation, development and completion of the Darebin Education Inquiry Report. The report produced eight key findings and made eight recommendations.
- Gradual and successful transformation of the Darebin Public Education Advocacy Committee into the Darebin Education Committee, with and the development of new TOR and participation of new stakeholders, including primary and secondary schools from public, Catholic and independent schools.
- Significant contribution and oversight of the Darebin Education Inquiry Report Launch which included a showcasing by eleven Darebin Schools on the themes of inter-school collaboration and equity, inclusion and social justice programs by schools.

#### Challenges

Working in education in a whole-of-Council approach is new for Darebin and a relatively new space for any local government in Victoria. It is also a relatively new area of partnership with schools. This process takes time, takes clear communication and relationships of mutual trust and understanding.

Schools have been placed in a very competitive funding field given the nature of Federal and State funding arrangements, not only between the different sectors of public and private schools, but also within each sector itself. It is a complex process to bring schools who compete to define mutual areas of interests and collaboration.

This year has seen a significant transformation in the TOR of the Darebin Education Committee (from the previous Darebin Public Education Advocacy Committee). It is still in a process of transition.

Darebin principals of primary and secondary schools meet in the Darebin Principals' Network. It is important that the Education Committee and the Principal's Network clarify relationships of articulation and coordination. This is being discussed currently and came up as a very strong recommendation from one of the more recent Committee meetings.

Darebin Council has a breadth of work with Darebin schools, but it is fragmented and a whole-of-Council view of Council's work does not exist. Mapping of this work has been identified as a priority by the Committee and has been initiated.

---

---

### Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this Committee. The Community Renewal Officer provides staff resources to the coordination and administration of the Committee.

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

Darebin schools are generally active in diverse actions that consider and respond to environmental sustainability.

There are no specific recommendations arising from the Darebin Inquiry Report that include sustainability considerations however, currently there is work with schools by Council's sustainable transport, food and environmental educators in diverse initiatives.

Through the mapping process of Council's work with schools this will become evident and can help facilitate exchange and further attention.

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

There are two important findings in Darebin Education Inquiry Report which raise concerns about addressing equity issues in education. For example, the findings include that gaps in capabilities between children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families and their more advantaged peers appear early in life. Also the findings of the Inquiry indicate that students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, students from low socio economic backgrounds and students with disabilities require additional support in their education and are predominantly in Darebin's public schools.

The Inquiry recommends for Council to form partnership agreements with schools with large numbers of enrolments of students from high equity groups. Council can engage with schools in Darebin for appropriate supports for whole of school community and joined up interventions to address student disadvantage and promote inclusion.

The Education Committee will continue to assist the implementation and monitoring of the Plan in accordance with the above equity and inclusion findings and recommendations.

### Economic Development Implications

N/A

## **CONCLUSION**

The Darebin Education Committee is a new Committee reformed from the Darebin Public Education Advocacy Committee. The Committee has a new Terms of Reference which has broadened membership to include not only public primary and secondary schools but also Catholic and independent schools.

Whole-of Council approach to working in education is new to Darebin Council. It is also a relatively new space for any local government in Victoria so both Council and schools are

---

---

learning how to articulate, better communicate and effectively work together to improve educational outcomes for children and young people. The simultaneous launch of the Darebin Education Report and the showcasing of eleven Darebin schools was a positive example of the contribution that Darebin can make in creating positive public platforms for schools to exchange and recognise each other's strengths.

Importantly, the Committee contributes and will continue to contribute the implementation and monitoring of the recommendations from the Darebin Education Inquiry Report.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Create a platform of exchange and discussion between Darebin Principal's Network and Darebin Education Committee
- Develop and complete mapping of the breadth and depth of work that Council is currently doing with Darebin schools and use as a basis for informed and strengthened collaboration, with individual schools and networks of schools.
- Include key themes in the agenda of the Darebin Education Committee that arise from ongoing relationships between Council and schools
- Continue to provide support for the implementation and monitoring of recommendations from arising from the Darebin Education Inquiry Report.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- City of Darebin Education Inquiry Report, April 2014
  - Evaluation Report of Launch of Darebin Education Inquiry Report and showcase of schools
  - Terms of Reference of Terms of Reference of Darebin Education Committee.
-

---

## 1. DAREBIN ENTERPRISE CENTRE LIMITED (DECL)

**AUTHOR:** Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance –  
Eddy Boscarol

**REVIEWED BY:** Business and Assets Services – Steve Hamilton

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

#### Committee members

Darebin Enterprise Centre Ltd is controlled by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of members representing key stakeholders in business development and growth in Northern Metropolitan Melbourne including representatives from:

- Local Businesses
- Darebin City Council - Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance
- Local Training Providers
- Local Economic Development Agencies, and
- Graduate Businesses from the Incubator.

#### Company Secretary

- Executive Officer

#### Councillor Representative

- Councillor Vince Fontana
- Councillor Oliver Walsh

#### Frequency of meetings:

Bi monthly

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

At each Annual General Meeting all board positions are declared open.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The Board of Directors of Darebin Enterprise Centre have a number of roles and responsibilities:

- To set the vision and strategy for the organisation
  - To monitor the business and direction of the organisation
  - To evaluate the performance of the Board and the performance of the company
  - To communicate the company's strategic directions to key stakeholders
-

- 
- To consider the long term sustainability and direction of the company
  - To appoint and evaluate the Executive Officer.

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Positioning DECL with new government programs to fund the delivery of support to small businesses.
- Development of partnerships with local organisations for the delivery of business support programs to incubator and local businesses.
- Expansion of DECL's business support programs with Indigenous small business owners and Aboriginal Corporations.
- Expanding the incubation program and expanding networks to support the growth of businesses in the creative and digital art sector.
- Assisting self-employment as a viable option for unemployed and under-employed persons in the region.
- Expanding the digital support to small businesses.
- Building repair, maintenance and refurbishment to provide quality work space for tenant businesses at both incubators.
- Promoting the benefits of business incubation in the region and beyond.

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Achieved 90-100% occupancy throughout year at the General Purpose Business Incubator in Alphington
  - Expanded DECL's business support programs to Indigenous small business owners and Aboriginal Corporations in Melbourne's north and regional Victoria.
  - Achieved 85-100% occupancy throughout the year at artDECL, the creative and digital art incubator in Northcote.
  - Opening of new coworking spaces in Northcote and Heidelberg West.
  - Delivered the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) program to unemployed persons seeking to establish businesses in Melbourne's north.
  - Successful graduation of 10 businesses at the DECL's two business incubators with associated employment growth of 29 persons. (11 on entry, 40 on exit)
  - Delivered digital business mentoring to 527 businesses across six regions in Metropolitan Melbourne.
  - Negotiated with Australia Post and the City of Banyule for the establishment of a digital business incubator in West Heidelberg.
  - Received a generous donation from a Darebin business owner for the refurbishment of the new West Heidelberg business incubator digiDECL, which opened (soft launch) in June, 2014.
  - Appointed New Chief Executive Officer David Williamson in March, 2014
  - Hosted City of Darebin Councillors, C.E.O., Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance for special briefing on the future vision for the Alphington site.
  - Engaged architect to develop concept plans and preliminary costings for development of a four storey building on the Alphington site.
-

---

### Financial and Resource Implications

Darebin Enterprise Centre Ltd is a not-for-profit Public Company Limited by Guarantee. Its operations are directed by its Charter (Articles of Association (Revised 2010) and Memorandum of Association (1997).

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

Nil

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

- DECL delivered the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme Program to 74 participants from Melbourne's North. 54% of these participants were from CALD communities.
- DECL delivered business planning and mentoring support to 14 Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) small businesses and corporations during 2013-2014.

### Economic Development Implications

DECL provides support to new and existing businesses and contribute to economic and employment opportunities for Darebin and its residents.

## **CONCLUSION**

The DECL Incubators aim to achieve long-term economic development and increase in employment in Melbourne's north and beyond by providing support to new and existing enterprises. DECL has been a self-sustaining enterprise that has been able to expand its support to business through the establishment of a new incubator and successful tenders to government Digital and Indigenous support programs.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Continue to undertake work and direction in line with the Darebin Enterprise Centre Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015.
- Prepare application to the *National Stronger Regions Fund* to support the development of a new four storey building at DECL's Alphington site.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report is a Director of the Darebin Enterprise Centre Limited Board of Management.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Enterprise Centre Strategic Plan 2011-2015

---

---

## 1. DAREBIN ENVIRONMENT REFERENCE GROUP

**AUTHOR:** Acting Manager Environment and Natural Resources –  
Gavin Mountjoy

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Assets and Business Services – Steve Hamilton

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

Darebin's Environmental Reference Group (DERG) is a community advisory group that has been operating since 2001. DERG provides valuable input to Council on policies, strategies and projects of environmental significance and plays an important role in building community engagement and participation in environmental issues.

#### Committee members

12 members from the Darebin community that are appointed via a public selection process including:

- Alfred Howell
- Alister Huth
- Ben Crisfield-Smith
- Caroline Gonzalez
- David Redfearn
- Jane Morton
- Katrina Roberg
- Luke Brown
- Margaret Ayre
- Simon Batterbury
- Toni Meek and
- Zachary Schlosser

#### Councillor Representatives:

- Cr Trent McCarthy and Cr Angela Villella

#### Frequency of meetings:

Six weekly meeting of the Reference Group.

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

The committee is ongoing and has no sunset clause, with half the committee being renewed every year via a public process. The DERG Terms of Reference were reviewed by Council on 2 May 2011. DERG reviewed the Terms of Reference in August 2013 and made minor modifications to clarify membership terms.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

---



---

The purpose of DERG is:

- To facilitate community action and to assist in strengthening links and partnerships between the Darebin community and Council's contribution to environmental sustainability.
- To provide an avenue of community consultation regarding policy, strategies and matters pertaining to environmental sustainability in Darebin and to operate as a "sounding board" for key strategies and policies.
- To provide community feedback and assistance to Council regarding local environmental issues.
- To contribute to the content of environmental forums and events

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

DERG considered the following key issues over the year:

- Sustainable transport including: carshare parking, walking and cycling, public transport, grade separations and East West link
- Visioning Darebin – Municipal Strategic Statement
- Darebin Heat Wave strategies
- Darebin Urban Food Production Strategy and Sustainable Food
- Environmental Sustainable Design in planning
- Environmental and amenity considerations of building practices and developments in Darebin.
- Solar Saver program and the Solar and Resource Efficiency Program
- Sustainable Homes and Communities Leadership Program and Awards
- Darebin Council Budget

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

Apart from providing input into the above issues informally, DERG provided formal written submission to the following:

- Darebin Council Budget

#### Challenges

There were no significant challenges. DERG maintains a dynamic, diverse and informed membership. This contributes to the breadth and depth of issues that are able to be reviewed and discussed throughout the year. One member resigned from the group in 2013 due to other commitments and this position was filled with a candidate who had applied in the annual committee renewal process.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

There are no budget implications. DERG is supported with officer time.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

As per the body of this report DERG's focus is to contribute to environmental sustainability.

---

---

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

One of the key selection criteria for appointing DERG members through the annual renewal process is that: *a broad representation of the Darebin community will be sought – based on location (home address) and diversity.*

DERG continues to provide advice and suggestions for engaging the broad and diverse Darebin community on environmental issues. DERG is regularly updated and provides input into environmental projects that target groups in the community at risk of exclusion.

### Economic Development Implications

Nil.

### **CONCLUSION**

DERG continues to provide valuable input and advice to Council on environmental sustainability issues.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- DERG annual committee renewal process to be promoted in October/November with applications from community members closing in December.

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Environmental Reference Group Terms of Reference
  - Darebin environmental strategies
-

---

## 1. DAREBIN HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Acting Team Leader Community Wellbeing – Jackie Mansourian

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Community Development – Katrina Knox

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Health Steering Committee is a group of internal and external representatives which provides advice to Council on issues relating to the health and wellbeing of the Darebin community. It also oversees Council's *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017*.

#### Committee members

- Darebin Council
- Medicare Local
- Darebin Community Health
- Northern Area Mental Health
- NEAMI Darebin
- Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria
- Women's Health in the North
- Northern Health
- Austin Health
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- Department of Health (North/West Region)
- North East Primary Care Partnership
- La Trobe University School of Public Health
- Northcote Aquatic Centre

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Gaetano Greco
- Cr Oliver Walsh
- Cr Bo Li

#### Frequency of meetings:

Meetings are currently held bi-monthly on the last Thursday of the month.

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

As part of review of all Council advisory committees currently being undertaken, it has been decided that the Steering Committee become a Reference Group, meet quarterly and not have the direct representation of Councillors. The new Terms of Reference will be developed with involved stakeholders by end of 2014.

---

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The Darebin Health Committee was developed in 2003 with the key purpose of the committee being to oversee the Darebin Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing planning. The Committee is made up of a wide variety of services from across Darebin's health and community sectors and provides advice to Council on health and wellbeing issues in the Darebin community.

The key objectives of the Committee are to:

- Assist Council to identify relevant public health and wellbeing issues affecting the City of Darebin.
- Assist with the implementation and monitoring of the 2013-2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Promote inter-agency collaboration.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Significant policy and funding changes at the Commonwealth and State levels, some of which raise local concerns about health equity and reinforce growing health inequalities. The changes have also affected the capacities of some of the partners involved in the Darebin Health Steering Committee.
- Healthy Connections funding for Healthy Moves funding ended in June 2014.

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Almost 2000 people from Healthy Moves target groups were recruited in the project and almost 10% of those participants have sustained their healthy lifestyle behaviours.
- Significant feedback into the final development and review of objectives and strategies of Council's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017.
- Key contribution in the development of first year priority actions of the Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Forum for discussion and exchange about key changes in health policies and health sector – including commissioning of mental health services.
- Key contribution to development of neighbourhood specific wellbeing indicators.

### Challenges

- The changing policy and funding contexts in health services and health promotion are creating some uncertainty in the future development of Council's partners. For example, Darebin Community Health was no longer able to pursue an MOU with Council regarding community facilities in Reservoir.
-

- 
- There are new health organisations operating in Darebin as part of the commissioning in mental health and there will be a need to establish new relationships.

With both these challenges, the Committee acts as a positive forum for discussion, clarification of the changing contexts and for relationship building with existing and new organisations in Darebin.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this Committee. The Community Wellbeing Team Leader provide staff resources to the coordination and administration of the Committee.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

One of the key objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Plan is to 'Build healthy, safe, accessible and sustainable spaces and neighbourhoods for people to live well, play and connect'. As the Committee is responsible for assisting in implementing and monitoring the 2013-2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan, the strategies prioritised under this objective and which integrate environmental sustainability are of relevant concern of the Committee.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 has a strong focus on health equity. The plan recognises and addresses the social determinants of health which are those conditions, relationships and environments in which people are born, live, grow, learn, work and age.

Councils' Equity and Inclusion Policy (2012 – 2015) and the priority groups identified at risk of exclusion have provided a central lens from which both engagement and planning took place. The Health Plan recognises that these priority groups identified in the Equity and Inclusion Policy generally experience poorer health and wellbeing outcomes.

The Committee will continue to assist the implementation and monitoring of the Plan in accordance with equity and inclusion priorities.

#### Economic Development Implications

N/A

### **CONCLUSION**

The Health Steering Committee has made a positive and significant contribution to the development and final review of the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan. Health equity is at the core of the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017.

---

In the context of significant policy and funding changes in to health care services and health promotion the Darebin Health Steering Committee has provided a positive forum for considering and clarifying these changes as they affect Darebin citizens, communities and organisational partners, and reinforces the importance of collaboration. Importantly, the Committee continues to support the implementation and monitoring of the health and wellbeing plan in accordance with the overall commitment to health equity.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Current Terms of Reference will be reviewed and new Terms of Reference developed in line with changes in 2014.
- Individual liaison to all members of Committee to further strengthen role and contribution with the Committee.
- Action planning for second year of implementation of Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- 2014 Darebin Health Steering Committee Terms of Reference
  - Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 - 2017
-

---

**1. DAREBIN HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AUTHOR: Community Planner – Nick Matteo**

**REVIEWED BY: Director Community Development – Katrina Knox**

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

This broad based committee of community housing agencies, tenant advocates, not for profit developers and residents provide advice to maintain and increase the level of social and affordable housing in the city and to provide support for people and families experiencing the impacts of 'housing stress'.

Committee members

- Resident
- Spectrum
- Council to Homeless Persons
- Community Housing Limited
- Victorian Womens Housing Association
- Community Housing Federation of Victoria
- Affordable Housing Solutions
- Wishin Womens Information Housing and Support
- Community Housing Limited
- Northern Support Services
- NEAMI Victoria
- Northcote Rental Housing Coop
- Office of the Victorian Architect
- Justice Advocacy
- Victorian Womens Housing Association
- Salvation Army
- Affordable Housing Victoria
- Housing Choices Australia
- Home at Last
- Urban Coup
- Department Human Services
- Major Projects officer DCC
- Statutory planning Officer DCC
- Coordinator Planning & Advocacy Aged & Disability Services DCC
- Community Housing Limited
- Unitarian Church

Councillor Representative:

Cr. Gaetano Greco  
Cr. Tim Laurence  
Cr. Julie Williams

---

---

### Frequency of meetings:

In 2013 / 2014, the standard 3 monthly meetings have evolved into more specialist and tailored operational committees.

### Committee to be reviewed by:

The committee is due for review as part of a broader review of Council's Advisory Structure.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

First established in 2005, the committee provides advice to Council about:

- Policy, research and priorities relating to municipal housing matters;
- Housing advocacy priorities;
- Implementation of the Darebin Affordable Housing Strategy and other ongoing policy work;
- Community involvement and networks to promote participation around housing issues;
- Views and interests of the Darebin community and housing agencies for the attention of Council and officers;
- Council's future role in affordable and appropriate housing; and
- Event planning for topical housing issues.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Commonwealth and State Governments ceased all supply side capital funding for social and affordable housing.
- Continued loss of public housing stock.
- Need for a more agile affordable housing structure at a municipal level.

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Convened a Mayoral Affordable Housing roundtable to plan and design a social housing program on Council owned land.
- Draft rooming house closure protocol between Council and Community Housing peak Body.
- Response to Federal senate review of Affordable Housing.
- Oversaw the planning and development 'Responding to Housing Stress – A Local action Plan 2013 – 2017'

### Challenges

The significant public policy changes and reduction of capital funding for social and affordable housing has resulted in Council's advisory committee adapting to meet the new and emerging needs and the creation of innovative actions Council's 'Responding to Housing Stress – A Local Action Plan 2013 – 2017'.

---



---

### Financial and Resource Implications

No financial and resource implications

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

To reduce housing stress by ensuring that future housing design (general and affordable housing) is adapted to reduce energy use and greenhouse emissions, and reduce waste.

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

Social and affordable housing directly affects the following disadvantaged groups.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities
- People with a Disability
- Elderly, Youth
- Low Socio-economic background
- Homeless
- Single parents
- People with mental illness
- Carers
- Isolated people

Council's 'Responding to Housing Stress – A Local Action Plan 2013 – 2017' highlights these groups as priorities for housing and for maintaining local diversity. The Advisory group is made up of representatives that directly support these groups.

### Economic Development Implications

The committee will also provide Council with advice around the planning and design of affordable housing in proximity to employment in order to attract key workers and future employers.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Advisory Committee has evolved into a number of various specialist homelessness working groups, social housing roundtables and rooming house forums over the last 12 months to respond to the emerging needs in Darebin.

Advice from the sector, community and industry representatives indicated that a generalist housing advisory structure does not reflect the current public policy and community housing sector environment of needs.

---

---

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Review current structure for providing advice to Council.
- Recommend an annual 'Darebin Housing Forum' as a check back and local barometer on the local 'state of play'.
- Establish a series of operational groups such as homelessness and rooming houses.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- "Responding to Housing Stress – A Local Action Plan 2013 – 2017"
  - Darebin Housing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
-

---

**1. DAREBIN INTERCULTURAL CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AUTHOR: Darebin Intercultural Centre Business Development Officer – Melinda Allender**

**REVIEWED BY: Director Community Development - Katrina Knox**

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee was established through Council resolution as an advisory committee providing Darebin City Council with advice, support and ideas relating to the operations, future and sustainability of the Darebin Intercultural Centre. The purpose of the Committee is to promote the Centre's vision, mission and objectives to the wider Darebin community.

Committee members

Current Committee Members –

Dr Asha Pahuja - Friend of Darebin Intercultural Centre

Ms Nette Frost - Friend of Darebin Intercultural Centre

Mr Richard Wong – Friend of Darebin Intercultural Centre

Ms Jessie Lloyd – Friend of Darebin Intercultural Centre

Mr Suriyan Nalliah- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council

Ms Ivana Csar – Northern Interfaith Intercultural Network

Ms Inaam Barakat – Darebin Intercultural Centre Coordinator

Ms Emma Pase – Community Development Facilities Coordinator

Ms Melinda Allender – Darebin Intercultural Centre Business Development Officer

Ms Anusha Chandrathilaka - Darebin Intercultural Centre Support Officer

Previous Member – Rev Ian Smith Northern Interfaith Intercultural Network

Councillor Representative:

Mayor- Cr Gaetano Greco

Cr Angela Villella

Cr Tim Lawrence

---

---

Previous Councillor Representative - Cr Bo Li

Frequency of meetings:

Quarterly

Committee to be reviewed by:

Not stated within Terms of Reference

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The establishment of a Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee (DICAC) was a requirement written into the IC Project Report and stated: The role of the Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee would be to implement the vision of the Intercultural Centre including advice on how the building will be used, who will use it and what activities will take place.

From this requirement the current DICAC was formed in July 2013 and the purpose of the Committee is to promote the Centre's vision, mission and objectives to the wider Darebin community. In addition, the Committee functions to provide: advice and ideas on activities and programs, advocate for a sustainable Darebin Intercultural Centre, explore avenues to increase the Centre's financial capacity, address asylum seeker issues within the community, attract Aboriginal groups to the Centre, engage young people to use the Centre and initiate events.

The Committee work with the IC staff to initiate ideas and to assist the IC to continue to flourish

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- External departmental decisions regarding relocation of IC programs e.g. Christmas Day Lunch 2013
  - Cessation of Christmas Day Lunch Program
  - Withdrawal of approved funding for \$61,000 from Immigration & Border Protection - Building Multicultural Communities Program 2013-14.
  - Limitation of the use of community kitchen due to withdrawal of funding and renovations planning
  - Inability to demolish the wall between the Pearl and the Jade rooms and replace it with operable doors to address the issue of lack of space to accommodate the growing demands from the community
  - Unplanned leave of absence within staff team
  - Unsuccessful New Initiatives application to extend contract of Business Development Officer role which is an essential role for the running of the Centre
  - Unsuccessful New Initiatives application to repaint the Centre
  - Unsuccessful New Initiatives application to fund the Christmas Day Lunch Program for lonely and isolated Darebin residents (notice of this unsuccessful New Initiatives application was delivered prior to the decision to abolish this Program)
-

- 
- Due to staff shortage IC unable to hold “Essential Cultural Celebrations”, or deliver seminars, debates, Q&A sessions and conferences on topical issues related to interculturalism, or uphold the mission and purpose of the Centre
  - Due to staff shortage IC unable to continue to seek external funding for IC programs
  - With the presence of VCAT at the Centre, the space for all events and activities will be reduced.
  - Loss of revenue to the Centre due to reduced space
  - Loss of essential programs due to reduced space
  - Ongoing cleaning issues with contractor ( New contractor in place as of Oct 2014)
  - Ineffective Air-conditioning

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- The sharing of dialogue amongst Committee members from a diverse range of cultures and faiths.
- Working together with an understanding of the concept of ‘Interculturalism’
- Major intercultural activities and events
- Bringing community group leaders together
- Bringing community together
- Creating a space for people to celebrate and share their culture
- Forums raising awareness amongst diverse cultural groups about current health and social issues

#### Challenges

The Committee was clearly unsure about the future of the Centre throughout this period which created less opportunity for the Committee to promote the Centre’s vision, mission and objectives and advocate for developing the program further.

With the upcoming occupation of three major spaces in the Centre by VCAT, further challenges were created for the Committee. Discussion surrounding the short term impact of VCAT hearings within the building and whether this situation required the IC to seek a new home were considered. The unknown factors of the VCAT co-location also presented some difficulties in decision making due to the hypothetical nature of the Committee’s concerns.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

Financial support was received through a partnership with the IC and Preston Rotary. With thanks from Dr Ashe Pahuja (Committee Member) \$2000 was given by Preston Rotary Club to support the IC Christmas Day Lunch Program.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

The Committee is aware of environmental sustainability implications. The Committee is aware the Environmental Department is involved in the Centre and monitors energy use. A number of considerations have been incorporated into the Centre to minimise the impact on the environment. These include energy efficient light fittings and recycling bins. The Centre only uses environmentally preferred cutlery and biodegradable compostable plates.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

---

---

The work of the Committee impacts considerably in a positive way on all the following groups in the Darebin community:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer
- People with a Disability
- Elderly, Youth, Children <12
- Women, men
- Low Socio-economic background
- Homeless
- Single parents
- People with mental illness
- Carers
- Isolated people

The Centre's policy seeks and encourages social inclusion by ensuring all groups and activities are inclusive of broad sections of the community. Negotiations have been held with groups attending the Centre to consider introducing intercultural aspects into their activities; hence, most of the groups have been involved in socially inclusive activities and will continue.

#### Economic Development Implications

Unfortunately the Committee has required focus on basic operational matters in this reporting period and was unable to fulfil that part of its role which enables it to explore avenues to increase the Centre's financial capacity.

### **CONCLUSION**

The DICAC came together as a supportive and culturally diverse group of people who were passionate about the work of the Centre and responsive to the needs by the City of Darebin to break down racial barriers. The members have given generously of their time with the aim of supporting the Centre and promoting the concept of 'interculturalism'.

During this period when the Committee functioned to provide advice and ideas on activities and programs the Centre was booked for 3884 hours, held 1220 activities, and welcomed over 24,000 attendees.

Many challenges, as noted above, have hindered progress and planning by the Committee and minimised any opportunity to explore avenues to increase the Centre's financial capacity and strengthen the development and growth of the IC program.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Monitoring of the impact of VCAT's co-location at the building including the effects on user groups, loss of programmable space, possible refurbishment of underutilised spaces, and loss of revenue.
  - Consideration of the needs of the IC and its program in conjunction with an exploration of spaces and future development opportunities.
-

- 
- Continuation of usual Committee business.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

---

---

**1. DAREBIN INTERFAITH COUNCIL**

**AUTHOR: Multicultural Affairs Officer – Cesar Diaz**

**REVIEWED BY: Director Community Development – Katrina Knox**

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Interfaith Council (DIFC) is a collaborative partnership between faith leaders aimed at providing leadership, information, guidance and inspiration to the local community on matters related to faith and benefits of interfaith collaboration, comprehension and dialogue.

The purpose of the Darebin Interfaith Council is to foster interfaith dialogue and cooperation between communities of faith in Darebin. It provides advice to Council on interfaith perspectives with regard to Council's policies, programs and services while at the same time it facilitates Council's engagement with faith leaders and faith members in Darebin to build a peaceful and inclusive city.

Committee members

**Organisation Represented**

- Islamic Society of Victoria – Preston Mosque
- City of Darebin
- Baptist Church - Baptcare
- Victorian Council of Churches
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council
- Victoria Police
- Anglican Church of Australia
- Al-Sadeq Education and Charity Association
- Bahai Community
- East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation
- Catholic Church
- Uniting Church

Councillor Representative:

Cr. Gaetano Greco  
Cr. Angela Villella

Frequency of meetings:

Quarterly

Committee to be reviewed by:

Annually

Introduction and Background

---



---

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- International events impacting on different sections within communities of faith including asylum seeker and refugee issues, Human Right breaches, conflict in the Middle East
- Relationship between different faith groups in Darebin
- Community engagement, faith leader meetings and the development of internal and external relationships
- Information and invitations overload from a small number of active members of the Interfaith Committee

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Reactivation and active new membership of the Committee
- Development of new community relationships to support the work of the Committee
- Update and development of an extensive list of contacts interested in information sharing and in the work of the committee
- Development of protocols for the use of Council's prayer room
- Successful intersection and support to other equity and diversity action plans such as the Multicultural Action Plan, the Aboriginal Action Plan and the Human Rights Action Plan, promoting equal and respectful relationships
- Successful support to a significant number of events such as interfaith breakfast seminars and connecting the topics of these events to Council's strategic objectives as underpinned by Darebin's Equity and Inclusion Policy and the Council Plan. This includes events such as Human Rights Day, NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week, Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day, Refugee Week and Refugee Day, launch of Darebin Asylum Seekers Support Program, launch of Darebin Community Passport, Community Safety Month
- Strengthening of partnerships with community stakeholders such as the Islamic Society of Victoria – Preston Mosque
- Effective Darebin Interfaith e-bulleting published fortnightly to inform internal staff and the community of key interfaith activities
- Endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan with the Preston Mosque
- Successful facilitation of an Interfaith Community Forum in partnership with the Islamic Women's Centre for Human Rights to encourage dialogue between different sections of the Muslim communities impacted by international events in Syria and Iraq and by the new Australian Anti-Terrorism Laws
- Successful gathering between Councillors, Executive Management Team and Faith leaders to express Council's commitment to engage with its faith communities
- Darebin Council selected to organise the 2016 Victorian Interfaith Network State Conference
- Successful organisation of the Ganesh Festival 2014

### Challenges

---

---

In order to re-invigorate the committee, a recruitment drive was implemented successfully at the beginning of the year in response to a recommendation arising from the Committee Review conducted the previous year. Despite engaging a number of new committee members a significant number of interfaith community events affects the capacity of individual members to attend all meetings.

At the moment the Committee has been only able to respond to provide advice on interfaith perspectives of Council's work on building social cohesion, human rights and anti-racism. However, there is a need to continue to increase the capacity of the group to be able to provide feedback on strategies that are brought to the committee such as such as the Darebin Heat Wave Strategy and also on programs such as the work Council does in regard to domestic violence and preventing violence against women.

The information overload on interfaith work state-wide will continue to require extra time to collate the information and communicate information and events according to what is most relevant to the local community and City of Darebin. DIFC communication plan needs to be finalised and implemented in partnership with the Communications and Marketing Department.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

The committee has operated within allocated budget. A significant amount of the Interfaith office's time is dedicated to supporting the committee.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no Environmental implications from the work of this committee.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

The work of the Darebin Interfaith Committee is supported by the Darebin Interfaith Strategic Plan. This Plan is underpinned by the Multicultural Action Plan and the Equity and Inclusion Policy which are a rights based approach to build social capital and inclusion in the City of Darebin where the human rights of all its citizens are respected and protected.

The committee support the most vulnerable community members in marginalised groups through information and advice to Darebin's programs. For example protection from heat waves are promoted through the Darebin Interfaith Bulletin which currently has a recipient list of 350 people.

#### Economic Development Implications

Members of religious minorities constitute one of the most racially discriminated groups in Darebin as per the findings of Darebin's Racism Inquiry in 2011. Racism has been identified as one of the key contributors to ill health and depression. It is a barrier to people's participation in employment and it has a negative impact on building a diverse and inclusive work force.

---

---

## CONCLUSION

The Interfaith Action Plan actions for 2013-2014 have been successfully implemented and supported by a review of the Interfaith Council to strengthen the advisory capacity of the Darebin Interfaith Committee. The key focus this year was on building and strengthening internal and external partnerships, raising awareness and the organisation of interfaith events to engage directly with faith communities in Darebin.

The Committee has been able to be active and to respond to requests and to the discussion of issues presented to it. This has been achieved in the context of complex circumstances as a result of the limited capacity of faith leaders and members of the committee to meet on a regular basis. The overall feeling of faith members is that the Darebin Interfaith Council Committee has brought back a sense of community, commitment and interest in engaging and cooperating with Council which is critical to the health and purpose for this committee.

## FUTURE ACTIONS

- Updating and Implementation of the Darebin Interfaith Action Plan for 2014/15
- Coordination of end of the year Interfaith gathering between Councillors, EMT and faith leaders
- Maintenance and promotion of prayer room
- Organisation of a Darebin Interfaith Tour
- Updating of the 2015 Darebin Interfaith Calendar
- Drafting of the Darebin Interfaith Council Communications Plan

## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Interfaith Committee' Terms of Reference
  - Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015
  - Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015
  - Multicultural Action Plan 2012-2015
-

---

**1. DAREBIN LOCAL SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**AUTHOR:** Community Safety Officer – Patrick Buchanan

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Community Development – Katrina Knox

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Local Safety Committee is jointly coordinated and administered by the City of Darebin and Victoria Police. The Committee operates within the framework of the *Darebin Community Safety Strategy, 2012 – 2016*, and within the *Darebin Council Plan, 2013 – 2017* that states Darebin Council will work in partnership with the community and partners to reduce the impact of crime, improve perceptions of safety, promote freedom from all forms of discrimination and violence and build a safe, respectful community.

Committee members

- City of Darebin
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Justice
- Victoria Police
- Universities and TAFE colleges
- Darebin Community Health Service
- Metropolitan Fire Brigade
- Metro Trains
- State Emergency Services (SES)
- Darebin Community Legal Service
- Other agencies and groups as deemed necessary by Council, Police and the Committee.

Councillor Representative:

- Cr. Gaetano Greco
- Cr. Trent McCarthy

Frequency of meetings:

The committee meets bi-monthly, on the last Thursday of the month.

Committee to be reviewed by:

An annual review of the Terms of Reference and membership is undertaken at the first meeting of the year.

---

---

## STATUS REPORT

### Introduction and Background

The role of the Committee is to coordinate a 'whole of community' partnership response to priority community safety issues. The objectives of the committee are to:

- Collect quantitative and qualitative evidence that assists the planning and review of community safety projects and strategies.
- Develop an integrated approach to responding to local safety issues involving action by Council, police, community agencies and government departments.
- Provide a forum for community groups to refer community safety issues for appropriate action and coordinate responses to community safety priorities as required; and
- Support broader projects that promote 'best practice' in community safety.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Key issues identified were assault, domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, theft of and from motor vehicles and bicycle theft.
- Concerns around seeming increase in begging around High Street trading Precinct, Preston.
- Community Safety Month Events.
- Policy and guidelines for Council use of surveillance equipment in the public realm.
- New and upcoming grant opportunities.
- New and existing community concerns as standing agenda item.
- Department of Justice Corrections division, update on delivery capabilities.
- Consultation for the Darebin Public Toilet Strategy.
- Consultation for the Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy, 2014 – 2018.
- Ongoing issue of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Northland Precinct, East Preston.

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Establishment of Northland Precinct Action Group, a committee comprised of key stakeholders in the Northland Precinct, including centre management and Victoria Police to tackle the issue identified as '*the level of crime, road policing, perceptions of safety and anti-social behaviour at Northland Shopping Centre in the context of the health and wellbeing of the surrounding Community*'. The group operates as a sub-committee of the Darebin Local Safety Committee.
  - Successfully implemented 3 events as part of Community Safety Month all assisted with and promoted by the committee. The events were the annual Great Edwardes Lake Park Walk in Reservoir, and two Community Safety Audit Walks that sought to identify daily barriers to safety and participation in the local community with the East Preston Residents Association and the East Reservoir Tenants Association.
-

- 
- Establishment of new Community Safety Audit template that requires formal endorsement of listed recommendations by the Committee.

### Challenges

The limitations of varying stakeholders in both financial and human resources can at times have adverse effects on the committee's ability to deliver on outcomes that require collaborative responses. On top of this, differing priorities among agencies can also place strain on the ability to deliver collaborative solutions especially when there are competing strains on their resources. Despite these setbacks all stakeholders have shown an ongoing commitment to responding to broader safety issues during the year and continue to assist as able.

### Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this Committee. The Community Safety Officer provides staff resources to the coordination and administration of the Committee.

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

The committee considers the general amenity and perceptions of safety that are adversely affected by litter, dumped rubbish and illegal graffiti. Section 2.1 of the Darebin Community Safety Strategy aims to maintain and manage the amenity of our city and supports the implementation of the Darebin Council Litter Plan, 2011 – 2014.

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

When individuals feel unsafe in their environment it can decrease their participation in the community and negatively impact on their sense of wellbeing. The application of the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit tool has identified that there are particular groups that are at greater risk of actual or perceived safety in the community. They include:

Youth: anti-social behaviour and substance related issues

Older Adults: social isolation, hoarding

CALD communities: social isolation, crime prevention educational and reporting

Children: pedestrian safety

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: substance related issues

Women: family violence

The committee aims to have representation of these groups in relation to the specific safety concerns.

### Economic Development Implications

---

The crime prevention and safety initiatives undertaken and endorsed by the Committee aim to increase levels of safety, participation and access throughout Darebin, including economic precincts throughout the municipality.

## **CONCLUSION**

The committee continues to provide an opportunity to develop meaningful initiatives that help to reduce crime, enhance perceptions of safety and increase community participation through a collaborative approach. The committee provides the opportunity for stakeholders to share information and relevant updates from specialist perspectives on the issue of community safety and a number of exciting partnerships and projects have been initiated and continue to develop, including the Northland Precinct Action Group that aims to reduce crime and enhance perceptions of safety in that specific area.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Continued implementation of actions within the Darebin Community Safety Strategy Action Plan 2012 – 2016
- Continued implementation of actions within the NPAG Strategy Action Plan
- Implementation of safety audits in response to community concerns
- Continued knowledge sharing and relationship building with new and existing stakeholders
- Continued response to new and existing issues relating to community safety

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Community Safety Strategy 2012 – 2016
  - Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017
  - Council Plan 2013 - 2017
-

---

**1. DAREBIN WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DWAC)**

**AUTHOR: Diversity Policy Officer – Cécile Taché**

**REVIEWED BY: Director Community Development – Katrina Knox**

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

Darebin Women's Advisory Committee (DWAC) was established in 2009. The Committee supports Council's commitment to achieving social inclusion and Council's goal of a "healthy and connected community" by recognising gender as a key feature of diversity, acknowledging gender inequity as a key barrier to a fair and empowered community and strengthening Council's leadership in advancing women's full and equal participation and inclusion in community life.

Committee members

Darebin residents (15) and representatives from:

- Koorie Women Mean Business
- Women's Health in the North
- Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN)

Councillor Representatives:

- Cr Angela Villella
- Cr Julie Williams

Frequency of meetings:

Bi-monthly

Committee to be reviewed by:

There is no sunset clause in the current terms of reference and, as this is an open committee, there is no length of term set for members. Annual review is in accordance with the Statutory meeting. New advisory committee guidelines and the general review of all Council advisory committees (started June 2014) have triggered a fuller review of the committee and update and modification of the Terms of Reference to align with other committees (in progress at time of writing, to be ready by Statutory meeting in November 2014).

**STATUS REPORT**

Introduction and Background

Darebin Women's Advisory Committee's mission is to support a healthy and inclusive local democracy by acting as a conduit between women in Darebin and Council, in a way that engages and empowers women and enhances Council's capacity to explore and take account of women's issues across all of its services and programs. The Committee seeks to build and reflect diversity within its membership and be inclusive in practice.

---



---

DWAC is now an established community advisory committee to Council. With the consolidation of Council's work in gender equity and prevention of violence through the *Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015* and related *Gender Equity* and *Preventing Violence against Women action plans*, DWAC can assist Council in progressing key areas of work.

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

- DWAC continued to operate on the basis of the following priorities (identified for 2013 and 2014):
  - Women and democratic participation
  - Priority groups, notably:
    - Indigenous women
    - young women
    - new & emerging communities
    - teenage mothers & mothers with young children
  - DWAC's roles of Advice, Advocacy, Action and Accountability
  - Wish to strengthen DWAC through:
    - consolidated governance
    - greater accessibility to enhance participation
- Supporting the organisation of International Women's Day events, notably the inaugural Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration
- Other key issues, recurring from previous years, included:
  - Ensuring timely input into engagement processes regarding the development of Council strategies, policies and programs
  - Maintaining a diverse and robust membership

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Women's democratic participation
    - DWAC Aboriginal members supported VLGA to follow up on the Council-, DWAC- and VLGA-supported Aboriginal Women's Leadership Workshop 'Dipping my toe in the water' (April 2012) with the development of a documentary (working title "Think Aboriginal women for local government" – first screened May 2014)
    - DWAC members examined the gendered nature of some results in the Darebin Education Inquiry
    - DWAC cast a gender lens on the Federal budget, which highlighted the impacts on women and how women would be more affected by all proposed changes and consistently worse off
    - Reflection on DWAC's accessibility to the wider Darebin community (see below)
  - DWAC input into and feedback on Council plans, policies and strategies
    - *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017* (participation in a joint meeting of all advisory committees)
    - Consultation on planning issues
    - New *Disability Action Plan* (still in progress) with DWAC suggestions to leverage what is already happening in the community and build the Plan around strong partnerships, as well as queries on inclusion of parents of young children with disability in the community consultations.
    - *Urban Food Production Strategy*, with feedback on importance to be culturally-sensitive and possibility to link to Aged and Disability policies and plans
-

- 
- DWAC members emphasised they would like to get stronger feedback on the outcome of their suggestions and input into plans
  - Advocacy and recommendations to Council
    - Advocacy for Council's work to be done more collaboratively both internally (i.e. with other Darebin Council's advisory committees) and externally (i.e. with other Councils)
      - issue of how to improve communication between advisory committees
      - discussion on models of collaboration between Councils
    - Recommendation to make DWAC more accessible to women by:
      - reviewing times of DWAC meetings (e.g. alternating afternoon (or morning?) and evening meetings)
      - using children-friendly venues
      - providing support for childcare and other assistance with attendance as needed
    - Recommendation that Council consider signing a petition of support and recognition to the Tunisian legislators on behalf of Darebin residents for enshrining gender equality (as part of universal human rights) in the Tunisian Constitution.
    - Recommendation that Council call on the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) to take the lead on the follow-up to the 'Dipping my toe in the water' Aboriginal Women's Leadership Workshop organised in 2012 (see outcome above)
    - Renewed request for Council's consultation processes to be clarified and Council's Community Engagement Framework to be consistently applied, notably through
      - a yearly planner of strategies and policies up for renewal so the community and committees know and can plan ahead
      - an internal list of contact officers for each advisory committee in Council, for a systematic approach to committee consultation.
  - Events: DWAC supported the organisation of and participated in a number of Council events with a focus on women
    - Strong DWAC support to the successful inaugural *Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration* organised for International Women's day (IWD) 2014 - an opportunity and platform for exploring and understanding key social justice issues impacting on older persons and on women in our community:
      - recommendation for guest speaker Mary Crooks AO, Victorian Women's Trust
      - contact with organisations that Molly was involved with (Union of Australian Women, the Fair Go for pensioners group...)
    - Support to *IWD Women's Intercultural Night* at the Intercultural Centre
    - DWAC participation in *Let the Cultures Unite* - an event organised annually by Spectrum Migrant resource centre to welcome newly-arrived women to the northern metro region

### Challenges

For any committee, supporting a diverse membership and taking into account succession planning for those retiring, with opportunity for new members to contribute fully while retaining existing commitment and knowledge, is paramount to ensure sustainability and continuity. Part of the challenge for DWAC has been to support and increase the diversity in

---

---

membership, as well as integrate new members, while retaining the dedication, knowledge and expertise of existing members.

A related and particularly significant challenge this year for DWAC has been to maintain a good level of attendance at meetings, which is paramount to the success of the committee. This is all the more crucial as DWAC is an open committee, with no fixed membership, and this has an influence on the capacity for engagement of members, which differs widely. In 2013-2014, while there were 18 registered members, only 8 were active during the year, which indicates a need for review. Similarly, levels of attendance at the meetings varied greatly, pointing to a need for reinvigorating of the committee.

The recently adopted internal guidelines on advisory committees as well as the process currently under way to review all existing advisory committees will assist with this. Both offer the opportunity to review DWAC's role in light of how it has evolved from providing Council with access to women's voices in the community to a more advising and monitoring role on Council's work on gender equity (as highlighted by the DWAC Strategic Plan 2013 & 2014 aligning with the *Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015*). This review could also offer further opportunities for committees to interact with officers in different departments and provide streamlined input on gender issues.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

The committee has operated within allocated budget. A significant part of the Diversity Policy officer's time is dedicated to supporting the committee.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

The operation of this committee has no direct environmental sustainability implications.

However, there are intersections between environmental sustainability and gender. It is well-documented that the impacts of climate change and environmental crises such as flood, storms and drought can affect women and men differently in relation to access to services and support. They also impact on the domestic sphere (e.g. providing food, shelter and family support). Economic stress, as a result of climate change or of resource depletion such as peak oil, has flow-on effects with an increased burden on women and their families.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

Gender equity is an important social justice goal and gender inequity leads to many women experiencing significant disadvantage, impacting on their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing. Local government plays an important role in creating and supporting environments that enable community to achieve optimal health and wellbeing. Reducing inequality experienced on the basis of gender can be a key strategy in achieving this goal, allowing for a more just, inclusive and fair society for all.

In line with Council's renewed commitment to gender equity, prevention of violence against women and women's full and equal participation in community life expressed in the *Council Plan 2013-2017* (strategy 2.16), the work of DWAC advances Council's commitment to support social inclusion, greater equity and valued participation of women in our community.

---

---

Similarly, gender is a dimension that runs across all the groups identified as at risk-of-exclusion in the *Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015* and DWAC supports Council's application of a gender lens to the priority groups identified in the Equity and Inclusion Policy.

DWAC also supports the implementation of the *Women's Equity Strategy 2012-15* and its implementation plans *Gender Equity Action Plan* and *Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan*.

### Economic Development Implications

Through its contribution to the empowerment of women and its support to women's leadership and full and equal participation in all aspects of community life, DWAC's activities may offer opportunities for economic development and potential job creation in the municipality.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Darebin Women's Advisory Committee is now an established advisory committee to Council. It has the vocation of being a key element in Council's work around promoting gender equity and participation and inclusion for women in our community. While DWAC has continued to be an active committee making contributions to Council and advocating around key priority areas, it also has encountered some difficulties in this financial year. These have highlighted the need for the committee to be reinvigorated. With the review of committees under way and alignment of DWAC and *Council's Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015*, DWAC can provide Council with very valuable support in the implementation of its gender equity work, leading to fruitful progress in the future.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Reviewed DWAC governance and structure in light of new advisory committee guidelines and review of all advisory committees
- Support to implementation of *Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015* and *Gender Equity and Preventing Violence against Women action plans*
- Continued provision of quality advice to Council
- Continued advocacy on behalf of, and exploration of new topics relevant to, Darebin's women

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

---

- 
- Terms of reference Darebin Women's Advisory Committee (latest version: 29 March 2010 – Objective ref. A861458)
  - *Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015 and Gender Equity and Preventing Violence against Women action plans*
  - *Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015*
-

---

## 1. DAREBIN YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

**AUTHOR:** Coordinator Youth Services – Clinton Fullgrabe

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Community Development – Katrina Knox

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Youth Advisory Group was established in 2013 as a key action of the 2012 – 2017 Youth engagement Strategy. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Group is to provide advice and guidance to council on youth related issues in Darebin.

#### Committee members

- 10 young people (aged 12 – 25 years of age)
- Councillor
- Darebin Community Health Community Development Manager
- Latrobe University Career Advisor
- Manager, Libraries, Learning & Youth
- Coordinator Youth Services

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Oliver Walsh

#### Frequency of meetings:

- Once per quarter

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

- November/ December 2014 – in line with the annual review of the Darebin Youth Engagement Strategy 2012 -17

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The Darebin Youth Advisory Groups role is to;

- To inform and assist Council in understanding the issues, policies and drivers that influence services delivered to residents aged 12 to 25 years in Darebin
- To monitor and report on the Darebin Youth Engagement Strategy 2012-2017
- To undertake agreed activities to enable a youth participation framework to be enacted on the committee

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Meeting regularity (4 meetings per annum)
  - Purpose and function of group (strategic advice verse operational projects)
  - Consistency of attendance and engagement in the group by young people
-

---

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Quarterly meeting have hosted and attended by members
- Delivered two activities during 2013 mental health week for high school aged young people (1 x Street Art activity and 1 x Music Workshop activity)
- Feedback provided to; Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy (date), Darebin Youth Summit 2014, Darebin Youth Services Hey Grant Application.

### Challenges

The committee was established in March 2013. The main issues identified have been maintaining the group's momentum following its establishment. Consistent attendance and engagement of all members has also been a regular issue which has limited the group's ability.

In addition the nature of an advisory group involving young people has also provided its challenges in balancing the function of the group and members desire to undertake more operational focused activities.

### Financial and Resource Implications

Nil

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

Nil

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

The Darebin Youth Advisory Group member has sought to ensure a diverse membership of young people agreed 12 to 25 years are inclusive of gender, cultural identify, sexuality and ability.

As a result the committee represents the issues and work of the following group at risk of exclusion. They include; culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities(CALD), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, Intersex & Queer (LGBTIQ), People with a disability (PWD), Young People (12-25 years), Women & Men and young people low socio-economic backgrounds.

### Economic Development Implications

Nil

## **CONCLUSION**

The Darebin Youth Advisory Group has hosted 7 meetings since its inception in March 2013. The group's memberships all come with strong passions and interests in a number of diverse areas. Due to the nature of the advisory group these passions and interests are not always

---

---

able to be maximised due the associated governance process and functions of an endorsed advisory group/ committee.

Further opportunities exist to identify project based outcome and activities or the group to ensure with that are aligned to the Darebin Youth Engagement Strategy and annual business plans. This will ensure members interests and the advisory groups existing functions are maintained to maximise outcomes for young people 12 – 25 across the City if Darebin.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Review terms of reference to reflect changes and ensure consistency with current organisational guidelines
- Reframe the focus and purpose of the advisory group to meet the balanced needs of young people and the organisation
- Identify a number of project based opportunities through the Youth Services business unit for the advisory group to undertake over the next financial year
- Implement recommendations detailed in the organisations Advisory Groups review.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Youth Engagement Strategy 2012 – 2017
  - Darebin Youth Advisory Group Terms of Reference
-



---

## 1. MERRI CREEK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Coordinator Public Realm – Alison Breach

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Culture, Leisure & Works – Daniel Freer

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) is responsible for advocacy, education and conservation of the Merri Creek.

#### Committee members

- MCMC Administration Officer
- MCMC Executive Director
- MCMC Education Officer
- MCMC Treasurer
- Friends of Merri Creek Representative (x2)
- Community Members (x8)
- Councillor – Yarra City Council
- Representative Yarra City Council
- Councillor – Moreland City Council
- Representative – Moreland City Council
- Councillor – Hume City Council
- Representative – Hume City Council
- Councillor – City of Whittlesea
- Representative – City of Whittlesea
- Councillor – Darebin City Council
- Representative – Darebin City Council
- Councillor – Mitchell Shire
- Representative – Mitchell Shire

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Bo Li

#### Frequency of meetings:

Every 3 months

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

Darebin has just entered into a three year MOU agreement with Merri Creek Management Committee that began in 2014/2015.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

---

---

MCMC has undertaken conservation works including planting of indigenous vegetation, clean-up and education surrounding issues affecting the Merri Creek.

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Loss of funding due to reduced availability of planting materials from some partner Councils
- Preserving financial stability into the future.
- Development pressure having negative impacts on the Merri Creek

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Education to school groups
- Community and Friends Group planting activities
- Publication of booklet detailing birds of the Merri Creek
- Implement Memorandum of Understanding between Council and MCMC to streamline reporting and to clarify roles and responsibilities.

#### Challenges

Loss of funding and increased expenses limits availability of staff to carry out administrative works.

Switching from older accounting system to QuickBooks.

Increasing development pressure negatively impacting the creek.

Reduced availability of grant funding.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

Darebin City Council contributed \$160,105 toward conservation work and planting work done by the committee.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

MCMC is a very environmentally conscious and sustainable organisation that works toward improving water quality in the Merri Creek, increasing the number of indigenous plantings, protecting endangered flora and fauna and promoting sustainable land use and development.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

- Elderly, Youth, Children <12

Many of the members of MCMC are retired and get positive social benefits from their involvement in MCMC.

## **CONCLUSION**

---

---

Merri Creek Management Committee is a highly organised and highly functioning group dedicated to conservation and preservation of the Merri Creek. They are driven, goal oriented and provide positive benefit to the community and to the Merri Creek.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Continue to provide a management presence on the DCMC committee.
- Implement the MOU with Merri Creek Management Committee.
- Undertake investigation of the filtration system.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- MCMC Memorandum of Understanding July 0213-June 2018

---

## 1. NORTHLAND STRUCTURE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Senior Strategic Planner – Yvonne Rust

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Corporate and Planning Services – Paul Crapper

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

This committee is a project steering committee, responsible for guiding the redevelopment of the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct (NURP) and the development of a structure plan. The committee brings together the experiences and ideas of a range of stakeholders to provide a balanced and representative understanding of the future needs of the Northland Activities Area and to ensure best practice in the development of the Structure Plan.

#### Committee members

- City of Darebin Cazaly Ward Councillors Vince Fontana, Bo Li and Julie Williams (Co-chairs)
- City of Darebin Strategic Planning Unit officers
- City of Darebin Major Projects/Transport officer
- Department of Transport Planning and Local Infrastructure Representative
- Colonial First State Property Management (Northland Shopping Centre)
- Northland Secondary College
- Banyule City Council Olympia Ward Councillor
- Banyule City Council planning officer

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cazaly Ward Councillors Vince Fontana, Bo Li and Julie Williams

#### Frequency of meetings:

Steering Committee meetings are held to coincide with significant milestones in the project and are scheduled as required.

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

In the Council Meeting from the 7 July 2014 the Governance Structure and Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee were revised for the next 12 months to meet the Joint Community Infrastructure Plan (JCIP) funding agreement requirements.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

---

---

The Northland Structure Plan Steering Committee was established in March 2009 and will meet until the Northland Structure Plan is adopted by Darebin City Council. The committee has the responsibility to:

- Guide the Northland Structure Plan project process
- Provide advice to Council on strategic directions for Northland Activities Area
- Engage with the public and stakeholders
- Identify opportunities and build support for the Structure Plan and its implementation

The Committee is expected to make decisions at significant milestones and provide recommendations to Council to ensure the objectives set out in the Project Brief are achieved.

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

- The new Metropolitan Planning Strategy *Plan Melbourne* and its effect on NURP
- Shift in focus in relation to previous partnerships with State Government – foundation of the Metro Planning Authority (MPA)
- Developing new partnerships
- Relationship of NURP and the new residential zones
- Moving the project towards implementation

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- NURP became a recognised key part of the Emerging La Trobe National Employment Cluster (the Cluster) in Plan Melbourne: Metropolitan Planning Strategy
  - Working in partnership with the MPA, La Trobe University, Banyule City Council, Austin Health and others to develop the Framework Plan for the new Emerging La Trobe National Employment Cluster
  - The new Residential Growth Zone is proposed as part of draft Amendment C147 to support NURP
  - The Integrated Water Cycle Management Study was completed and findings were presented to Council in June 2014 – part of moving NURP towards implementation
  - JCIP was established in partnership with La Trobe University, Banyule City Council and State Government funding secured - part of moving NURP towards implementation
  - A research project into environmental sustainability was commenced in partnership with Swinburne University
  - Established a working partnership with a major landowner to facilitate a catalyst development project
  - Ongoing advocacy for a tram extension to serve NURP and the Cluster
  - Refining the concept plan for NURP is nearing completion
  - Revised Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee adopted by Council to better serve NURP regarding JCIP
  - Conducted a joint meeting between Darebin and Banyule Councillors and officers
  - Several meetings have been held between Darebin's Chief Executive and Director of Corporate and Planning Services, with the Minister for Planning; the Minister's Chief of Staff; the Member for Northern Metropolitan Melbourne; the Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Planning Authority; and the Executive Director of Planning,
-

---

Building and Heritage at the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, to request support and funding for NURP.

- A NURP funding proposal was submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Authority by the Director Corporate and Planning Services on 14 July 2014 given the project's alignment with the strategic objectives of Plan Melbourne. The funding request has since been declined on the basis of a lack of State Government funding available.

### Challenges

- Adjusting to the shift in focus due to Plan Melbourne and the MPA replacing former contacts at State Government
- Redefining the Steering Committee to continue serving NURP in an efficient way
- Lack of resources and changes in priorities

### Financial and Resource Implications

The Committee operates within the Northland Structure Plan project budget. With multiple stakeholders, project partners and agency involvement there is a growing demand on resources to service the relationships and meet Council's obligations.

The NURP Joint Community Infrastructure project with five project partner agencies contributing funds and in-kind resources is a project valued at over \$250,000. In addition the outcomes of this project will enable both Banyule and Darebin Councils to plan and budget for the efficient provision of community services in advance of the need. It is also anticipated that several capital works projects will be identified that can be included in the 10 year plan. These capital works projects will be eligible for Government funding and will form part of council's future Development Contributions Plan.

### Environmental Sustainability Implications

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

- Creating an environment where appropriate land uses and linkages 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 and water efficiency.
  - The development of an integrated water cycle management approach to guide the redevelopment of the area towards water sensitivity.
  - 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.
-

- 
- Direction for how ecological systems around Darebin Creek can be respected and ecological conditions improved with future development in the centre.
  - Identification of opportunities for reducing waste generation.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

The City of Darebin aspires to develop a physical, social and economic environment that supports and enhances the health and wellbeing of Darebin residents and will strive for a just and inclusive community that feels connected, understood and valued. Commitment to this principle is particularly important for NURP, where the resident population currently experiences high levels of socio-economic disadvantage. It is a priority of the Structure Plan project to deliver a strategy for future development of Northland PAA which will minimise the barriers to community participation in and access to jobs, services and facilities in NURP as part of tackling disadvantage and ensuring fair access to the benefits of growth and change.

Through improved design, the Structure Plan will lead the development of a safer and more stimulating built environment which, over time, will deliver the aim of reducing anti-social behaviour. Northland is one of the locations in Darebin that is of concern to Police and this is due in part to the lack of passive surveillance and general design of the shopping centre.

#### Economic Development Implications

Implementation of the NURP Structure Plan will have a significant impact on the local and regional economy. This Plan has the potential to deliver 7,000 local jobs and numerous opportunities to foster new business and attract investment.

### **CONCLUSION**

Provide a summarised evaluative overview of the Committee's performance for 2013/2014

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Implement Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee.

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Northland Structure Plan – Background and Discussion Paper, Draft June 2013
  - Northland Structure Plan - East Preston Industrial Precinct Analysis Report, Spade Consultants, February 2012
-

- 
- Northland Vision Transport Analysis, Booz & Co, October 2011
  - Northland Vision Economic Feasibility Study, Spade Consultants, September 2011
  - Darebin Creek Northland Ecological Improvement Study, AECOM, July 2011
  - Northland Structure Plan Vision Scenarios Paper, March 2011
  - Northland Structure Plan Background and Issues Report, April 2010
  - Northland Structure Plan Steering Committee Terms of Reference
  - Northland PAA Redevelopment IWCM Scheme – Concept Design, March 2014
-



---

## 1. PRESTON BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance – Eddy Boscarol

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Assets and Business Services – Steve Hamilton

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Preston Business Advisory Committee (PBAC) is an Advisory Committee to Council. The objective is for PBAC and Council to work in partnership to improve and further develop Preston Central as a business and community hub and as a flagship Principal Activity Centre.

#### Committee members

Membership is comprised of representatives from the following businesses and organisations:-

- Preston Market
- Snap Printing
- Bendigo Bank
- Delphi Bank
- Preston Eye Care
- Cheaper Party Supplies
- Bell City – Associate Business
- Northern Blues Football Club – Associate Business
- Glenn Beard, Beard Financial Services - Community Member
- Sanjay Gund - Community Member
- Preston Centre Manager – paid position

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Vince Fontana
- Cr Bo Li
- Cr Julie Williams

#### Frequency of meetings:

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

A review of this committee has occurred on the renewal of the Special Rate Levy in 2014.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The role of the PBAC is to provide advice to Council on how best to develop and promote Preston as a vibrant and sustainable shopping centre.

The PBAC provides a forum for the business community of Preston to partner with Council and provide ongoing input, advice and feedback in the development, management, promotions, marketing, monitoring and administration of the Preston Central Special Rate Levy.

---

The PBAC seeks to achieve the vision reflected in the Preston Central Business Plan; to participate in the development of an annual Business Plan and Marketing Plan; to guide the implementation and effectiveness of the marketing activities in the Centre and provide advice and assistance on marketing and communication activities to promote Preston Central Shopping Centre.

#### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Developing and delivering the calendar of promotional events.
- Lack of diversity in retail offering and increase in number of Asian restaurants.
- Window displays (lack of) in Preston Central. Poor quality window displays.
- Beautification of shopping strip.
- Begging and trading on footpaths.
- Vacant shops within Preston Central.
- Increase in graffiti and tagging within the centre.
- Increase in the number of vacant shops.

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Delivery of 12 promotional or cross-promotional events, several of which are uniquely designed for Preston Central.
- Contribution to the Preston Connected Communities.
- Christmas Decorations.

#### Challenges

Challenges for the Preston Central include:

- The retail environment has changed significantly.
- There is a lack of variety in the mix of retail in Preston Central.
- There is a significant number of businesses with poor store presentation.
- The Committee does not have representation from Asian business owners.
- The redevelopment of Preston Market still hasn't occurred.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

The Preston special rate levy was successfully renewed in July 2014 and raises \$110,000 per annum over a five year period (plus CPI increases in 2014/15 onwards) for marketing, promotional and related activities for Preston Central.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

In 2013/14 the event program incorporated the following events which are relevant to particular groups in the community that are at risk of exclusion:

---

- Lunar New Year - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities: bringing together 30+ Asian traders to participate in the event. Additional businesses joined in the celebration on the day.
- Family Fun Day – bringing together elderly, youth, children, low socio-economic.

### Economic Development Implications

The marketing and promotional activities undertaken for Preston Central enhance the opportunities for local businesses.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Preston Business Advisory Committee is a vibrant committee and has strong representation from local passionate businesses. The local businesses, banks and the Preston Market representatives are able to provide great linkages to the wider business and residential community. The representatives on the PBAC have formed a strong network and provide a leadership role for the Preston community.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Implement the 2014 - 2017 Business and Marketing Plan.
- Review calendar of events to ensure that promotional opportunities are maximised.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Preston Business Advisory Committee (PBAC) Terms of Reference.
  - Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012 – 2015.
-

---

**1. SEXUALITY, SEX AND GENDER DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSGDAC)**

**AUTHOR:** Diversity Policy Officer – Cécile Taché

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Community Development – Katrina Knox

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee (SSGDAC – initially called Same-Sex Attracted and Gender Diverse Advisory Committee) was established in March 2012 as an official community advisory committee to Council. Gathering people, who live, study, work or have links with the Darebin lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community, the committee has 12 members representing the community and organisations.

The Committee supports Council's commitment to achieving social inclusion; recognising sexuality and sex and gender diversity as significant aspects of community diversity. It also supports Council to enhance its capacity to address barriers to equality that LGBTIQ communities face. The SSGDAC contributes to Council's aim of strengthening participation and rights of all residents in Darebin, regardless of sexuality, sex or gender.

Committee members

From July 2013 to June 2014, committee members have included:  
Darebin residents (eight) and representatives from:

- Midsumma Festival
- Rainbow Families Council
- Australian Lesbian Health Coalition
- OutBlack

Councillor Representatives:

- Cr Gaetano Greco (Mayor)
- Cr Trent McCarthy
- Cr Angela Villella

Frequency of meetings:

Quarterly

Committee to be reviewed by:

March 2015 (mandate of members expires). NOTE: as part of review of all advisory committees currently undertaken, the terms of reference have been updated (minor changes) to align with other committees and governance requirements. There is therefore no need for a review of the committee in March 2015. Membership will nonetheless need to be renewed at that time and new members appointed for another three years.

---

---

## STATUS REPORT

### Introduction and Background

Darebin's Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee (SSGDAC) is a formal community advisory committee to Darebin City Council. Its purpose is to provide strategic advice to Council, notably on the implementation of the *Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-15*, and to advocate on issues and barriers to equality affecting people in the City of Darebin who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer (LGBTIQ). Members of Darebin's SSGDAC also act as a conduit between the community and Council and promote and advocate for equality and social inclusion for LGBTIQ communities, with a view to informing and improving Council decision-making in relation to policy, program, and service delivery.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Need to (and recommendations on how to) ensure Council services will be safe, welcoming and inclusive of LGBTIQ residents (notably stemming from discussions on inclusiveness of Council-operated or contracted venues).
- Need for consistency and systematic inclusion of LGBTIQ residents in all Council policies, services and programs, as committed to in the *Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015*.
- Continued lack of visibility of LGBTIQ community on Council's website and promotional materials (being addressed).
- Wish for increased recognition of LGBTIQ residents and their contribution to the municipality.
- Need to promote and raise awareness of Council's broadened understanding of diversity, to be inclusive of sexuality, sex and gender diversity.
- Wish to start work and progress discussion on intersections between sexuality/sex or gender identity and other aspects of diversity, notably culture.

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Extensive SSGDAC input into and feedback on Council plans, policies and strategies:
  - SSGDAC provided advice on the implementation of many actions in the *Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015*.
  - SSGDAC provided input into the development of *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017*, leading to inclusion in the Plan of mentions of LGBTIQ health and wellbeing needs and of a specific action to explore these needs.
  - SSGDAC provided feedback on the *draft Arts Strategy*, regretting the lack of explicit mention of LGBTIQ as part of the priority groups identified in the Strategy.
  - SSGDAC was consulted on the development of a new *Disability Action Plan* (still in progress), notably on how the work for LGBTIQ people with a disability can be progressed. Suggestions included looking at people with chronic illness and on a disability pension and including mental health and HIV and people living with AIDS
- Discussion with and provision of advice to areas and departments in Council:

- 
- Aged and Disability Services on implementation of the Home and Community Care (HACC) Diversity plan and how to explore issues for ageing LGBTI people, with feedback notably given on a draft survey and on best ways to connect with the community
  - Arts and Culture Unit on events' planning (notably looking at the presence of LGBTIQ artists throughout the year) and LGBTIQ-inclusiveness of all Council events
  - Corporate Performance on:
    - exploring ways of collecting more research data to increase the visibility and knowledge of LGBTIQ residents in Darebin
    - inclusion of a first-ever question around sexuality (and how to word it sensitively) in the Household survey 2013
    - limitations around the results to that question
  - Leisure services and notably recreation centres on ways to make LGBTIQ people feel welcome and safe in Council-owned or contracted leisure facilities in Darebin (following a walk-through at Northcote aquatic and recreation centre to show how the venue can be perceived through the eyes of a GLBTIQ resident in terms of privacy and access to toilets and changing rooms and in terms of lack of visible inclusion)
  - Communications and Marketing on how to:
    - develop a range of inclusive communications materials
    - enhance the representation of sexuality and sex and gender diversity in all of Council's publications and communications and
    - enhance LGBTIQ-visibility and inclusiveness as part of the review and overhaul to Council's website
  - Youth services on exploring issues for same-sex attracted and gender-questioning (SSAGQ) youth and how they can be supported more effectively in Darebin
  - Human Rights Officer on ways to make the voices of young people whose parents or carers are LGBTIQ heard (idea of a film that captures the experience of children of LGBTIQ parents or carers in Darebin)
  - Support to organisation of and participation in Council's presence in LGBTIQ community events:
    - SSGDAC members assistance with screening of *Cloudburst* as part of Senior Citizens' month celebrations (October 2013)
    - Strong presence of SSGDAC members on Council's stall at Midsumma Carnival (January 2014) and high quality community engagement (collection of pictures for the "Darebin's coming out" banner and of feedback on what Council does to be more LGBTIQ-inclusive, how we are tracking and ideas for improvement)
    - Support to the planning and running of highly-successful "LGBTIQ equality initiatives in local government" (January 2014) organised as a collaboration between Darebin and Hobsons Bay City Councils and their respective LGBTIQ community advisory committees, in partnership with peak body VLGA (Victorian Local Governance Association) and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC)
    - Support to Council event organised at the Intercultural Centre for International day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia (IDAHO) about the intersections between sexuality and gender identity on the one hand and culture, faith and ethnicity on the other
  - Partnerships and relationship-building, including:
-

- 
- locally with Victoria Police and notably North West Metro Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO), the contact point for the LGBTIQ community on personal and community safety and security
  - regionally with Hobsons Bay GLBTIQ Advisory Committee through joint project (forum - see above).
  - Further advocacy and recommendations to Council:
    - Invitation to Council to write a letter to the Federal Government to protest against the dismissal of the Disability Commissioner.
    - Queries to Libraries in terms of LGBTIQ media available and possibility to hold specific events for the LGBTIQ community.
    - Submission to the participatory budget process (citizens' jury recommendations on allocation of a \$2 million infrastructure fund over the next two financial years): proposal for a rainbow shed in Darebin (a space accessible to LGBTIQ residents, with possibilities for DIY and crafts groups, allowing interactions but also mentoring, intergenerational exchange and knowledge-sharing).

### Challenges

While there have been a few changes in the committee's composition over the financial year 2013-2014, these have not proven a hindrance on the committee's capacity to react, advise and advocate. Vacancies have been filled promptly. Part of the challenge was to support and increase the diversity in membership. A gap on SSGDAC has been the gender imbalance and the lack of members who identify as men (whether gay, bi or trans). Target recruitment to fill vacancies was therefore recommended. The committee itself has noted current gaps in terms of representation of bisexual and intersex people. This will be something to be mindful of as the membership is up for renewal in March 2015. Another part of the challenge was to integrate new members while retaining existing commitment and knowledge. This happened quite seamlessly and new members have easily found their place in the committee and are making an active contribution. Maintaining this capacity will ensure sustainability of the committee's good work.

While attendance levels at advisory committees' meetings can be a challenge for many of Council's committees, this hasn't been the case for SSGDAC this year. Attendance at meetings fluctuates, but a (very) good level of attendance to committee meetings has been maintained throughout the year, which is paramount to the success of the committee and testament to the commitment and dedication of SSGDAC members.

Being a relatively new committee (created in March 2012), SSGDAC needs to continue building the visibility of its members and its work. This is on a good path as the committee's profile has increased over the year, and given the level of energy, commitment and enthusiasm of committee members, this is likely to continue.

One of the challenges for this committee can be the pressure placed on meetings, with extremely dense agendas and meetings (in part stemming from their quarterly frequency). However, this is also a sign of the high level of activity of the committee and of the increasing recognition of the committee by different departments of Council, who seek its advice.

### Financial and resource implications

---

---

The committee has operated within allocated budget. A significant part of the Diversity Policy officer's time is dedicated to supporting the committee.

#### Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion implications

The SSGDAC addresses a gap in Council's diversity package and represents a key group identified as at risk-of-exclusion in the *Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015*.

Reflective of the broadened understanding of diversity expressed in the Darebin City Council *Plan 2013-2017* Diversity Statement, the SSGDAC helps build Council's capacity to provide a local response to addressing discrimination, specifically homophobia, biphobia and transphobia and to strengthening social inclusion in Darebin. SSGDAC contributes to Council's commitment to LGBTIQ residents expressed in the *Council Plan 2013-17* (Diversity Statement and KPI 2.9) and to the Council goal of a "healthy and connected community".

The work of the Committee advances Council's commitment to support social inclusion and to develop actions to address and promote equality for our LGBTIQ residents, making Darebin a fairer and more cohesive community. The committee also plays a role in providing opportunities for engagement with the LGBTIQ community and the interaction falls within the deliberation spectrum in the Darebin Community Engagement Framework.

#### Economic Development implications

Through helping create a LGBTIQ-inclusive municipality and supporting LGBTIQ residents to participate fully and equally, the advisory committee's work might contribute to offering opportunities for economic development and potential job creation in the municipality.

## **CONCLUSION**

The SSGDAC has truly found its place in its second full year of operation and is a highly engaging and incredibly active committee that contributes enormously to Council. The committee has remained dynamic, energised and effective in advocating around key priority areas throughout the year and has continued to provide Council with invaluable support in the implementation of the second year of the *Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015*, leading to very fruitful progress. Its achievements are testament to the involvement and commitment of its members. It is a key element in Council's work around greater inclusion of the 12 groups identified as at risk of exclusion in the *Equity and Inclusion Policy*.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Continued high quality advice to Council and support to implementation of the *Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015*.



- 
- Support to joint project with Hobsons Bay City Council (and its GLBTIQ Advisory Committee) on LGBTIQ Equality Initiatives in Local Government tool-kit (follow-up to January 2014 forum).
  - Continued advocacy on behalf of, and exploration of new topics relevant to, Darebin's LGBTIQ residents.
  - Renewal of members due March 2015.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the Briefing Paper, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this briefing paper.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Terms of reference Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory committee (latest version: 15 April 2013 – Objective ref. A1585949)
  - Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015
  - Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015
-

---

## 1. BUNDOORA HOMESTEAD ART CENTRE

**AUTHOR:** Manager Creative Culture – Vanessa Pigrum

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Culture, Leisure & Works – Daniel Freer

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

Bundoora Homestead Art Centre is the public art gallery for the City of Darebin. It is committed to presenting innovative, challenging and inspiring programs for a diverse community and, supporting the work of local artists. Darebin Council promotes a range of activities encouraging participation, celebration and artistic expression which contribute positively to the community's cultural identity. Bundoora Homestead Art Centre operates with free admission as a historic house, contemporary public art gallery and café. It is registered by Heritage Victoria, certified by the National Trust, and accredited by Museums Australia. The Bundoora Homestead Board of Management consists of three councillors, 1 council officer, 5 community representatives and is supported by council staff.

#### Committee members

- Community representatives x5 including artists, arts industry professionals, local historian, educators, and interested qualified community members

#### Councillor Representative:

- Councillors x 3

#### Frequency of meetings:

Quarterly

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

November 2014

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The Bundoora Homestead Board of Management oversees the general operations of the centre including the development and implementation of the annual exhibition and public program. Members of the board of management contribute a broad range of skills drawn from arts industry professionals, educators and community interests.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Exhibition and public programming
  - Financial performance
-

- 
- Visitation
  - Foundation Fund administration
  - Heritage house maintenance
  - Café management

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Program planning with a focus on increased support for local artists and collaboration with industry partners and community organisations whilst delivering quality programs for a diverse community
- Bundoora Homestead Art Centre has operated within budget parameters set by Council.
- Business planning with a focus on building new partnerships, innovative program development and marketing (including increased use of social media), which has broadened audience reach and increased visitation

#### Challenges

The Bundoora Homestead Board of Management continues to meet the challenge of delivering an innovative and inspiring exhibition and public program that embraces the following cultural objectives:

- Manage and develop Bundoora Homestead Art Centre as a cultural, heritage and recreational facility for the benefit of a diverse community
- Promote the value and importance of the visual arts
- Foster participation in and an appreciation of the visual arts
- Inspire innovation and excellence in the visual arts
- Provide a professional venue for the presentation of contemporary visual arts and public programs
- Encourage the development of a cultural identity for the City of Darebin
- Support and strengthen the capacity of local artists to develop their art practice and engage with the community

#### Financial and Resource Implications

Bundoora Homestead Art Centre has operated within budget parameters set by Council.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

In September 2014 Mechanical Engineering consultant started investigations into upgrades of the climate control system to reduce energy use and further improve conditions. LED lighting upgrade trial room has been successfully installed with further areas to be upgraded in the coming months for assessment of performance. Inefficient electric hot water services have been identified in the basement and will be earmarked for an upgrade this financial year if budget is available or following financial year. This work continues the successful

---

---

implementation of the double glazing last financial year which has achieved impressive energy savings of around 7%.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

Bundoora Homestead Board of Management continues to ensure broad community involvement through the annual exhibition and public program. In the past 12 months exhibitions have been presented in partnership with local artists, community organisations, community health service providers and educational institutions. These partnerships incorporate and impact on the following groups:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities
- People with a Disability
- Elderly
- Women, men
- Low Socio-economic background
- Single parents
- People with mental illness
- Carers
- Isolated people

In operating a free admission policy, Bundoora Homestead Art Centre promotes the broadest possible community participation. This policy attracts visitors from diverse and varied backgrounds, and ensures equal access for the benefit of the whole community.

#### Economic Development Implications

With the increase in hospitality options in the immediate area, the business success of the Homestead Café must be closely monitored.

### **CONCLUSION**

2013/2014 has been a successful year for Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, in developing, supporting and promoting local artists while presenting a range of high quality exhibitions and public programs. Attendance figures demonstrate a continued growth in visitation from within the local municipality and the broader community.

After the resignation of three Board members during 2014 several Board Meetings did not meet quorum and this triggered a review of the Board structure. This review will be completed by November 2014

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Review of the Section 86 governance structure and its continued relevance
  - Recruitment of new Board members
  - Induction of the new Gallery Manager in October 2014
-

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020
-

---

## 1. DAREBIN DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**AUTHOR:** MetroAccess Officer – Christine Mulholland

**REVIEWED BY:** Acting Director Community Development – Bridget Monro-Hobbs

### **COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) is Council's advisory committee on issues relating to access and inclusion for people with disabilities living, working, studying or visiting Darebin. To promote and advocate for, improved access and inclusion within Council and the wider community.

#### Committee members

Eleven Community Representatives – residents with a disability and carers of people with a disability

#### Service Representatives:

- NMIT Work Education Unit
- Northern Support Services (NSS)
- Darebin Community Health
- North East Citizen Advocacy (NECA)

#### Council staff:

- Director Community Development
- Manager Aged and Disability
- Coordinator Equity and Diversity
- Coordinator Planning and Advocacy
- MetroAccess Officer
- Social (Disability) Planner
- Safe Transport Officer
- HACC Aboriginal Liaison Officer

#### Councillor Representative:

- Cr Gaetano Greco (Chair)
- Cr Oliver Walsh
- Cr Julie Williams

#### Frequency of meetings:

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Monday.

#### Committee to be reviewed by:

The Committee is reviewed formally every four years in line with Council elections. The Terms of Reference and membership is reviewed annually or when a vacancy arises.

---

---

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) has been operating for over 15 years as Council's advisory committee on issues relating to access and inclusion for people with a disability. DDAC aims to represent the interests of all people with disabilities in Darebin, including carers and family members, when advocating on their behalf regarding issues at the local, State and National level.

The committee provides Council staff with the opportunity to consult with community members with a disability and disability service providers about new and existing Council policies, strategies, and initiatives.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Presentation by National Disability Services on the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Presentation on Council's Inclusive Employment Initiatives
- Presentation from Council's Strategic Planning Department
- Presentation of Reservoir Streetscape Masterplan
- Consultation regarding the representation of people with a disability in Council's media and publications
- Presentation on Council's Urban Food Production Strategy
- Presentation by ADEC on the experiences of people with a disability from CALD backgrounds
- Presentation by Association for Children with a Disability on the experiences of carers of people with a disability
- Regular updates regarding the Aged Care Reforms and NDIS.

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- DDAC was the first of Council's Committee to host and participate in a formal induction program for new and existing members
- Providing advice on Council strategies and initiatives
- Submission lodged into the Inquiry into social inclusion and Victorians with a disability
- DDAC members have provided support and feedback into the development of Council's new DRAFT Access and Inclusion Plan 2014-2018

### Challenges

There were no challenges experienced by the committee or secretariat support throughout the period of October 2013 – October 2014.

### Financial and Resource Implications

Issues identified for action by DDAC are generally covered within the existing operational budget of the relevant area of Council. In some instances the action may need to be explored further and allocated to the following year's budget.

---

---

The only exception is for capital works upgrades to Council facilities. Access upgrades identified by DDAC go onto a priority list for action and costs are covered under the annual disability capital works budget.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

Nil.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

The committee has identified a range of issues which impact on groups that are at risk of exclusion. They include:-

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders – heavily under-represented in the disability service system, lack of flexible service models to support community values and beliefs
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities – the increased difficulty in navigating the disability service system
- People with a Disability – the importance of access to accessible transport options and lack of emergency management knowledge and targeted education
- Elderly – lack of understanding regarding people with a disability who are ageing and their need to maintain their independence.
- Violence against women - increased experience of violence against people with a disability, women in particular
- Low Socio-economic background – under representation of people with a disability in the open work force
- People with mental illness – lack of clarity in service boundaries when seeking support from the mental health sector versus the disability sector
- Carers – increased experience of isolation, low socio-economic status and mental health issues

#### Economic Development Implications

Nil.

## **CONCLUSION**

DDAC has had a productive 12 months. They have fed into and been consulted on multiple Council projects and initiatives and welcomed external presenters on disability sector issues and updates. The committee lodged a submission to the Family and Community Development Committee and played an integral role in guiding the development of Council's new draft Access and Inclusion Plan 2014-2018.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- DDAC has 1 remaining meeting for 2014.
  - 2014/15 meeting dates will be scheduled in bi-monthly.
  - Continue to keep DDAC informed about the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Use DDAC to focus Council's attention in better
-



---

understanding the implications and Council's role under the NDIS. Use DDAC as a Council mechanism to better inform Darebin residents with a disability about the NDIS.

- DDAC will support Council in implementing and evaluating the 2014-2018 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2014-2018.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (September 2013)
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee 2013 Council Report

---

**1. MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**AUTHOR:** Director Culture, Leisure & Works (Municipal Emergency Manager)

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Culture, Leisure & Works (Municipal Emergency Manager)

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

This Committee is formed pursuant to Section 21(3) and (4) of the Emergency Management Act, to formulate a plan for the Council's consideration in relation to the prevention of, response to and the recovery from emergencies in the City of Darebin.

Committee members

- Mayor (Chairperson)
- Municipal Emergency Manager (MEM)
- Municipal Emergency Resource Officer (MERO)
- Deputy Municipal Emergency Resource Officer (D/MERO) x 2
- Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM)
- Deputy Municipal Recovery Manager (D/MRM)
- Municipal Community Safety Manager (MCSM)
- Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO)
- Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC)
- MEMPC Executive Officer (PA to Director City Works and Development)

Councillor Representative:

- Police
- SES
- Ambulance Victoria
- Metropolitan Fire Brigade
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Red Cross
- Darebin Community Health
- CentreLink
- VicRoads
- Salvation Army
- VicRoads
- Victorian Council of Churches

Councillor Representative:

Mayor – Cr Gaetano Greco

---

### Frequency of meetings:

The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) meets on four occasions per year in February, May, August and November.

### Committee to be reviewed by:

Membership of the committee is reviewed on an annual basis – usually at the May meeting. Membership is confirmed by the Committee.

## **STATUS REPORT**

### Introduction and Background

The City of Darebin recognises it has a key role in prevention and mitigation activities to reduce the risk, or minimise the effects of emergencies that may occur in the area. Council's enforcement and continued reviewing of existing policies in land use, building codes and regulations, and urban planning, along with the various agencies responsible for prevention activities throughout the community, combine to ensure that all measures possible are addressed to reduce the likelihood of emergency.

The MEMPC also plays a role in prevention by identifying potential hazard areas however it is not the MEMPC's role to manage emergencies. This is the responsibility of the agencies and personnel as identified under the Response and Recovery Arrangements in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).

The MEMPC is required to prepare the MEMP, which documents response and recovery operational arrangements, and to ensure all the subjects listed in the plan outline are investigated and adequately provided for. The ongoing role of the committee is to review and amend the operational components of the plan.

### Key issues for 2013/2014

- Review and update Sections of the MEMP and update regularly. The MEMP will be reviewed by representatives from the SES, Police, MFB and the Department of Health and Human Services and provide feedback for corrections.
- Identify any emergency management issues that are likely to arise; and
- Debrief on any incidents that have occurred since the last meeting.
- Review & update all sub plans annually

### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013/2014

- Worked with emergency services with the dealing of the Smorgy's Fire at Bundoora
- Council worked with the property owners in reaching an outcome to secure the Smorgy's site safe for the public.
- Desktop exercise was conducted on 27 November 2013 on a hypothetical incident involving a fire at the Bundoora Park animal farm.

---

## Challenges

- Maintain continual preparation to deal with any emergency when it arises;
- Changing legislation and changes in personnel at the City of Darebin undertaking emergency management roles; and
- Maintaining the network of people from emergency management organisations who have a stake in the MEMP as staff representing these organisations are constantly changing.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Financial accounting for municipal resources utilised in emergencies must be authorised by the MERO and/or MEM and shall be in accordance with the normal financial arrangements of the City of Darebin. Control agencies are responsible for all costs involved in that agency responding to an emergency. Government agencies supporting the control agency are expected to defray all costs from their normal budgets.

Depending on the magnitude of the emergency some government financial assistance may be available for prevention, response and recovery activities. The City of Darebin is accountable for any monies donated as a result of any emergency event and will implement systems to receive and account for all such donations.

## Environmental Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

## Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

Groups within the community that may be affected, impacted on or relevant to the Committee's work include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities(CALD)
- People with a Disability
- Elderly, Youth, Children <12
- Women, men
- Homeless
- People with mental illness
- Carers
- Isolated people

## Economic Development Implications

Not applicable

---

## CONCLUSION

The MEMPC has had a significant number of challenges throughout 2013/2014 as detailed in this and the Committee has met all these challenges successfully. Highlights are the Darebin MEMP being recognised as industry best practise, “Operation Lorikeet” successfully testing the MEMP and its procedures and response to emergency incidents been handled smoothly.

## FUTURE ACTIONS

- Exercise the MEMP annually.
- Maintain the MEMP to ensure currency.

## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- MEMPC - Terms of Reference
- EMMV (Emergency Management Manual Victoria)
- *Emergency Management Act 3 December 2013*

---

**1. SOLAR AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY ACTION STEERING GROUP**

**AUTHOR:** Acting Manager Environment and Natural Resources – Gavin Mountjoy

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Assets and Business Services – Steve Hamilton

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Solar and Resource Efficiency Action Steering Group has been formed to develop and monitor the solar and resource efficiency action project included in the Darebin 2013-14 budget with an allocation of \$900,000. The steering group advises Council on the project and has no delegated powers.

Committee members

Nominated Councillors and Director Assets and Business Services

Councillor Representatives:

Councillors Tsitas, Villella, Greco, McCarthy, Li and Williams are members of the steering group.

Frequency of meetings:

As required at project milestones.

Council Officer Support:

Manager, Environment and Natural Resources, Environmental Strategy Coordinator

Committee to be reviewed by: June 2014

**STATUS REPORT**

Introduction and Background

The following project aims were endorsed by Council:

1. *To reduce greenhouse emissions in the Darebin community and organisation towards progress of the 2020 zero emissions targets.*
  2. *To increase the amount of renewable energy in Darebin.*
  3. *To facilitate, catalyse and develop mechanisms to develop scaled up solar and resource efficiency projects.*
  4. *To future-proof the community and council against increasing energy prices, particularly low income households in our community most vulnerable to increasing energy costs.*
-

- 
5. *To develop long term financing and management models which provide benefits for the community and Council, including leveraging funds from government grants and philanthropy.*
  6. *To demonstrate council leadership, engage with and inspire the community regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency*
  7. *To create community resilience and pride.*

#### Key issues for 2013-2014

The steering group was formalised and held one meeting in June 2013 and five meetings in 2013-2014.

#### Key activities/outcomes/achievements for 2013-2014

The steering group developed *Terms of Reference* and considered the solar public forum consultation in 2012-2013.

A key aspect of the program development focused on Council market research regarding pensioners concerns re rising electricity costs and potential interest in solar PV installation.

Committee advice to Council was to recommend the adoption of a Special Rates Charge Scheme for the pensioners who receive a Rate Rebate, who wish to install a solar PV system.

The committee recommended that Council not charge interest on the Special Rate Charge Scheme repayments, which were to be made over a 10 year period. The guiding principle for repayments was that electricity savings were to be greater than council rate repayments.

#### Challenges

The key challenge for the group is to recommend the best possible project in line with the project aims. A particular emphasis has been placed on benefits to low income households within Darebin.

The solar installations are expected to be complete in November 2014 and Council will receive a further report on the completion of the project in February 2015. Accordingly the last meeting of the steering group will be held in November 2014 in line with the project completion.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

Council included \$900,000 funding for a Resource Efficiency Action Project in the 2013 - 2014 budget. The steering group itself does not have financial implications but aims to recommend long term financing and management models which provide benefits for the community and Council.

#### Environmental Sustainability Implications

As per the body of this report the project aims include reduction of greenhouse emissions, increase of renewable energy and response to climate adaptation issues.

---

---

## Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Implications

As per the body of this report the project aims include a particular emphasis on future-proofing low income households in our community against increasing energy prices. The initial public forum attracted very diverse participants. Project consultations, communications and input will consider Darebin's diverse community.

## Economic Development Implications

The expenditure of \$900,000 in the local economy on small scale solar PV brings a positive economic development benefit to the community and installers.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Solar and Resource Efficiency Action Steering Group has been formed to develop and monitor the \$900,000 solar and resource efficiency action project included in the Darebin 2013/14 budget. Council has adopted comprehensive aims for the project and a particular emphasis has been placed on benefits to low income households within Darebin.

The steering group had held five meetings in 2013/14.

It is anticipated that close to 300 pensioner households will sign up to the Solar \$aver program, with installations to commence in September 2014.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Council to resolve setting the Special Rates Charge to enable the installation of the solar PV installations.
- Post installation Officers interview pensioner households to investigate 'heat wave stress' adaptation implications of solar installations
- record details of pensioners who may be interested in any future Solar \$aver program, subject to Council resolution.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Author of the report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan
  - May 20, 2013 Darebin Council meeting minutes
-