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AGENDA

Council meeting to be held
at Darebin Civic Centre,
350 High Street Preston
on Monday, 19 September 2016
at 7.00 pm.

Public question time will
commence shortly after 7.00 pm



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DAREBIN'S ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY

**(Council adopted this Acknowledgment on 1 July 2013 in order
to confirm the commitment of Council to the process of
Reconciliation)**

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people and the Kulin Nations as the traditional landowners and the historical and contemporary custodians of the land on which the City of Darebin and surrounding municipalities are located.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diversity of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, valuing the unique and important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members play in progressing reconciliation, respect and the building of mutual understanding across the City, amongst its people, and in the achievement of shared aspirations. Council recognises and pays tribute to, and celebrates, Darebin's long standing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.



Italian

Questo è l'ordine del giorno della riunione del Consiglio Comunale di Darebin per la data che compare sulla prima pagina di questo documento. Se desiderate informazioni in lingua italiana sugli argomenti dell'ordine del giorno, siete pregati di chiamare la Linea Telefonica Multilingue del Comune al 8470 8888.

Greek

Αυτή είναι η ημερήσια διάταξη για τη συνεδρίαση του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου Darebin, για την ημερομηνία που φαίνεται στο εξώφυλλο αυτού του εγγράφου. Αν θα θέλατε πληροφορίες στα Ελληνικά σχετικά με τα θέματα σ' αυτή την ημερήσια διάταξη, παρακαλούμε καλέστε την Πολυγλωσσική Τηλεφωνική Γραμμή του Δήμου στον αριθμό 8470 8888.

Chinese

這是一份戴瑞濱市議會議程表，其開會日期顯示於此文件之封面。如果您欲索取有關此議程表的中文資料，敬請致電 8470 8888 聯絡市議會的多語種電話專線。

Arabic

هذا هو جدول أعمال اجتماع مجلس بلدية داربيبن والذي سيحدد في التاريخ الوارد في الصفحة الأولى من هذه الوثيقة. إذا أردت الحصول على مزيد من المعلومات في اللغة العربية حول المواضيع المذكورة في جدول الأعمال، فيرجى الاتصال برقم هاتف البلدية المتعدد اللغات 8470 8888

Macedonian

Ова е дневниот ред за состанокот на Општината на Градот Даребин, која ќе биде на датумот покажан на предната корица од овој документ. Ако Вие сакате некои информации на Македонски јазик, за предметите на овој дневен ред, Ве молиме повикајте ја Општинската Повеќејазична Телефонска Линија на 8470 8888.

Vietnamese

Đây là nghị trình cho cuộc họp của Hội đồng Thành phố Darebin; ngày họp có ghi ở trang bìà tài liệu này. Muốn biết thêm về chương trình nghị sự bằng Việt ngữ, xin gọi cho Đường dây Điện thoại Đa Ngôn ngữ của Hội đồng Thành phố qua số 8470 8888.

Bosnian

Ovo je dnevni red za sastanak Gradske općine Darebin čiji je datum održavanja naznačen na prvoj strani ovog dokumenta. Ako želite više informacija o tačkama ovog dnevnog reda na bosanskom jeziku, molimo nazovite općinsku višjejezičnu telefonsku službu na 8470 8888.

Croatian

Ovo je dnevni red sastanka u Darebin City Council za dan koji je naveden na prednjem ovitku ovog dokumenta. Ako želite informacije o tačkama ovog dnevnog reda na hrvatskom jeziku, molimo da nazovete Council Multilingual Telephone Line (Višjejezičnu telefonsku liniju) na 8470 8888.

Portuguese

Esta é a pauta para a reunião da Câmara Municipal de Darebin a ser realizada na data que consta na capa deste documento. Se você deseja informação em Português sobre os itens desta pauta, por favor ligue para a Linha Telefônica Multilíngue da Câmara no 8470 8888.

Serbian

Ово је дневни ред за састанак Darebin City Council-а (Градско веће Darebin) који ће се одржати на дан који је наведен на насловној страни овог документа. Ако желите информације на српском о тачкама дневног реда, молимо вас да назовете Council Multilingual Telephone Line (Вишејезичку телефонску линију Већа), на 8470 8888.

Somali

Kuwani waa qodobada shirka lagaga wada hadli doono ee Degmada Degaanka Darebin ee taariikhda lagu xusey boga ugu sareeya ee qoraalkan. Haddii aad doonysid wararka ku saabsan qodobadan oo ku qoran Af-Somali, fadlan ka wac Khadka Taleefanka Afafka ee Golaha oo ah 8470 8888.

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Agenda

1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Vince Fontana (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Bo Li

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Steven Tsitas

Cr. Angela Villella

Cr. Oliver Walsh

Cr. Julie Williams

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 5 September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PLEASE NOTE: Questions from the public must be submitted prior to the commencement of Council meetings.

- Questions can be submitted online up to 4.00 pm on the day of the meeting:
 - At darebin.vic.gov.au/publicquestiontime; or
 - By email to PQT@darebin.vic.gov.au
- Questions can also be submitted in person:
 - At the counter of the Preston Customer Service, 274 Gower Street, Preston until 5.00 pm on the day of the meeting
 - At the Council Chamber from 6.45 pm to 7.00 pm on the day of the meeting (including from residents who seek to directly ask their question from the gallery)

No questions will be accepted after 7.00 pm on the night of the Council meeting. This includes questions from residents who seek to directly ask their questions from the gallery, which must first be submitted to officers for review prior to the meeting.

Questions that:

- Relate to items that are listed on the Agenda; or
- Are of an operational nature; or
- Relate to personnel matters, contractual matters or legal advice; or
- Are aimed at embarrassing a councillor or a member of council staff or is political in nature

will not be responded to.

Further, in accordance with section 54(5) of the Darebin Governance Local Law, a member of the gallery cannot ask more than two (2) questions.

The Mayor, in the first instance, will read questions and provide a response to those submitted online before taking questions from members in the gallery. If a question cannot be answered at the meeting, a written response will be prepared and forwarded to the person raising the question. Any question responded to verbally at the meeting, will not be responded to in writing.

Residents do not need to attend the meeting for a question to be answered.

A period of up to 30 minutes will be set aside to enable the Chairperson to read out the questions submitted by the public in accordance with the above guidelines and to provide responses.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

6.1 SOLAR \$AVER SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME DECLARATION

Author: Coordinator Environmental Strategy

Reviewed By: Acting Director Operations and Environment

Report Background

This report follows Council's resolution on 18 July 2016 to give notice of its intention to declare a special charge in relation to the Solar \$aver scheme.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 18 July 2016 Council resolved that:

- (1) *Council give notice of its intention to declare a special charge in accordance with section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989 (Act) as follows:*
 - a. *A special charge is declared for the period commencing on the day on which Council issues a notice levying payment of the special rate and concluding on the tenth anniversary of that day.*
 - b. *The special charge be declared for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of solar energy systems on residential properties participating in the Solar \$aver scheme, which project:*
 - i. *Council considers there is or will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the special charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this resolution); and*
 - ii. *arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.*
 - c. *The total:*
 - i. *cost of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution be recorded as \$351,797.00; and*
 - ii. *amount for the special charge to be levied be recorded as \$351,797.00, or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.*
 - d. *The special charge be declared in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as Appendix B to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.*
 - e. *The following be specified as the criteria which form the basis of the special charge so declared:*

Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution.
 - f. *The following be specified as the manner in which the special charge so declared will be assessed and levied:*
 - i. *a special charge calculated by reference to the size of the solar energy system being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar \$aver scheme, in respect of which a Householder Agreement has been executed, totalling \$351,797.00, being the total cost of the scheme to Council;*

- ii. *to be levied each year for a period of 10 years.*
 - g. *Having regard to the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and subject to section 166(1) of the Act, it be recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will, subject to a further resolution of Council, pay the special charge in the amount set out in paragraph 1(f) of this resolution in the following manner:*
 - i. *payment annually by a lump sum on or before one month following the issue by Council of a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act; or*
 - ii. *payment annually by four instalments to be paid by the dates which are fixed by Council in a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act.*
- (2) *Council considers that there will be a special benefit to the persons required to pay the special charge because there will be a benefit to those persons that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to persons who are not subject to the proposed special charge, as a result of the expenditure proposed by the special charge, in that the properties will have the benefit of a solar energy system being installed.*
 - (3) *Council, for the purposes of having determined the total amount of the special charge to be levied:*
 - a. *considers and formally records that only those rateable properties included in the Solar Saver scheme as proposed will derive a special benefit from the imposition of the special charge, and there are no community benefits to be paid by Council; and*
 - b. *formally determines for the purposes of section 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the special charge to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to the persons who are liable to pay the special charge is 100%.*
 - (4) *Public notice be given in "The Northcote Leader" and "The Preston Leader" newspapers of Council's intention to declare, at its ordinary meeting to be held on 19 September 2016, the special charge in the form set out above.*
 - (5) *Separate letters, enclosing a copy of this resolution, Appendix B to this report and the public notice referred to in paragraph 4 of this resolution, are to be sent to the owners of the properties included in the scheme, advising of Council's intention to levy the special charge, the amount for which the property owner will be liable, the basis of calculation of the special charge, and notification that submissions and/or objections in relation to the proposal will be considered by Council in accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act.*
 - (6) *The Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee be convened, at a date and time to be fixed, to hear persons who, in their written submissions made under section 223 of the Act, advise that they wish to appear in person, or to be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting in support of their submission.*
 - (7) *Council's Manager Environment and Natural Resources be authorised to carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under sections 163A, 163(1A), (1B) and (1C), 163B and 223 of the Act.*
 - (8) *Consider a further report in the first quarter of 2017 regarding the Solar Saver program options.*

Previous Briefing(s)

Councillor Briefing – 13 July 2015

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

- Council Plan Goal 3 – Sustainable and resilient neighbourhoods
- Community Climate Change Action Plan

Summary

This report recommends Council declare a Special Charge Scheme under section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the purposes of defraying expenses relating to the provision of solar energy systems on residential properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme.

Formal submissions on the proposal were sought and no submissions or objections were received. Since public advertising of the scheme, five households been withdrawn from the scheme due to changed circumstances. These households have been removed from the scheme and minor cost reductions have also been made to seven properties. As all changes are reductions in cost, these changes do not require further public notice and do not affect Council's declaration of the Special Charge Scheme.

Additionally the 3 neighbourhood houses (Preston, Reservoir and Thornbury Neighbourhood Houses) have been withdrawn from this scheme to be considered in the separate "Solar Saver on Council owned Community Buildings" report being considered at this meeting.

Recommendation

That:

- (1) Darebin City Council ("Council") having considered all submissions received and taken account of all objections lodged and complied with the requirements of sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* ("Act"), and otherwise according to law, hereby declares a Special Charge ("Special Charge") under section 163 of the Act as follows:
 - a. A special charge is declared for the period commencing on the day on which Council issues a notice levying payment of the special rate and concluding on the tenth anniversary of that day.
 - b. The special charge be declared for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of solar energy systems on residential properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme, which project:
 - i. Council considers is or will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the special charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this resolution); and
 - ii. arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. The total:
 - i. cost of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution be recorded as \$296,587.00; and
 - ii. amount for the special charge to be levied be recorded as \$296,587.00, or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.
 - d. The special charge be declared in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as **Appendix A** to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.
 - e. The following be specified as the criteria which form the basis of the special charge so declared:

- Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution.
- f. The following be specified as the manner in which the special charge so declared will be assessed and levied:
 - i. a special charge calculated by reference to the size of the solar energy system being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar Saver scheme, in respect of which a Householder Agreement has been executed, totalling \$296,587.00, being the total cost of the scheme to Council;
 - ii. to be levied each year for a period of 10 years.
 - g. Having regard to the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and subject to section 166(1) of the Act, it be recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will pay the special charge in the amount set out in paragraph 1(f) of this resolution in the following manner:
 - i. payment annually by a lump sum on or before one month following the issue by Council of a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act; or
 - ii. payment annually by four instalments to be paid by the dates which are fixed by Council in a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act.
- (2) Council considers that there will be a special benefit to the persons required to pay the special charge because there will be a benefit to those persons that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to persons who are not subject to the proposed special charge, as a result of the expenditure proposed by the special charge, in that the properties will have the benefit of a solar energy system being installed.
- (3) Council, for the purposes of having determined the total amount of the special charge to be levied:
- a. considers and formally records that only those rateable properties included in the Solar Saver scheme as proposed will derive a special benefit from the imposition of the special charge, and there are no community benefits to be paid by Council; and
 - b. formally determines for the purposes of section 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the special charge to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to the persons who are liable to pay the special charge is 100%.
- (4) Council directs that notice be given to all owners and occupiers of properties included in the Scheme and all persons who have lodged a submission and/or an objection in writing of the decision of Council to declare and levy the Special Charge, and the reasons for the decision. For the purposes of this paragraph, the reasons for the decision of Council to declare the Special Rate are that –
- a. there is no objection to the Scheme and it is otherwise considered that there is a broad level of support for the Special Charge from all property owners and occupiers;
 - b. Council considers that it is acting in accordance with the functions and powers conferred on it under the Local Government Act 1989, having regard to its role, purposes and objectives under the Act, particularly in relation to its functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. all persons who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge and the properties respectively owned or occupied by them will receive a special benefit of a solar energy system being installed at the property.

- (5) Where a Householder wishes to withdraw from the Scheme, Council agrees to such withdrawal where the Householder has given written notice of their desire to withdraw from the Scheme before Council has incurred any expenditure in relation to the Householder's solar PV system.
-

Introduction

The 2015/2016 Solar \$aver program has been offered to the following categories of people and organisations:

- pensioners who receive the rate rebate and other pensioners;
- people in retirement villages or supported accommodation;
- renters who have a level of disadvantage (in receipt of Centrelink benefit or in housing poverty) with authorisation from property owner; and
- child care, kindergarten and community centres(Council owned).

Non-pensioner property owners and commercial businesses are able to access the competitive prices negotiated by Council through the Bulk buy program.

The Solar \$aver scheme provider is a partnership with Positive Charge providing the information and quotation to the residents with SunEdison Australia supplying and installing the solar systems. A separate company, Solargain, has been selected to provide the general solar bulk buy scheme available for all residents and businesses.

On 18 July 2016 Council resolved to give notice of its intention to declare a special charge for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of solar energy systems on residential properties participating in the Solar \$aver scheme.

Public notice was posted in the 26 July 2016 edition of the Preston Leader and the 27 July 2016 edition of the Northcote Leader. The public notice advised of the proposed declaration and invited submissions under section 223 of the Act by 5pm on 24 August 2016.

No submissions or objections were received. However two telephone calls were received to clarify details of the scheme and, five households have been withdrawn from the scheme due to changed circumstances.

Issues and Discussion

The 18 July 2016 report indicated that 3 neighbourhood houses (Preston, Reservoir and Thornbury Neighbourhood Houses) had chosen to participate in the Solar \$aver scheme. It is now proposed that installation of solar PV on these centres, along with six other community centres be considered in the separate "Solar \$aver on Council owned Community Buildings" report being considered at this meeting

One household has made a request to withdraw from the scheme due to changed personal circumstances.

Consequently the 3 neighbourhood houses properties with solar PV to the value of \$32,495.00 have been withdrawn from this proposed Solar \$aver Scheme. With the five residential households withdrawing this results in a revised scheme of 83 residential properties who have signed contracts by July 2016 to the amount of \$296,587.00.

These properties have been removed from the scheme and additionally 7 properties have had minor reductions to the original cost. These changes all represent reductions in cost and do not require further public notice and does not affect Council's declaration of the Special Charge Scheme. This has reduced the proposed cost of \$351,797.00 to \$296,587.00.

Proposed special charge declaration

Under Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act), Council is empowered to declare a special charge for the purposes of defraying any expenses in relation to the performance of a function or the exercise of a power of Council, if Council considers that the performance of the function or the exercise of the power is, or will be, of special benefit to the persons required to pay the special rate or special charge.

In this case, the installation of solar energy systems on properties as part of the Solar \$aver scheme arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community. Each participating property has signed a Householder Agreement with Council to participate in the scheme, which includes the overall cost and repayments which would be paid by the property should the scheme be approved (see **Appendix A**).

In September 2004, the Minister for Local Government issued a guideline for the preparation of special charge schemes. The guideline specifically deals with the calculation of the maximum total amount that a council may levy as a special charge.

The guideline requires that Council identify the following:

- A. Purpose of the works
- B. Ensure coherence
- C. Calculate total cost
- D. Identify special beneficiaries
- E. Determine the properties to include
- F. Estimate total special benefits
- G. Estimate community benefits
- H. Calculate the benefit ratio
- I. Calculate the maximum total levy

A. Purpose of the Works

The purpose of the works is to supply and install solar energy systems on properties to reduce energy costs and encourage and increase the use of renewable energy in Darebin.

B. Ensure Coherence

The proposed works have a natural coherence with the proposed beneficiaries, as the properties proposed to be included in the scheme are receiving solar energy systems to the value of their participation.

C. Calculate the Total Cost

The proposed solar system installation includes the following items:

- Assessment and administration costs
- Supply and installation of solar energy systems

For the purposes of section 163(1) of the Act, the total cost of the works is calculated at \$296,587.00 based on signed quotations.

The expenses in the estimate of works are consistent with the allowable expenses listed in section 163(6) of the Act.

D. Identify the Special Beneficiaries

Council is required to identify those properties that would receive a special benefit from the proposed works. A special benefit is considered to be received by a property if the proposed works or services will provide a benefit that is additional to or greater than the benefit to other properties.

The Ministerial Guideline notes that a special benefit is considered to exist if it could reasonably be expected to benefit the owners or occupiers of the property. It is not necessary for the benefit to be actually used by the particular owners or occupiers of a specified property at a particular time in order for a special benefit to be attributed to the property.

Property owners participating in the Solar Saver scheme are considered to receive special benefit from the proposed supply and installation of solar PV systems by means of:

- Reduced energy costs over the life of the solar PV system
- Ownership of the solar PV system after the special rate repayments are paid in full
- Increased property value

The proposed properties taking part in the scheme, the owners of which have signed a Householder Agreement with Council to participate in the scheme, are listed in **Appendix B**.

E. Determine Properties to Include

Once the properties that receive special benefit are identified, Council must decide which properties to include in the scheme. If a property will receive a special benefit but is not included in the scheme, the calculation of the benefit ratio will result in Council paying the share of costs related to the special benefits for that property.

It is accepted that only those properties at which the solar energy systems are installed will receive a special benefit from the scheme. Accordingly, it is proposed to include only those residential properties whose owners have signed Householder Agreements in the scheme. Council will not, then, be required to pay a share of costs related to special benefits for any property that is not included in the scheme.

F. Estimate Total Special Benefits

As per the Ministerial Guideline for Special Rates and Charges, total special benefits are defined according to the formula below:

$$\text{TSB} = \text{TSB}_{(\text{in})} + \text{TSB}_{(\text{out})}$$

- **TSB** is the estimated total special benefit for all properties that have been identified to receive a special benefit
- **TSB_(in)** is the estimated total special benefit for those properties that are included in the scheme
- **TSB_(out)** is the estimated total special benefit for those properties with an identified special benefit that are not included in the scheme

For the purposes of the proposed scheme, total special benefits have been calculated as follows:

- **TSB_(in)** – The estimated total special benefit is based on the quoted cost of the solar PV system to be installed (which has been included in the Householder Agreement signed by the property owner). It is expected that the benefit in reduced energy costs will exceed this special benefit.

- **TSB_(out)** – This is not applicable as all participating properties are included.

G. Estimate Community Benefits

Whilst the reduction of energy use, greenhouse emissions and increase of renewable energy is considered a community benefit there are no direct quantifiable costs.

- **TCB** – Total Community Benefit is assessed to be 0 benefit units

H. Calculate the Benefit Ratio

The benefit ratio is calculated as:

$$R = \frac{\text{TSB}_{(in)}}{\text{TSB}_{(in)} + \text{TSB}_{(out)} + \text{TCB}}$$

Where:

$$\text{TSB}_{(in)} = \$296,587.00$$

$$\text{TSB}_{(out)} = 0$$

$$\text{TCB} = 0$$

$$R = 1$$

I. Calculate the Maximum Total Levy

In order to calculate the maximum total levy **S**, the following formula is used:

$$S = R \times C$$

Where **R** is the benefit ratio and **C** is the cost of all works

$$\text{Therefore } S = 1 * \$296,587.00 = \$296,587.00$$

Note there is no community benefit amount payable by Council.

Apportionment of Costs

Once the maximum levy amount has been calculated, it is necessary to establish an appropriate way to distribute these costs to all affected landowners.

As the properties have all received individual quotations based on the solar system and work required, it is proposed to apportion the costs based on these quotes. It is noted that the householders have been notified and signed agreements on the basis of these costs for the purpose of declaring this scheme.

It is proposed to distribute the costs as shown in **Appendix A**.

Financial and Resource Implications

- Council allocated \$1 million from the 2015/2016 Council budget for the delivery of the Solar Saver program in 2015/2016. To date \$433,000 (GST exclusive) has been committed through the Special Charge Scheme adopted July 18, 2016 and administration
- \$135,557 was expended in the 2015/2016 budget and \$750,000 has been allocated in the 2016/2017 budget to pay for the installation of the solar systems should the Special Charge Scheme be passed.

- Should the recommended special charge scheme be declared, Council will pay \$296,587.00 (GST exclusive) for the supply and installation of the solar PV systems on the properties listed in **Appendix A**. In accordance with their respective Householder Agreements, property owners will pay for the cost of the solar energy system by equal installments apportioned over a 10-year period, commencing from January 2016. Council is expected to receive \$29,658.70 in special charge repayments annually for this scheme over the 10 year period. It should be noted that the special charge scheme is effectively an interest free loan to the households.
- Payments to Council by property owners for works via special charge schemes are GST exempt.
- Should the property be sold during the 10 year period in which the special charge scheme applies, the amount outstanding on the special charge scheme at the time of sale will be fully paid.
- Council will consider a further report in early 2017 regarding options for the expenditure of the remaining funds.

Risk Management

As noted previously, the American parent company of SunEdison has filed for bankruptcy. SunEdison Australia (formerly EnergyMatters), informed Council that SunEdison has entered into an agreement with Flextronics Australia Pty Ltd, wherein Flextronics will acquire SunEdison's global Residential and Small Commercial (RSC) business, which also includes businesses in North America and Australia.

Officers will continue to monitor this situation and report to Council if there are any issues of concern.

The 10 year warranties are independent of SunEdison and with large companies.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

It is estimated that the average participating household could save \$20 to 90 per year after the special scheme payment. After 10 years households can save \$300 - \$400 per year. This represents potential funds that can be spent within the Darebin community rather than on utility bills.

Environmental Sustainability

This project is consistent with Darebin's Community Climate Change Action Plans and the Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Council has committed through its Community Climate Action Plan not only to reduce emissions, but to support those most vulnerable to climate change impacts and increasing energy costs.

This project was specifically aimed at low income households, who are more vulnerable to increasing energy costs. Many participating pensioners are also from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

Other

This is consistent with the Council Plan and Council Budget.

Future Actions

- Provision of a notice to property owners
- 30 day period for an objection to be lodged with VCAT (likely to be a procedural matter only as all households have signed an agreement to proceed with the scheme)
- Installation of solar systems September – December 2016
- Future report in early 2017 regarding Solar \$aver options

Consultation and Advocacy

- Public notice was posted in the 26 July 2016 edition of the Preston Leader and the 27 July 2016 edition of the Northcote Leader. The public notice advised of the proposed declaration and invited submissions under section 223 of the Act by 5pm on 24 August 2016. No submissions or objections were received. Two telephone calls were received to clarify details of the scheme and five households have withdrawn from the scheme due to changed circumstances.
- The program was advertised on the Council website, in the local paper and through direct mail to over 10,500 pensioner households.
- Over 430 homes have received home visits from Positive Charge to provide quotations for the Solar \$aver program and receive energy advice. Participating households have all signed agreements to participate in the program based on quoted prices.
- Council has consulted with Aged and Disability - Community Development Officer and Marketing and Community Engagement Officer, Equity and Diversity – Community Planner, Interfaith Development Officer and Aboriginal Policy Officer.
- Council has consulted with the following external organisations: Baptcare – Sanctuary Bellhaven Hostel, Northcote Rental Housing Co-operative, Community Equity Housing Ltd, Lions Village, and Veronica Gardens Retirement Village.
- Chief Financial Officer

Related Documents

- Council Minutes – 18 July 2016, 16 May 2016 and 23 November 2015
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- Community Climate Change Action Plan
- The Macquarie Special Rates and Charges Manual 2012
- Declared Special Charge Scheme for Solar \$aver Program (**Appendix A**)

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

APPENDIX A**Table of properties intended to be subject to the Solar Saver special charge scheme**

Each listed property has been assessed as to the size of solar panel and installation costs and has been provided and agreed to the following quotation to have a solar energy system installed at their property for the following costs.

Property address		Cost
9 Shiers Street	ALPHINGTON	\$3,427.00
11 Moonstone Walk	BUNDOORA	\$3,658.00
5 Emerald Walk	BUNDOORA	\$2,867.00
116 Elizabeth Street	COBURG NORTH	\$2,867.00
159 Grange Road	FAIRFIELD	\$3,172.00
166 Wingrove Street	FAIRFIELD	\$3,491.00
75 The Fairway	KINGSBURY	\$4,273.00
138 Separation Street	NORTHCOTE	\$3,373.00
107A South Crescent	NORTHCOTE	\$3,636.00
120 Clarke Street	NORTHCOTE	\$3,122.00
123 Arthurton Road	NORTHCOTE	\$4,273.00
123 Kellett Street	NORTHCOTE	\$4,273.00
14 Thomson Street	NORTHCOTE	\$4,234.00
15 Langston Street	NORTHCOTE	\$3,108.00
168 Beaconsfield Parade	NORTHCOTE	\$4,719.00
2/105 Victoria Road	NORTHCOTE	\$2,867.00
22 McDonald Street	NORTHCOTE	\$4,357.00
28 Derby Street	NORTHCOTE	\$4,572.00
30 Jessie Street	NORTHCOTE	\$3,342.00
32 Reid Street	NORTHCOTE	\$4,072.00
44 Woolhouse Street	NORTHCOTE	\$4,082.00
56/25 Veronica Street	NORTHCOTE	\$2,975.00
7 Munro Street	NORTHCOTE	\$4,509.00
1 Margaret Grove	PRESTON	\$3,172.00
124 Raglan Street	PRESTON	\$3,400.00
146 Gilbert Road	PRESTON	\$3,172.00
23 Tynan Street	PRESTON	\$3,489.00
27 Showers Street	PRESTON	\$3,337.00
277 Bell Street	PRESTON	\$3,172.00
29 Avondale Road	PRESTON	\$3,108.00
3/572 Murray Road	PRESTON	\$3,095.00
40A Roseberry Avenue	PRESTON	\$3,172.00
44 Hotham Street	PRESTON	\$3,280.00
556 Murray Road	PRESTON	\$2,975.00
6 Ventnor Street	PRESTON	\$3,322.00
6/39 Mt Pleasant Road	PRESTON	\$4,500.00

Property address		Cost
80 Cramer Street	PRESTON	\$2,867.00
9 Margaret Grove	PRESTON	\$3,172.00
9 Milton Crescent	PRESTON	\$3,630.00
92 Gower Street	PRESTON	\$2,975.00
1/79A Rathcown Road	RESERVOIR	\$3,202.00
100 Broadhurst Avenue	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
11 Muriel Court	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
12 Beenak Street	RESERVOIR	\$4,273.00
12 Wattle Grove	RESERVOIR	\$3,399.00
147 Broadway	RESERVOIR	\$2,803.00
17 Morris Street	RESERVOIR	\$3,280.00
197 Wilson Boulevard	RESERVOIR	\$3,280.00
2/3-5 Whitelaw Street	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
2/40 Godley Street	RESERVOIR	\$3,508.00
28 Elinda Place	RESERVOIR	\$2,867.00
33 Anstey Avenue	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
37 Summerhill Road	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
47 Cheddar Road	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
5 Genoa Avenue	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
6/27 Lake Street	RESERVOIR	\$2,867.00
73 Massey Avenue	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
9 Nutwood Street	RESERVOIR	\$3,172.00
1 Harold Street	THORNBURY	\$3,491.00
28 Jones Street	THORNBURY	\$4,501.00
101 Rennie Street	THORNBURY	\$4,347.00
123 Collins Street	THORNBURY	\$4,357.00
132 Ballantyne Street	THORNBURY	\$4,273.00
144 Smith Street	THORNBURY	\$4,596.00
156 Dundas Street	THORNBURY	\$4,754.00
178 Normanby Avenue	THORNBURY	\$3,172.00
2/53 Collins Street	THORNBURY	\$3,108.00
2/77 Collins Street	THORNBURY	\$2,867.00
22 Alston Street	THORNBURY	\$4,381.00
223 Gooch Street	THORNBURY	\$4,548.00
289 Rossmoyne Street	THORNBURY	\$3,058.00
297 Clarendon Street	THORNBURY	\$4,538.00
3/109 Fyffe Street	THORNBURY	\$4,273.00
30 Jones Street	THORNBURY	\$4,273.00
30 Lewis Street	THORNBURY	\$2,803.00
347 Rossmoyne Street	THORNBURY	\$4,273.00
363 St Georges Road	THORNBURY	\$2,867.00
4/109 Fyffe Street	THORNBURY	\$4,273.00
57A Spencer Street	THORNBURY	\$3,637.00

Property address		Cost
71 Keon Street	THORNBURY	\$4,357.00
76 Normanby Avenue	THORNBURY	\$3,058.00
83 Miller Street	THORNBURY	\$3,157.00
85 Leinster Grove	THORNBURY	\$4,491.00
	Total	\$296,587.00

6.2 NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION ANNUAL REPORT

Reviewed By: Acting Director Operations and Environment

Reviewed By: Acting Chief Executive Officer

Report Background

At the Council meeting held 3 August 2015, Council resolved to receive an annual report regarding the work and outcomes of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse action (NAGA) of which Council is a member.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 3 August 2015, Council resolved that Council:

- (1) *Authorise the Chief Executive to sign the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Memorandum of Understanding for the period completing 30 June 2017 at a total cost of \$48,800 (GST inclusive).*
- (2) *Receive an annual report regarding the work and outcomes of NAGA.*

Previous Briefing(s)

None

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

- Council Plan Goal 3 – Sustainable and resilient neighbourhoods
- Community Climate Change Action Plan

Summary

This report provides a summary of the work and outcomes achieved by the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse action (NAGA) through the 2015-2016 financial year. NAGA's current members are the cities of Banyule, Hume, Manningham, Melbourne, Moreland, Whittlesea and Yarra, Shire of Nillumbik and Moreland Energy Foundation. The work has included attracting \$796,000 grants and substantial advocacy work including: solar feed in tariffs and energy legislation and state government reviews of the climate change act and strategy. The current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Council concludes June 2017 and Council will consider a further report regarding the NAGA MoU renewal in April.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Note this report.
- (2) Receive a further report in April 2017 regarding renewal of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Memorandum of Understanding.

Introduction

NAGA formed in 2002 as a network to share information, skills and resources related to climate change action. NAGA's current members are the cities of Banyule, Hume, Manningham, Melbourne, Moreland, Whittlesea and Yarra, Shire of Nillumbik and Moreland Energy Foundation.

NAGA's goal is to substantially contribute to the transition to a climate-changed, low-carbon future by delivering effective programs and leveraging local government, community and business action.

Through NAGA's and its members' commitment to regional collaboration on climate change action, they have established a leadership reputation successfully attracting millions of dollars of grants funding to the region's climate change and energy efficiency efforts.

Council annually appoints a member to the NAGA executive who determines the strategic direction of NAGA and the current appointee is Cr. McCarthy. The Manager Environment and Natural Resources attends as an officer and advises on the NAGA governance committee. Officers attend networks and forums.

Issues and Discussion

The key activities of NAGA over 2015/2016 were as follows:

Governance and networks

The Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 and work plan for 2015/2016 were finalised and adopted by the NAGA Executive. All member councils have signed Memorandum of Understandings with NAGA.

NAGA has been trialling different approaches to sharing best practice and knowledge across councils in the region including; online podcast interviews with experts and case studies from around the world, video updates from key meetings and events that NAGA attends, videos and animations to describe complex topics. In addition to this NAGA continues to run networks for sharing best practice (e.g. Solar scale up bimonthly meetings, climate change adaptation planning), and develop issues and briefing papers on key advocacy issues.

Grants

NAGA, in conjunction with the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, was successful in securing funding of \$764,589 from the Victorian Government's New Energy Jobs Fund to work with 22 councils on models of Darebin's Solar Saver program to install solar on low-income households through two alternative financing models. One model uses a special rates mechanism as per the Darebin program and the second model is a low interest bank loan, which is also paid back over ten years. The funding covers four staff positions to be distributed amongst the different greenhouse alliances, including one at NAGA, who will assist local governments in developing and implementing the interventions. This program is consistent with Council's goal to extend the Solar Saver program to other areas and officers are supporting the program with learnings from the Darebin program.

NAGA also received \$32,000 from Energy Consumers Australia for a project, which brings together planners from electricity distributors and local government. A series of workshops will identify likely growth pressure points in municipalities that could place pressure on the grid. The project replicates and broadens an initial workshop held in 2015 with eastern local governments and AusNet, which has formed the basis of an ongoing working relationship.

Projects/events

NAGA held its 2016 annual conference on 5 April, featuring panels on the role of local government post-Paris, financing and procuring renewable energy, effective measurement of adaptation strategies and the development and implementation of urban greening strategies. More than 100 people attended from NAGA member councils as well as other local governments, state government departments, universities and consultancies.

NAGA has delivered final versions of the municipal energy profiles for 2013; these reports collect energy use data from distribution businesses and create profiles of consumption trends across residential and commercial sectors, including local (suburban) averages. This helps councils plan for where energy saving programs can best be delivered. NAGA has all data for 2014 except for one distributor. NAGA has worked with the Moreland Energy Foundation to streamline collection and cleaning of the data from the electricity distributors.

Regional Building Vulnerability Assessment - NAGA worked with the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and ARUP to deliver tailored training sessions to council facility and asset managers to consider climate change asset vulnerabilities within their capital expenditure plans and rate capping variations. This was identified as a priority action in the regional Adaptation in the North project that NAGA developed in the previous year with State Government funding.

Advocacy

NAGA has prepared and submitted positions on behalf of its members on the following issues:

- Fair price for local renewable energy generation - NAGA proactively engaged and submitted a position to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) review which was further supported by Darebin Council in recent letters to Ministers which highlighted the following points:
 - There is a need for a mandatory minimum Feed-in Tariff (FiT) to ensure equity and fairness for small-scale energy generators, specifically solar photo-voltaics (PV).
 - The current ESC methodology for calculating solar feed in tariffs is too narrow in scope and does not consider broader environmental and social benefits of small-scale renewable energy generation to the grid and other consumers.
 - There is a need to identify existing barriers to distributed generation beyond fair payment structures, and recommend to Victorian Government resolutions to these barriers advocating for an increase to the value received by local renewable energy generators (i.e. solar feed in tariffs).
- Policy Support for Zero and Low Emission Vehicles – letter to the Minister for the Environment calling for support for electric vehicles, including measures such as: registration and stamp duty discounts for electric vehicles; subsidies for charging equipment; developing a target for electric vehicle uptake in Victoria and increasing the percentage of electric vehicles within the state government fleet.
- Local Generation Network Credit Rule Change Request - NAGA submitted a letter of support to the Australian Energy Market Commission's proposed rule change to introduce a payment from distribution networks to embedded generators, which reflects any benefits the generators provide to the network.
- Local Government Act - NAGA is advocating to accelerate legislative changes to the special rates charge. These changes will help councils offer low interest finance to households receiving rates rebates for energy improvements such as solar PV and energy efficiency (such as the Darebin Solar Savers program).
- Plan Melbourne refresh - NAGA has been advocating for changes to the Plan Melbourne submission to strengthen consideration of climate change and ensure stronger sustainability principles in the Victorian planning system.
- Changes to the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target scheme, incorporating project-based assessments.
- Electricity Network Tariff reform - NAGA has been meeting with electricity network businesses to discuss the new cost reflective tariffs being proposed with key messages to ensure no negative impacts on low income and solar households.

- Community Energy - NAGA working closely with the Victorian Community Solar Alliance has recently successfully advocated for changes to the Victorian energy licensing framework to remove barriers to community energy projects.
- Victorian Renewable Energy Roadmap - NAGA's submission advocated for a strong target of 50% by 2025, a transition plan away from fossil fuels, support for battery storage, and establishment of a forum for collaboration between local and state government in maximising the deployment of renewable energy
- Energy licensing framework reviews - NAGA made a detailed submission and engaged closely with state government on how to ensure retail licensing regulation facilitates and does not hinder new innovative energy business models in the electricity market. This is important for local councils wanting to develop new approaches to deploying renewable energy in their own buildings and with their communities.
- Energy procurement - NAGA made a submission on behalf of all the alliances to Procurement Australia on new criteria for selecting new energy contracts for local government for 2016-2018. Key points were around improved customer service, support for renewable energy, access to greenhouse and energy data, and ethical attributes.
- Victorian Climate Change Act - NAGA made a submission to the Victorian Climate Change Act review. Key advocacy points included a strengthening of the Act's mitigation focus, stronger targets and alignment with other government departments and support for local government.
- Environmental Upgrade Agreements - NAGA is developing an advocacy paper on Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA). EUAs fund environmental improvements on commercial properties, and involve a voluntary tripartite agreement between a building owner, a financier and the local government.
- Infrastructure Victoria's discussion paper for Victoria's 30-Year Strategy
- Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan

NAGA, along with the other greenhouse alliances, has also met with senior policy staff from Sustainability Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to advocate for a stronger role for local government working in partnership with the Victorian Government in responding to climate change.

Options for Consideration

Nil - this is an information report only

Financial and Resource Implications

The 2015 – 2017 NAGA MOU committed Council to an annual contribution of \$24,039 (GST inclusive) in the 2015/2016 financial year and \$24,761 (GST inclusive) in the 2016/2017 financial year. This membership fee is included in the Environment and Natural Resources operating budget. The MOU and annual membership commitment can be terminated by providing 21 days' notice.

Risk Management

NAGA includes risk management as a strategic consideration in development of projects.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

NAGA promotes and facilitates Councils, the community and business moving to a low carbon economy. NAGA is currently working with council on Environmental Upgrade Agreements and coffee machine timers to save power overnight.

Environmental Sustainability

Participation in NAGA complements and adds value to Darebin's leadership position on climate change action within our operations and the community. It is consistent with Council's climate change action plans.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

NAGA regional projects target low income and CALD communities across the northern region

Other

This is consistent with the Council Plan and 2016/2017 Council Budget.

Future Actions

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Memorandum of Understanding concludes in June 2017 and Council will consider a further report in April 2017 regarding subsequent agreements.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive Officer

Related Documents

- Council Minutes – 3 August 2015

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

6.3 AMENDMENT TO THE 2016/2017 FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE

Author: Management Accountant

Reviewed By: Acting Director Corporate Services

Report Background

This report seeks to amend the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule to update fees that were recorded incorrectly and to include fees that were omitted from the original fees and charges schedule to the Budget 2016/2017 in error.

Previous Council Resolution

On 27 June 2016 Council adopted the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule as part of the Budget 2016/2017.

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Open and Accountable Democracy

Summary

The 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule was prepared as part of the Budget 2016/2017, included in **Appendix A** - Fees and charges schedule. Subsequent to the adoption of the Budget 2016/2017 it was identified that some fees in Health Protection and Transport Management and Planning were omitted or incorrectly recorded.

Health Protection

Fees relating to the Public Health and Wellbeing Act (prescribed accommodation) were omitted in error and a new fee that has been introduced in the Budget 2016/2017 was recorded incorrectly. Other fees reported in the fees and charges schedule require amendments for rounding.

Transport Management and Planning

In line with the recent amendment to the Road Management Act, Council are now seeking to incorporate fees relating to road closures. These fees will replace the existing road closure permit fee listed in the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Amend the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule to include the following fees:
 - a. Public Health and Wellbeing Act (prescribed accommodation)
4-10 beds \$232.20

b.	Public Health and Wellbeing Act (prescribed accommodation)	
	11-15 beds	\$270.20
c.	Public Health and Wellbeing Act (prescribed accommodation)	
	16-20 beds	\$313.40
d.	Public Health and Wellbeing Act (prescribed accommodation)	
	over 20 beds	\$379.10
(2)	Amend the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule to update the fees which were recorded incorrectly:	
a.	Public Health and Wellbeing Act (Re-inspection fee):	
	repeated follow up of major non-compliance of	
	food businesses	\$204.45
(3)	Amend the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule to update the fees for rounding adjustments:	
a.	Premises inspection fee	\$204.45
b.	Food Act – Class 2 or 3 Temporary/mobile stall, Vehicle Premises (for 6 months operation)	\$323.65
c.	Public Health and Wellbeing Act Notification (once off registration) - Hairdressers only	\$207.45
(4)	Amend the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule to replace and include the following fees:	
a.	Road closure permit (traffic impact works)	
i.	Arterial road footpath	\$319.60
ii.	Non arterial road footpath	\$81.60
iii.	Non-state arterial road	\$586.15
iv.	Other road <50km/h	\$319.60
b.	Road closure permit (minor works)	
i.	Arterial road footpath	\$81.60
ii.	Non arterial road footpath	\$81.60
iii.	Non-state arterial road	\$126.50
iv.	Other road <50km/h	\$126.50

Introduction

The 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule was prepared as part of the Budget 2016/2017 and included in **Appendix A** - Fees and charges schedule.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Budget 2016/2017 it was identified that fees relating to Health Protection and Transport Management and Planning were either omitted, recorded incorrectly or needed to be revised due to statutory changes.

Issues and Discussion

Subsequent to the adoption of the Budget 2016/2017 it was identified that fees:

- Relating to the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act* (prescribed accommodation) were omitted in error from **Appendix A** – Fees and charges schedule.

- Relating to the *Food Act* (re- inspection fee - repeated follow up of major non-compliance) was recorded incorrectly at \$80p/h, however it should be charged on a per inspection basis of \$204.45 per inspection.
- Required rounding adjustments to the nearest 5 cents. The changes seek to update the fee based on rounding adjustments: (a) Premises inspection fee, (b) Food Act – Class 2 or 3 Temporary/mobile stall, Vehicle Premises (for 6 months operation) and (c) Public Health and Wellbeing Act Notification (once off registration) - Hairdressers only.
- Relating to road closure permits were not updated for the amendment made to the *Road Management Act*.

Options for Consideration

- Adopt the fees and charges without amendment. This is the recommended option.
- To not adopt the fees and charges. This option is not recommended.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Budget 2016/2017 includes income of approximately \$24,000 to be collected from the Public Health and Wellbeing Act (prescribed accommodation) fees and approximately \$1,600 to be collected from the Food Act re-inspection fee.

The revised fee structure for road closure permits is expected to generate approximately \$300,000 per annum in revenue which has not been fully included in the Budget 2016/2017. The new fee structure will require a more detailed review of plans which may have some staff resource implications.

Risk Management

The Budget 2016/2017 was prepared in the context of minimising and mitigating the risks associated with Council's delivery of services and infrastructure to the community.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

There are no factors in this report which impact upon economic development.

Environmental Sustainability

There are no factors in this report which impact upon environmental sustainability.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no factors in this report which impact on human rights, equity and inclusion.

Other

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

Future Actions

Following the inclusion of the fees omitted and the fees recorded incorrectly

- The Public Health and Wellbeing Act (prescribed accommodation) and Road Management Act fees will be added to the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule.
- The Reinspection fee amount for repeated follow up of major non-compliance of food businesses will be updated in the 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule.

- The rounding adjustments for the following fees will be updated in 2016/2017 fees and charges schedule (a) Premises inspection fee, (b) Food Act – Class 2 or 3 Temporary/mobile stall, Vehicle Premises (for 6 months operation) and (c) Public Health and Wellbeing Act Notification (once off registration)- Hairdressers only.

Consultation and Advocacy

Coordinator, Health and Urban Protection
Senior Coordinator, Transport

Related Documents

- Budget 2016/2017 – Appendix A | Fees and charges schedule
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act*
- *Food Act*
- *Road Management Act*
- Council Minutes – 27 June 2016

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

APPENDIX A



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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ACTION PLAN 2016 - 2020

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For more information contact:

Community Wellbeing

Community.Wellbeing@darebin.vic.gov.au

1. Acknowledgement of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional landowners and the historical and contemporary custodians of the land on which the City of Darebin and surrounding municipalities are located.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diversity of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, valuing the unique and important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations play in progressing reconciliation, respect and the building of mutual understanding across the City, amongst its people, and in the achievement of shared aspirations. Council also recognises and pays tribute to, and celebrates, Darebin's long standing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

2. Mayor's Foreword

Darebin City Council is committed to reducing the level of food and nutrition insecurity across the municipality. This action plan focuses on Council role is addressing both short and long-term aspects of food and nutrition insecurity, tackling the diverse and complex issues surrounding access to food and nutrition.

The Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan 2016 – 2020 seeks to implement Objective 5.2 of the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 - 2017 “to promote food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin residents”. Darebin's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 has been developed on our understanding that people's health and wellbeing are influenced by the social, economic, cultural, built and natural conditions in which people are born, grow, learn, live, work and age. These are known as social determinants that can either strengthen or weaken our health and wellbeing.

Building on the Darebin City Council's previous Food Security Policy, the Action Plan will deliver food security and nutrition initiatives that support community groups at greatest risk of food insecurity, with a focus on food access and affordability, increasing nutritional knowledge and enhancing advocacy and integrated planning.

The 2016 -2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan complements the 2014-2018 Urban Food Production Strategy, which provides a comprehensive framework to guide and support food growing and preparation through local food responses. Together these action plans provide Council with a sound and holistic framework to address food insecurity and improve nutrition in our community.

I would like to thank all of the community members, community organisations, Darebin Emergency Relief Network and Council staff who participated in the community consultation process for the development of this action plan and look forward to working in collaboration with you and other stakeholders to implement the actions prioritised in the plan.

3. Introduction

As outlined in the 2013 – 2017 Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan, Goal Five, *Objective 5.2: To promote food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin people*, food security has been identified as a significant issue impacting the health and wellbeing outcomes of Darebin residents.

Council recognises that food insecurity and the demand for emergency relief are symptoms of underlying poverty and socioeconomic disadvantage, which significantly impacts an individual's physical and mental wellbeing and their overall quality of life.

Working under the framework of the 2013 – 2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan and building on the previous Policy, the 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan reflects the progress made by Council and community and the current needs and opportunities in the Darebin community. The Action Plan acknowledges the complexity of food security and the significant impact it has on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Further to this, the scope of the Action Plan has been extended to also consider nutritional needs in the Darebin community and the factors contributing to food insecurity that can also affect the nutritional quality of the diet.

The 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan recognises that the most effective role for local government is to coordinate the implementation of an integrated action plan that works in across the organisation and partnership with community organisations. The Action Plan works across the social, economic, natural and built environments, as well as the local service network to deliver a range of short, medium and long term initiatives to address food insecurity and improve nutritional outcomes.

While the Action Plan includes some universal approaches, it prioritises initiatives that emphasise equity, with a focus on groups and communities in Darebin at greater risk of experiencing food insecurity and poorer nutrition outcomes.

Using five guiding principles the action plan will deliver a range of initiatives under three objectives that will assist Council to reduce food insecurity and improve nutritional outcomes. The Goal of the Plan in to:

Increase food security and enhance nutrition outcomes for communities most at risk.

Objective 1: Increase food access and affordability for Darebin residents.

Objective 2: Increase nutrition awareness and improve food practices.

Objective 3: Advocate for responsive and integrated food security and nutrition policy at all levels of government.

The Action Plan will be implemented, monitored and reviewed between 2016 and 2020 against a set of outcomes based results. The overall action plan will be measured against three Key Performance Indicators that reflect the action plan goal and objectives.

Measure	Current	Target
Number of local businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food to food relief programs	Preston Market and Northland Shopping Centre are the biggest donors of surplus food to food relief programs through the partnership with SecondBite	15% increase in the number of businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food over the next four years
Number of services and organisations in Darebin which adopt food and nutrition guidelines or policies.	No existing measure	Council to support two organisations / services each year to develop and adopt food and nutrition guidelines

Measure	Current	Target
Number of submissions made to support community partners		
Number of Council strategies / plans that integrate food security and nutrition	Included in three plans	Increase the number of relevant polices which respond to food security and nutrition.

3.1 What is food security?

“Being able to have a basic well-balanced diet, doesn’t have to be luxuries but knowing you can buy fruits and veg, you can afford coffee,” (Female, Salvation Army, 9 July 2015)

At the most basic level, food is a necessity and a basic human right. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 25 states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves and of their family, including food.

Food security refers to the ability of individuals, households and communities to access an appropriate and nutritious food supply on a regular and reliable basis, and using socially acceptable means (i.e. without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing and other coping strategies). A further definition of food security is ‘the state in which all persons can obtain nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable, safe foods through non-emergency sources’ (VicHealth, 2005).

In addition affecting an individual’s ability to meet their nutritional needs for optimal physical health, food insecurity has also been linked with weight gain and lifestyle diseases. Further to this, consistently worrying about where the next meal will come from can lead to anxiety and over time can result in serious mental health and wellbeing outcomes can result (Weinreb et al. 2002; Stuff et al. 2004). Further to this, as food plays an important role in cultural expression and social inclusion, for people who experience food insecurity their experience of isolation and exclusion can be compounded.

3.2 Food Security policy and practise in Darebin

Council’s initial Food Security Policy (2010- 2015) outlined Council’s role and commitment to improving food security in the municipality and provided a framework to guide local level action. Over the period Council in partnership community organisations delivered a range of initiatives including:

- Establishment of partnership with SecondBite and local Darebin businesses to donate surplus produce, including Preston Market and businesses at Northland Shopping Centre.
- Supported the development of community food enterprises to collect surplus produce from private homes.
- Development of the Darebin Food Bank Hub in partnership with SecondBite and the Salvation Army which provides over 200kg of fresh produce to emergency relief agencies each week.

- Development of the 2014-2018 Urban Food Production Strategy and a permanent part time Urban Food Production Officer.
- Development of various social meals programs providing nutritious and free/low cost meals.
- Supported the development of four community gardens, including 2 in areas of high socioeconomic disadvantage.

During this time Council has also enhanced the integration of food security principles and strategies across our work in land use planning, transportation, economic development as well as environmental and social programs. Council has also worked to advocate at State and Federal level for improved policy development as well as on behalf of our local community organisations that provide essential support for residents experiencing food insecurity. Enhancing the integration of food security and nutrition into our own policies as well as advocacy for our community partners will continue to be key roles for Council.

In addition to providing access to free or low cost nutritious food, Council will also continue to support programs that incorporate a social aspect which has proven to support individual's sense of social inclusion and community connection and can provide a pathway to participation in other activities and programs.

3.3 Prevalence and patterns in Darebin

The Action plan is informed by a 2015 food security and nutrition survey of 424 Darebin residents and an extensive consultation process, which was undertaken using Council's Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) and Community Engagement Plan. Over 160 people were consulted with through a variety of approaches.

In the past 12 months, 5.8% of households in Darebin reported running out of food and not having enough money to buy more (Darebin City Council 2014a), with this occurring from once every month to once a year. Comparatively, food insecurity was measured across Victoria as occurring at 4.6% (Victoria Department of Health 2013b). In addition to running out of food, 9.6% of Darebin residents reported worrying about running out of food without having money to buy more at least once in the past 12 months (Darebin City Council 2015a).

This is a reduction from 2007, where 7.6% of people in Darebin had run out of food in the previous 12 months and could not afford to buy more. This reduction reflects the growing affluence across the municipality, with the city becoming less disadvantaged overall, however at a suburb or neighbourhood level persistent disadvantage still exists.

In East Preston 7.8% of households reported running out of food and not having enough money to buy more once or twice a month (Darebin City Council 2015a). Further to this, while less than 5% of respondents reported having accessed a form of emergency food aid program services at all in the last twelve months, 11.5% of households in East Reservoir reported that they had accessed food vouchers in the past 12 months.

While this provides an understanding of the nature of food insecurity in Darebin, this data does not take into account the issues surrounding nutrition. Even if people don't run out of food and can afford to buy food, what they consume may be nutritionally inappropriate and damaging to the long-term health and wellbeing of individuals.

Further details of the consultation process, findings and data relating to food insecurity in Darebin is outlined in Food Security and Nutrition in Darebin - Background Paper 2016.

3.4 Groups most impacted by food insecurity

While anyone can find themselves in a situation where they are unable to access food, particularly during hard economic times, for some sections of the community food insecurity is a chronic concern. There are a number of groups within Australia who are acknowledged as being at a higher risk of food and nutrition insecurity than others (Rosier, 2015) and many of these at-risk groups have above-average representation within Darebin (Department of Health and Human Services 2013). Population and consultation data suggest that the following groups are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity in the City of Darebin:

- Low income households including sole person, sole parent (of which 82.4% are women) and student households.
- People with low proficiency in English, particularly newly arrived migrants and refugees.
- People from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.
- Households in the Northern suburbs of Darebin.
- Frail older adults or people with a mental illness or disability who require support for meals.
- People in housing stress or homeless (Department of Health and Human Services 2013)
- Women experiencing or at risk of experiencing family violence.

Women are over represented within the groups identified as being at a higher risk of food and nutrition insecurity. For example, women make up 82.4% of sole parent households in Darebin and make up a larger proportion (1.6% more) of older people living in Darebin than men. Women are over represented in the individuals with less than \$400 income per week in Darebin, making up 59.2% (Women's Health In the North, 2015). In Darebin, women are 7.8% more likely than men to experience transport limitations which impacts on their ability to access food (Community Indicators Victoria, 2016).

People with disability are over represented in the groups of people identified above. People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, have poor-quality or insecure housing, low levels of workforce participation and education, and be socially excluded or marginalised; they may also face violence and discrimination related to their disability and have difficulty accessing appropriate health care (WHO & World Bank Group 2011). Women with disabilities experience significantly higher rates of violence and abuse and are one of the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups in Australia. These factors compound, placing people with disability – especially women with disability - at heightened risk food insecurity.

Council's consultation process demonstrated that people in Darebin who are at a higher risk or experience food and nutrition insecurity deal with these issues in a variety of ways, which has a significant impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.

3.5 Influencing Food and Nutrition Insecurity

The following factors are vital in influencing food access and security:

- Economic – having adequate income or resources to buy food or having affordable food outlets in the neighbourhood.
- Physical ability – having the ability to walk, drive and carry purchases home.

- Physical infrastructure – the availability of public transport or safe walkable routes to shops.
- Cultural relevance – availability of socially and culturally appropriate food.
- Geographical location – the availability of shops with a variety of socially and culturally appropriate food.

These factors reflect the broader social determinants of health and wellbeing. Council aims to influence these larger determinants at a systemic level through a range of policies across the portfolios of transport, economic development, health and wellbeing, social inclusion and strategic planning through a long term, preventative approach.

While Council must continue to take a long term preventative approach that addresses the underlying determinants of food insecurity, Council must also work in partnership with our partners to support residents who experience food insecurity to minimise the impact that this has on their ongoing health and wellbeing.

Low socio-economic status and poverty

The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of attributes including income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. Darebin has a SEIFA Disadvantage score of 990, ranking as the 39th most disadvantaged local government in Victoria. While Darebin has become less disadvantaged overall in the past 10 years, significant health and socioeconomic disparity between areas still remain, with some areas among the top 1% most disadvantaged of small areas in Victoria (ABS 2011).

Areas that have a low SEIFA index are characterised by a number of factors associated with a greater risk of experiencing nutrition insecurity and obesity, such as low income and unemployment. A recently commissioned report shows the risk of obesity is 20 to 40% higher in women who have low incomes and are experiencing food insecurity (VicHealth, 2005).

Cost

“Price of fruit, vegetable and staples always increase. If the government could monitor the price of all these healthy foods, no one will need help” (Female, Asylum seeker families, 4 September 2015)

The financial situation of some of Darebin’s most disadvantaged households is inadequately matched to the cost associated with eating a healthy diet (Kettings & Sinclair 2009). The consultation process regularly demonstrated that fast food outlets were often favoured as a cheap option, despite pre-prepared meals often being more expensive than a meal prepared at home. Individuals, for a number of reasons, would often consume fast food, even if it put further strain on their food budget. By creating urban environments that are conducive to fresh food outlets and provide a balance of food outlets, people are less likely to consume food that is more expensive and less nutritious than a home-made meal (Fraser et al. 2010).

Availability

The inability to easily access healthy, nutritious food may also make households within Darebin food and nutritionally insecure. Areas known as ‘food deserts’ exist when people live in places where fresh food is not easily accessible (United States Department of Agriculture 2015). As Darebin has the lowest rate of passenger vehicle ownership for any local government area in Victoria (Department of Health and Human Services 2013), the existence of food deserts can result in great difficulty accessing nutritious food.

Further to this, areas with a higher density of fast food outlets are often in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and have been shown to lead to a reduced fruit and vegetable intake, reduced choices for fresh foods and are linked to higher overweight and obesity rates (Fraser et al. 2010).

Obesity and food insecurity

The nutritional aspect of food security is often overlooked in favour of simply ensuring people are eating regular meals. However, an important part of food security is access to "nutritionally adequate and safe foods". Public health recommendations for an adult to eat five serves vegetables, as well as two serves of fruit per day are often not feasible for those who are low income earners.

According to responses from the 2015 Darebin Food and Nutrition Survey, approximately one-third of respondents consume one or two serves of vegetables per day and only 41.2% consume three to four serves per day. The overwhelming majority (96.6%) of respondent households reported that they consume at least one serve of fresh fruit per day. Half of the respondent households reported that they consume one or two serves of fruit per day, with 29.7% consuming between three and four serves per day.

Approximately one-third of respondents (37.8%) reported that they would like to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables. Of the 296 respondents reporting that they would like to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, a little more than half (53.0%) reported that the reasons for not eating more related to price, and almost one-third (29.7%) reported that the reason related to the poor quality of fruit and vegetables at their closest shop.

In addition to fruit and vegetable consumption, data from the 2015 Neighbourhood Wellbeing Indicators survey demonstrates that areas with a lower SEIFA index such as East Preston and East reservoir, have a significantly higher rate of daily soft drink consumption than the broader Darebin community and the Victorian average (Darebin City Council 2015).

4. Policy Context

4.1 Federal Government

There is an increasing recognition of the impact of food insecurity on the health and wellbeing of communities within the Federal context. The Department of Health and Ageing considers food security within the context of healthy eating and nutrition and acknowledges the high burden of preventable chronic disease caused by poor nutrition and the subsequent strain placed on the public health system. This framework however has a limited focus on addressing the broader social determinants which contribute to food insecurity.

4.2 State Government

The State Government recognises the vital role of the social determinants of health in addressing health promotion priorities. The Victorian Government's Food Interdepartmental objectives include, *competitive food business in domestic and international markets, healthier Victoria with obesity decreasing, vibrant food culture and connected community (including tourism), and safe, secure, sustainable and resilient food systems.*

Since 2001, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) has been a leader and key driver for funding local food security initiatives and advocating to the State and Federal governments. VicHealth has lead and funded a range of local government projects to strengthen and integrate planning and strategy development to address barriers to accessing affordable and nutritious food.

4.3 Darebin's local context

Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017

Food security and nutrition relates to three of the six strategic goals articulated in the 2013 - 2017 Council Plan including *Healthy and Connected Community, Sustainable and Resilient Neighbourhoods* and *Thriving Creative Culture*. The development, implementation and review of the Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan are identified as a priority action under Goal Two: Health and Connected Community.

Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

The 2013 – 2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan provides the overarching framework for this Action Plan in Goal Five, Objective 5.2: *To promote food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin people*. The Health and Wellbeing Plan is underpinned by the social determinants of health model, and recognises that the differences in community health and wellbeing outcomes across the municipality can be explained by differences in the social, economic, political, cultural, built and natural conditions in our lives.

Key priority action areas related to food security and nutrition identified in the Health and Wellbeing Plan that this Action plan will deliver include:

- supporting and integrating food security and healthy eating initiatives as part of existing social support programs, with a focus on Aboriginal people and newly arrived people, including refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.
- developing integrated and responsive programs which empower people to healthier food purchasing and preparation as part of neighbourhood development.
- supporting and advocating for increased community gardens in neighbourhoods where there is significant social and economic disadvantage both for local fresh food production and to integrate intergenerational opportunities and involvement.

Urban Food Strategy 2014-2018

Food security and nutrition strongly aligns with and complements the Urban Food Strategy 2014-2018, which aims to guide and support food growing and preparation through local food responses. These initiatives aim to enhance health, wellbeing and community connectedness, improve the environment and regenerate natural resources. To compliment rather than duplicate the work of the Urban Food production Strategy, this Action Plan focuses mostly on addressing the determinants in the social and economic environments which contribute to food insecurity, rather than the production of food.

Darebin Housing Strategy 2013 – 2033

The 2013 – 2033 Housing Strategy aims to create a fair, liveable and sustainable community for Darebin. The Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is supported by Goal Three: *Address housing affordability and social housing needs*, which recognises that affordable housing is fundamental to our wellbeing, standard of living and quality of life.

Additional strategies and plans that support food security and nutrition across Darebin

Food security and nutrition is supported by key actions across the following plans and strategies, through addressing a number of other aspects relevant to food and nutrition security:

- Going Places: Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027
- Darebin Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021
- Darebin Waste and Litter Strategy 2015-2025
- Darebin City Council Whole of Water Cycle Management Strategy 2015-2025
- Darebin Economic Land Use Strategy
- Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013-2018
- Darebin Early Years Strategy 2011-2021
- Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan 2015-2019

5. Best Practice and Guiding Principles

The Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is based on the following best practice and guiding principles:

- Access to adequate and nutritious food is a fundamental human right as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948.
- Action must be equity focused and recognise the social gradient of food insecurity. A focus on inequalities and those who are most vulnerable should be maintained to ensure that equity of access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food is achieved.
- Focus on the prevention of ill health and diet-related disease by targeting protective health factors associated with healthy eating and nutritional intake.
- Promote environmental sustainability through localised food production, sustainable food choices and food waste management strategies to support the future food security of the municipality against the impacts of broader factors such as climate change and peak oil.
- Develop partnerships at all levels to recognise the broad intersectoral context for food insecurity prevention and management. All levels of government must work with various sectors to influence the social, economic and environmental factors that determine food insecurity.
- Work from an evidence-based approach to ensure program planning and evaluation is informed by research and local information. Research, monitoring, evaluation are essential components that will underpin food insecurity and nutrition initiatives.

6. Goal, objectives and actions

The goal of the City of Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is:

To increase food security and enhance nutrition outcomes for communities most at risk.

The Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan focuses on three objectives aimed at making a short and long-term impact on the way residents of Darebin access and consume nutritionally adequate food.

Objective 1: Increase food access and affordability for Darebin residents.

Objective 2: Increase nutrition awareness and improve food practices.

Objective 3: Advocate for responsive and integrated food security and nutrition policy at all levels of government.

“It’s about life skills. The more life skills you have the more you are able to integrate them into improving your life and helping you through difficult times” (Male, DIVRS, 10 August 2015

Objective 1: Increase food access and affordability for Darebin residents

Action	Lead department and partners	Output	Resources required	Timeline
1.1 Continue to update and redistribute the Financial Assistance & Food Vouchers Guide & Budget Bites Guide	Community Wellbeing	Review the Guide yearly and make updates as needed	Within existing staff resources	Annually
		Review Budget Bites every two years and make updates as needed		
1.2 Continue to support and resource the Darebin Food Hub Network	Community Wellbeing	Increased number of agencies and groups linked into the Darebin Food Hub	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing
		Increased quantities of food redistributed to community members in need		
1.3 Identify transportation planning opportunities to improve access to shops and food outlets	Transport Management Team Community Wellbeing	Actions identified to support user friendly public transport and walkable neighbourhoods	As per resources allocated in existing strategies and plans	Ongoing
1.4 Continue to implement the 2014-2018 Urban Food Strategy and Action Plan and strengthen links between local food production and access.	Environment and Natural Resources	Improved, accessible and sustainable Urban Food Systems	As per resources allocated and sought in strategy	Year 1 & 2
1.5 Identify and map the distribution of fast food and fresh food outlets in Darebin	Community Wellbeing	Production of a map outlining location and nature of food outlets in Darebin	Within existing staff resources	Year 1 & 2

1.6 Identify food deserts and areas with ratios that favour fast food outlets over fresh food outlets	Community Wellbeing	Identification of areas with the most fast food outlets as a ratio to fresh food outlets	Within existing staff resources	Year 1 & 2
1.7 Continue to support and promote community based meals programs that provide free or low cost and social meals	Community Wellbeing	Increase in the number of community food enterprises	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing
1.8 Seek opportunities to work with food rescue organisations, local businesses and community food enterprises to redistribute food and minimise food waste	Community Wellbeing	Increased number of businesses including, shopping centres, fresh food markets, cafes, restaurants and receptions donating surplus food to Secondbite.	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing

Objective 2: Increase nutrition awareness and improve food practices

Action	Lead department and partners	Output	Resources required	Timeline
2.1 Provide training to key staff in agencies who service disadvantaged people to promote the key messages of food and nutrition guidelines.	Community wellbeing	Increased number of trained workers to deliver the training, including bi-cultural workers	Within existing staff resources	Year 1 & 2
		100% of agencies providing food relief attend the training		
2.2 Identify and support food support agencies to develop healthy food donation guidelines	Community wellbeing	Work with 2 agencies annually to develop health food guidelines	Within existing staff resources & financial resources.	Year 1 & 2
		Develop and implement plans to improve food donation quality		
2.3 Develop targeted education including self-help and peer education programs in primary schools to increase nutritional knowledge	Community Wellbeing	4 schools identified for pilot. 100% of pilot primary schools integrate healthy eating information.	Within existing staff resources	Year 2 & 3
2.4 Promote water as drink choice over soft drinks to staff, priority communities and a number of community settings	Community Wellbeing Leisure services	Social marketing campaign on drinking water delivered	Within existing staff resources	Year 1
2.5 Develop and implement a communication plan and social marketing campaign to promote healthy eating	Community Wellbeing Communications	Communication plan developed and delivered	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing

2.6 Provide training to early childhood centres and schools regarding the food and nutrition guidelines	Community Wellbeing	Childhood centres and schools report increased number of nutritious foods offered in childhoods centres and schools	Within existing staff resources	Year 1 & 2
2.7 Identify opportunities to support Early years and Schools to engage in healthy eating initiatives.	Community Wellbeing	2 sites selected each year	Within existing staff resources	Annually over 4 years
2.8 Support community initiatives that increase food literacy around food purchasing, preparation, and nutritious and sustainable food choices	Community Wellbeing	Increase in number of collaborative projects. Community members informed about and accessing resources and programs	Additional resources required	Ongoing
		Nutritional education in developed in relevant languages other than English		

Objective 3: Advocate for responsive and integrated food security and nutrition policy at all levels of government

Action	Lead department and partners	Output	Resources required	Timeline
3.1 Advocate and support our community partners to secure appropriate and stable funding.	Community Wellbeing	Ongoing advocacy provided in consultation with community partners.	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing
3.2 Advocate for food security and nutrition in the Victorian Planning Provisions	Community Wellbeing	Ongoing advocacy provided to the Victorian Planning Provisions that allow greater control over food and nutrition security-related developments	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing
3.3 Advocate for the development of a Victorian food security strategy.	Community Wellbeing	Ongoing advocacy provided to all tiers of government	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing
3.4 Adopt a consistent definition of 'food desert' and ensure inclusion and definition of this term within the Darebin Planning Scheme	Community Wellbeing	Definition of 'food desert' created and included within the Darebin Planning Scheme	As per resources allocated in existing strategies and plans	Ongoing
	Strategic Planning Environment and Natural Resources	Food deserts across the municipality become formally recognised		
3.5 Continue to strengthen the food and nutrition security measures of the Darebin Planning Scheme as redevelopments and rezoning occurs in the municipality	Strategic Planning Community Wellbeing	Implementation of food and nutrition security actions in the Reservoir structure Plan and Northland Residential Neighbourhood Precinct Structure Plan	As per resources allocated in existing strategies and plans	Ongoing
3.6 Continue to support community food security programs and initiatives	Community Wellbeing	Increased access to food relief programs by community	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing

through the Community Support Program		members in their local areas.		
3.7 Continue to convene the Darebin Emergency Relief Network	Community Wellbeing	Four meetings convened per year	Within existing staff resources	Ongoing
3.8 Continue to implement a Food and nutrition security survey to measure the scope of the issue in Darebin	Community Wellbeing	Consistent, comparable measurement of food and nutrition security causes, characteristics and outcomes	\$20,000 estimated cost. Additional resources required.	Year 1 & 2
		Survey implemented every three years		

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan will be implemented, monitored and reviewed against a set of outputs outlined in the action plan. The overall strategy is set against three Key Performance Indicators outlined below:

Measure	Current	Target
Number of local businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food to food relief programs	Preston Market and Northland Shopping Centre are the biggest donors of surplus food to food relief programs through the partnership with SecondBite	15% increase in the number of businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food over the next four years
Number of services and organisations in Darebin which adopt food and nutrition guidelines or policies.	No existing measure	Council to support two organisations / services each year to develop and adopt food and nutrition guidelines
Number of submissions made to support community partners	Included in three plans	Increase the number of relevant policies which respond to food security and nutrition.

The Darebin Emergency Relief Network will act as a reference group to guide Council in the implementation of the Action Plan.

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APPENDIX B



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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

BACKGROUND PAPER 2016

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1. What is food security and nutrition?

The term ‘food security and nutrition’ acknowledges the traditional understanding of food security, but places an emphasis on the fact that factors contributing to food insecurity can also affect the nutritional quality of the diet.

At the most basic level, food is a necessity and a basic human right. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 25 states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves and of their family, including food, including food.

Food security refers to the ability of individuals, households and communities to access an appropriate and nutritious food supply on a regular and reliable basis, and using socially acceptable means (i.e. without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing and other coping strategies). A further definition of food security is ‘the state in which all persons can obtain nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable, safe foods through non-emergency sources’ (VicHealth, 2005).

2. Groups most impacted by food insecurity

There are a number of groups of people within Australia who are acknowledged as being at an inherently higher risk of food insecurity than others (Rosier, 2015). Many of these at-risk groups have above-average representation within Darebin (Department of Health and Human Services 2013). While anyone can find themselves in a situation where they are unable to access food, particularly during times of economic stress, for some sections of the community, food insecurity is a chronic concern. Population and consultation data suggest that the following groups are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity in the City of Darebin:

- People from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds
- Low income families (and single parents with young dependent children)
- People who are unemployed or have limited formal education
- People with a disability, including mental illnesses
- Frail elderly people (particularly those who are socially isolated and have low incomes)
- People in housing stress or homeless
- Women
- Newly arrived, refugee and asylum seeker communities.

Table 1 highlights the groups of people in Darebin that are at an increased risk of food insecurity compared to the Victorian average (Department of Health and Human Services 2013).

Population Group	Darebin	Victorian Average
Unemployed	6.5%	5.8%
Families headed by one parent	16.1%	15.5%
Individuals with less than \$400 income per week	42.0%	39.9%
Affordable rental housing	2.8%	18.4%
Born in a non-English speaking country	31.3%	20.9%
Speak a language other than English at home	41.0%	24.2%

Population Group	Darebin	Victorian Average
Individuals in need of assistance for core activities	6.3%	5.0%
Dwellings with no motor vehicle	15.1%	8.7%

Some people experience multiple risk factors, therefore increasing their vulnerability to food insecurity. In some instances, food insecurity may further exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, such as social isolation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

More than 1,154 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in Darebin making up 0.9% of the total population (2011 Census). The City of Darebin has the second largest proportion of Aboriginal residents of the 31 municipalities in metropolitan Melbourne, and Darebin's indigenous community is among the largest in Victoria. Almost 20% of the Aboriginal people in Darebin are aged 0 - 8 years.

The prevalence of food insecurity in Indigenous communities is disproportionately high. Key factors that impact on the experience of food insecurity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are the disproportionately low household income, generational disadvantage, education and housing stress. In 2011, 33% of Darebin's Aboriginal residents aged 15+ had completed Year 12, compared to 52% of non-Aboriginal residents. Similarly, 16% of Darebin's Aboriginal residents aged 18+ had a bachelor or higher degree compared to 28% of non-Aboriginal Darebin residents. Across Darebin, 67% more of Aboriginal households were rented and 11% fewer were fully owned than non-Aboriginal households. Furthermore, 30% of Aboriginal people in Darebin lived in public housing. This rate was 7.0 times the proportion of other Darebin households in public housing (5%).

Low income families

There is a strong association between levels of disadvantage and the prevalence of food insecurity. In Darebin the number of low income households including sole person, sole parent (of which 82.4% are women) and student households (13,988, 2,537 and 11,311 people respectively).

One in four Darebin households earns less than \$600 per week compared to less than one in five households across metropolitan Melbourne (18%). While the socio-economic profile of Darebin is changing, with more residents earning higher incomes, a quarter of the population still experiences a level of high socio-economic disadvantage.

Table 2: Darebin median age and income (Census, 2011)

	<i>Census year</i>			
	2001	2006	2011	
Median age of persons	35	36	36	
Median total personal income (\$/weekly)	323	397	531	+64.4% since 2001
Median total family income (\$/weekly)	865	1,117	1,438	+66.24% since 2001
Median total household income (\$/weekly)	709	903	1,175	+65.73 since 2001

Unemployed

Overall Darebin is ranked the sixth most disadvantaged municipality in Melbourne according to the 2011 SEIFA index, which compares relative social and economic conditions across Australia. This index is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and other variables that reflect disadvantage. Food insecurity is visible in poorer health and wellbeing outcomes and lower levels of economic participation. People who are under employed or unemployed often have a limited or reduced income which reduces their ability to access, purchase and prepare healthy food.

People living with a mental illness or disability

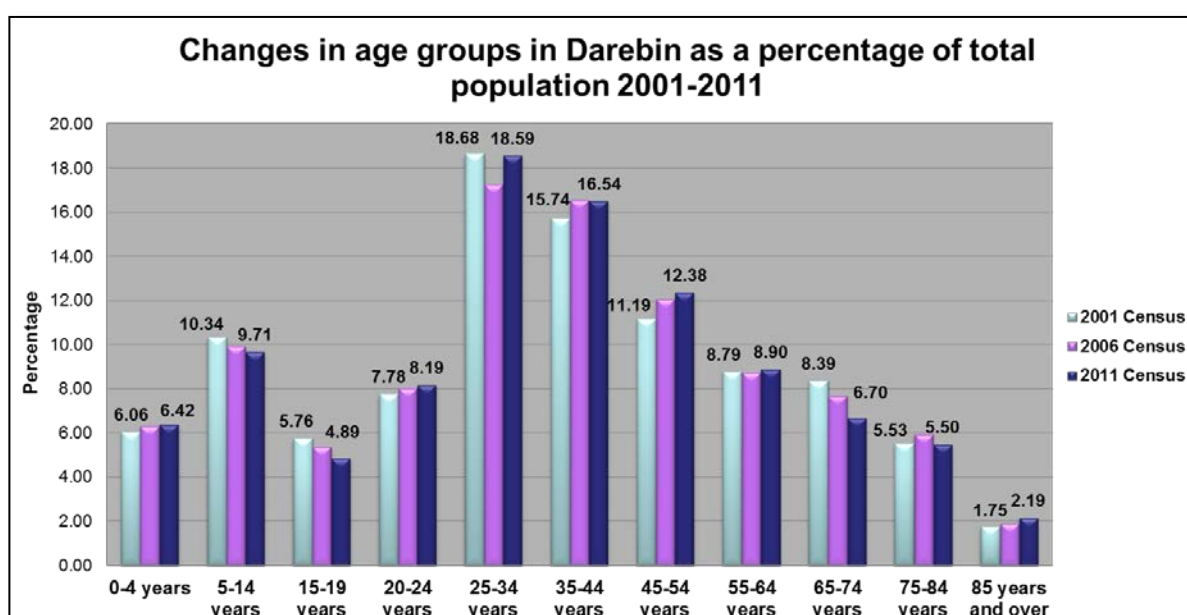
People with a disability have poorer health outcomes than the rest of the population due to lack of accessible services and financial means in which to afford higher levels of health care. In addition, women with a disability are more likely to experience family violence and for longer periods of time.

According to the 2011 ABS 7,101 people need assistance with core daily activities. More than one fifth of Darebin residents have a disability, making it over 25,000 Darebin residents living with a disability, including physical disabilities and medical conditions, psychological and intellectual conditions or learning disabilities. These residents include children, adolescents, adults and older people. Of all the people living with a disability, 29% have a profound/severe degree of restriction, 49% are estimated to require assistance with accommodation and support, and 32% are estimated to require assistance with transport. People with reduced mobility due to disability, illness or injury have an increased risk of food insecurity due to their difficulty in accessing food outlets, in carrying purchases home and in preparing food.

Older People

One fifth of Darebin's population is aged 60 years and over. This number is expected to continue to grow over the next two decades to make up one quarter of the population by 2031. Older people in the community have rates of clinical malnutrition of 5-11%. Risk factors closely linked to malnutrition in older people include social isolation, cost of living and health concerns such as teeth, mouth or swallowing problems; other conditions that might impact on the type or amount of food consumed; and difficulties accessing and preparing food (Leggo M et al. 2008).

Graph 1: Changes in age groups in Darebin as a percentage of total population 2001-2011



People in housing stress or homeless

Housing is fundamental to our standard of living and quality of life. Anyone can experience housing stress and insecurity; however individuals and families on low or moderate incomes are most vulnerable to this. In Darebin, approximately 4,700 people are in housing stress and 512 people experiencing homelessness (Department of Health and Human Services 2013). Without appropriate housing people are increased risk of food insecurity, physical and mental illness and social isolation. Children in homeless or transient housing situations are at particular risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Women

Women are often responsible for the purchasing and preparation of food in families. Women are over represented within the groups identified as being at a higher risk of food and nutrition insecurity. For example, women make up 82.4% of sole parent households in Darebin and make up a larger proportion (1.6% more) of older people living in Darebin than men. Women are over represented in the individuals with less than \$400 income per week in Darebin, making up 59.2% (Women's Health In the North, 2015). In Darebin, women are 7.8% more likely than men to experience transport limitations which impacts on their ability to access food (Community Indicators Victoria, 2016).

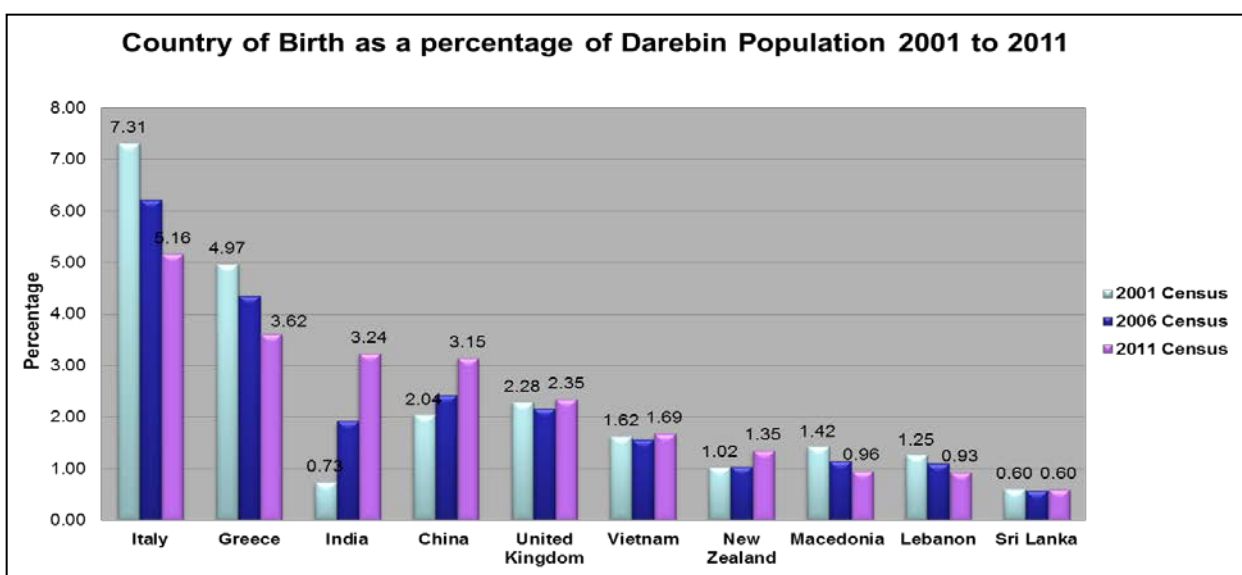
Women experiencing or at risk of experiencing family violence (1700 Police reported family violence incidents in 2015; women are 75% of these victims) are particularly vulnerable and at greater risk of experiencing food insecurity.

Newly arrived, refugee and asylum seeker communities

Darebin's diversity includes newly arrived, refugee and asylum seeking communities comprising resident and transient population groups accessing services, networks and resources within the city. In 2011, 46,082 people who were living in the City of Darebin were born overseas, and 26% arrived in Australia within 5 years prior to 2011. 10,697 people who were able to speak another language in reported difficulty speaking English.

Newly arrived, refugee and asylum seeker communities can face significant barriers when accessing mainstream services and programs and as such are at risk of exclusion. Due to these factors, in addition to a lack of culturally appropriate food in Australia, poor dietary acculturation and language barriers, people from newly arrived, refugee and asylum seeker communities are highly vulnerable to food insecurity (VicHealth 2005).

Graph 2: Country of Birth as a percentage of Darebin Population 2001 - 2011



3. Impact of Food Insecurity

In the past 12 months, 5.8% of households in Darebin reported running out of food and not having enough money to buy more (Darebin City Council 2014a). This issue occurred from anywhere between every month to once a year. Comparatively, food insecurity was measured across Victoria as occurring at 4.6% (Victoria Department of Health 2013b). While this provides an understanding of the acute issues that people in the municipality experience; this data does not take into account the issues surrounding nutrition. Food may be affordable, but it may be processed, nutritionally inappropriate and damaging to the long-term health and wellbeing of individuals.

Access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food is a basic human right (United Nations 2015). Absence of food and nutrition security in Darebin has resulted in social, mental and physical implications for some individuals and households. Not having enough food has serious health implications. Productivity at work or school may begin to noticeably decline and quality of life will decrease (Hamelin, Habicht & Beaudry 1999; Alaimo, Olson & Frongillo 2001). While acute issues of hunger are one physical symptom of serious food insecurity, weight gain and lifestyle diseases have also been associated with food insecurity.

According to responses from the 2015 Darebin Food and Nutrition Survey, approximately one-third of respondents consume one or two serves of vegetables per day and only 41.2% consume three to four serves per day. The overwhelming majority (96.6%) of respondent households reported that they consume at least one serve of fresh fruit per day. Half of the respondent households reported that they consume one or two serves of fruit per day, with 29.7% consuming between three and four serves per day.

Approximately one-third of respondents (37.8%) reported that they would like to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables. Of the 296 respondents reporting that they would like to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, a little more than half (53.0%) reported that the reasons for not eating more related to price, and almost one-third (29.7%) reported that the reason related to the poor quality of fruit and vegetables at their closest shop.

Issues of food insecurity may be partly responsible for some of the adverse health outcomes we see in the City of Darebin. 46.2% of Darebin residents are considered to be above a healthy weight (Victorian Department of Health 2013a) and the most disadvantaged groups are most likely to be obese (Burns 2004). Extra body fat can cause a range of adverse conditions, such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers, and can lead to premature death (World Health Organisation 2015).

Issues surrounding food security and nutrition can be both the cause and symptom of poor mental health outcomes. 9.6% of Darebin residents reported worrying about running out of food without having money to buy more in the past 12 months (Darebin City Council 2015a). Consistently worrying about where the next meal will come from, can lead to anxiety and feelings of inadequacy and over time can result in serious mental health and wellbeing outcomes can result (Weinreb et al. 2002; Stuff et al. 2004).

Darebin is a multicultural and diverse community, and food plays an important role in cultural expression and social inclusion. When an individual loses the ability to cook food that they or those around them enjoy, the social effects can be extreme. Food insecurity can often lead to isolation and push individuals to spend money on meals or items that they know are not financially preferable, but are required for social inclusion and interaction.

4. Policy Context

4.1 Federal Government

There is an increasing recognition of the impact of food insecurity on the health and wellbeing of communities within the Federal context. The Department of Health and Ageing considers food security within the context of healthy eating and nutrition and acknowledges the high burden of preventable chronic disease caused by poor nutrition and the subsequent strain placed on the public health system. This framework however has a limited focus on addressing the broader social determinants which contribute to food insecurity.

4.2 State Government

The State Government recognises the vital role of the social determinants of health in addressing health promotion priorities. The Victorian Government's Food Interdepartmental objectives include, *competitive food business in domestic and international markets, healthier Victoria with obesity decreasing, vibrant food culture and connected community (including tourism), and safe, secure, sustainable and resilient food systems.*

Since 2001, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) has been a leader and key driver for funding local food security initiatives and advocating to the State and Federal governments. VicHealth has lead and funded a range of local government projects to strengthen and integrate planning and strategy development to address barriers to accessing affordable and nutritious food.

4.3 Darebin's Local context

Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017

Food security and nutrition relates to three of the six strategic goals articulated in the 2013 - 2017 Council Plan including *Healthy and Connected Community, Sustainable and Resilient Neighbourhoods* and *Thriving Creative Culture*. The development, implementation and review of the Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan are identified as a priority action under Goal Two: Health and Connected Community.

Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

Food security and nutrition is strongly linked to the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017, objective 5.2: *To promote food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin people.* The Health and Wellbeing Plan is underpinned by a social determinants of health model, and recognises that the differences in community health and wellbeing outcomes across the municipality can be explained by differences in the social, economic, political, cultural, built and natural conditions in our lives.

Key priority action areas related to food security and nutrition identified in the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 include:

- supporting and integrating food security and healthy eating initiatives as part of existing social support programs, with a focus on Aboriginal people and newly arrived people, including refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.
- developing integrated and responsive programs which empower people to healthier food purchasing and preparation as part of neighbourhood development.
- supporting and advocating for increased community gardens in neighbourhoods where there is significant social and economic disadvantage both for local fresh food production and to integrate intergenerational opportunities and involvement.

Urban Food Strategy 2014-2018

Food security and nutrition strongly aligns with and complements the Urban Food Strategy 2014-2018, which aims to guide and support food growing and preparation through local food responses. These initiatives aim to enhance health, wellbeing and community connectedness, improve the environment and regenerate natural resources.

Darebin Housing Strategy 2013 – 2033

The 2013 – 2033 Housing Strategy aims to create a fair, liveable and sustainable community for Darebin. The Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is supported by Goal Three: *Address housing affordability and social housing needs*, which recognises that affordable housing is fundamental to our wellbeing, standard of living and quality of life.

4.4 Local Food Security Programs

Agency / Service	Services provided
All Saints Anglican Church	Food parcels (includes dry, cold & frozen foods)
Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service (DIVRS)	Limited foodbank parcels and fresh food (Monday, Tuesday and Friday) available daily (except Thursday). Emergency relief and urban food program.
Darebin Community Health	<p>FRESH program is a weekly social group for local isolated residents in public housing. The program has a focus on improving nutritional skills and knowledge through the weekly distribution of surplus fruit and vegetables, cooking demonstrations, information sessions and facilitated discussions.</p> <p>FoodShare is a weekly food distribution program run in partnership with Banyule Community Health for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. A bag of fruit and vegetables from Second Bite is packed by volunteers? And distribute to approximately 15 families. A roster of clinicians from DCH attends and there is a focus on preparation of a shred/snack or meal using the donated produce.</p>
Encompass Care	Emergency Food Crisis Centre open Tuesdays Community Café 10.30am - 12.30pm Wednesdays - Relief Centre 9:30am - 12.30pm
Northern Community Church of Christ	Lunch for \$4 donation on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 12.30pm
Preston Neighbourhood House and FareShare	Laneway Lunches every Friday 12pm - 1.30pm
Salvation Army Family Support Services	Food vouchers and food parcels

Agency / Service	Services provided
Span Community House	Community Lunch every second Wednesday of each month
St. Vincent de Paul Welfare Line	Shopping vouchers provided to people through conversation with them about what the support they need
The Arabic Baptist Church	Drop In Meal Centre on the last Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm
Work For The Soul Ltd	Food Parcels provided for concession card holders

5. Consultation

5.1 Methodology

The consultation process was undertaken using Darebin City Council's Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) and Community Engagement Plan. It included a 2015 food security and nutrition survey of 424 Darebin residents and consultation with more than 160 people and organisations through a variety of approaches. These approaches include:

Face-to-face interviews

A food security and nutrition survey was undertaken with 424 households across Darebin. A series of questions were asked to explore the following themes relating to food security:

- consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables
- consumption of soft drinks, alcohol, sweet bakery items and similar items such as ice cream
- reasons for food choices
- grocery shopping costs
- consumption of take away meals and snacks (including costs)
- food security experience, including use of food aid programs and emergency relief
- domestic food production including gardening and cooking

Community focus groups

15 focus groups were conducted with 160 community members to supplement the findings of the household food security and nutrition survey. People who participated in the focus groups were predominantly from the groups most impacted by food insecurity in Darebin (see section 2 of this document). Participants were asked a range of questions about insufficient food, difficulties in accessing and affording fresh fruit and vegetables, personal eating habits, food knowledge and overcoming these issues.

Stakeholder consultations

Consultation were held with 18 community organisations that provide a range of food security related services, including emergency relief, food education, urban agriculture aid, health promotion, counselling and social services. These include:

- Darebin Emergency Relief Network
- Darebin Health Reference Group

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- Women's Health In the North
 - Salvation Army
 - Darebin Community Health
 - Spectrum MRC
 - Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS)
 - Action on Disability Within Ethnic Communities (ADEC)
 - Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (PRACE)
 - Melbourne Polytechnic
 - Department of Health and Human Services resident groups
 - Darebin Sustainable Food Leaders Forum
 - Darebin Neighbourhood House Network
 - Victoria Aboriginal Health Service

Internal consultations

Internal consultations with departments from across Council were held in Knowledge Café or meeting formats to explore the role of local government in addressing food insecurity and mapping the breath of work already underway. Units from across Council that participated, include:

- Environment and Natural Resource
- Aged and Disability
- City Development
- Economic Development
- Transport Management
- Libraries, Learning and Youth
- Information Services
- Children Families and Community
- Corporate Governance & Performance

5.2 Consultation findings

The results of the consultation process identified that the social and health related impacts of food insecurity are prevalent in communities across Darebin. The experience of food insecurity has a high cost to individuals, families and the community as a whole in terms of poorer health and wellbeing outcomes. The following themes were consistent in the consultation findings and household surveys.

1. Income: Affordable food

The cost of healthy and good quality food was identified as one of the most significant barriers to food security. Low income, unemployment and housing stress were highlighted as key issues.

The inadequate amount of money that some individuals are able to devote to food each payment cycle means that many are accessing emergency food relief to supplement the meals that they cannot pay for themselves, a process that is shameful, embarrassing and often shrouded in issues of low self-esteem (Foodbank Australia 2014).

An inability to eat in a social setting with other people results in isolation and a lack of social connection. Residents of Darebin shared that they would sometimes spend money that they knew they shouldn't in order to be able to eat in a social setting, creating a strain on their food budget.

Household Survey findings:

Almost three-quarters (71.6%) of respondents reported that they believe their household's spending on food is about right. One-quarter (24.9%) of respondents considered that they spend more than they would prefer, and a small percentage of respondents (3.5%) considered that they spent less than they would prefer.

Respondents from Preston East were measurably more likely than average to consider that they spent too much on food. On the other hand, respondents from Reservoir East were less likely than average to consider they spent too much on food.

The majority (82.5%) of respondents reported that they "always have enough to eat and the kinds of food they want", and a further 16.4% reported that they "always have enough to eat but not always the kind of food they want". A total of just four respondents (1.1%) of the sample reported that they sometimes (0.6%) or often (0.5%) do not have enough to eat.

None of the respondents in Northcote, Thornbury, Kingsbury-Bundoora and Fairfield-Alphington reported experiencing not having enough food to eat. 1.9 % of respondents in Reservoir East reported that they often don't have enough to eat and 1.9% in Reservoir West, 2.3% in Preston East and 2.1% in Preston West reported that sometimes they don't have enough food to eat.

More than 90% of respondents reported that they never run out of food, are worried about whether their food would run out, or cut the size of meals due to a lack of money. These results closely mirror the results from the Darebin City Council – 2014 Household Survey which found that 5.7% of respondent households had "run out of food and not had enough money to buy more" at least once in the last twelve months.

2. Education: Increased knowledge (including cooking healthy food on a limited budget)

People from low income households with limited access to resources are seeking support from local agencies to increase their knowledge on how to cook healthy food on a small budget.

Focus groups and stakeholder consultations consistently identified that calorically dense yet nutritionally inadequate food such as bread, pasta and rice are commonly consumed by those who struggle financially, causing adverse physical and mental health outcomes.

Household Survey findings:

About one-third (136, 32.1%) of respondents reported that their household has changed the food they eat over the last three years. Of the 136 respondents, approximately three-quarters (76.5%) reported that their food had become more nutritious, compared to 2.3% reported that their food had become less nutritious. The three most common reasons for changing consumption of food were "to improve general health" (75.0%), "to lose weight" (25.0%) and "a greater interest in food" (16.9%).

3. Access: Local food that is fresh and culturally appropriate

Access to fresh and culturally appropriate food was highlighted as a key issue to food security. Residents from newly arrived communities find it difficult to access culturally appropriate food in Darebin. Safe and accessible transport was also identified as an issue to accessing fresh food.

Focus group findings consistently outlined that cost and physical access to fresh food were the most important factors for experiencing food security. However, resilience was also apparent as community groups described the ways in which they overcome issues affecting access to fresh and culturally appropriate food.

Household Survey findings:

61.8% of respondents reported that they grew at least one of the three types of foods including herbs, vegetables and fruit trees. Almost half (46.9%) reported that they grow herbs, a little more than one-third (37.5%) grow vegetables, and one-third (33.5%) grow fruit or fruit trees. Reservoir East had lower than average in growing all the three types of foods. Of the 162 respondents that reported that they do not grow any food at home:

- 36.4% reported that they don't have the time,
- 28.4% reported that they don't have enough space,
- 22.2% reported that they are not interested,
- 12.3% reported that they don't know how to
- 4.3% reported that they don't have the physical ability

4. Emergency food aid

Demand for food relief continues to rise in Darebin. Many of the agencies providing food relief are under-staffed and under-resourced. Council were identified as having a vital role in advocating food security and nutrition to all levels of government and the private sector.

Household Survey findings:

The most commonly used food aid programs by people experiencing food insecurity was food vouchers (4.3%), followed by food parcels (3.1%), soup kitchen (3.0%), free cooked meals (2.8%) and donated meals (2.5%). Respondents from Reservoir East were more likely than respondents in other precincts to have used food vouchers, donated meals and soup kitchens in the last 12 months. There was no variation across the municipality in the use of food parcels and free cooked meals in the last 12 months.

5. Themes for action

Local government was identified as having a vital coordination and advocacy role in addressing the impact of food insecurity and nutrition in Darebin. The role of the Darebin Emergency Relief Network was also identified as a vital component of addressing food insecurity. Findings from the consultation consistently identified that action to address food security and nutrition should focus on making a meaningful and long-term impact on way that residents of Darebin access and consume nutritionally adequate food. Themes for action include:

- Increasing food and nutrition access and affordability
- Increasing nutritional awareness and healthy food practices
- Advocacy and integrated of food security and nutrition policy all levels of government

6. Conclusion

Food security and nutrition is fundamental to creating better health and wellbeing outcomes across Darebin. Issues surrounding food insecurity are complex and experienced differently among different communities and population groups, and therefore responses require a combination of universal approaches that are relevant to the entire Darebin community, and initiatives that emphasise equity, with a focus on groups at-risk of food and nutrition insecurity. Local government has a vital role in coordinating and supporting these food security initiatives in partnership with community organisations.

The Darebin Emergency Relief Network provides a valuable forum, where representatives of various organisations can collaborate and strengthen partnerships. The Network allows facilitation of discussion, ideas and collaboration, knowledge transfer and is integral to local food security and nutrition responses.

The findings of the consultation highlighted the vital role of Council in addressing both short and long-term aspects of food and nutrition insecurity and tackling the diverse and complex issues surrounding access to food and nutrition.

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6.4 FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ACTION PLAN 2016-2020

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Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Darebin 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan (**Appendix A**) for consideration and feedback. Building on the previous Policy, the Action plan outlines the key actions Council will take to reduce food insecurity and improve nutritional outcomes for our community.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

Council Briefing – 22 August 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

- Goal 2 - Healthy and Connected Community
- 2013-2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan
- 2014-2018 Urban Food Production Strategy

Summary

As outlined in the 2013 – 2017 Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan, Goal Five, *Objective 5.2: To promote food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin people*, food security has been identified as a significant issue impacting the health and wellbeing of Darebin residents. Under the strategic framework of the Health and Wellbeing plan, the 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan outlines actions to address food insecurity with a focus on food access and affordability, increasing nutritional knowledge, enhancing advocacy and integrated planning.

Building on the 2010- 2015 Food Security Policy, the Action Plan reflects the current policy context and the advances Council has made over the past five years to respond to the current needs and issues in our community. Further to this the scope of the Action Plan has been extended to also consider nutritional needs in the Darebin community in addition to food security.

The Action Plan recognises that the most effective role for Local Government is to coordinate an integrated action plan that works in partnership with community organisations. The Plan uses five guiding principles to deliver a range of initiatives under three objectives reduce food insecurity and improve nutritional outcomes. Further to this, the Action Plan prioritises initiatives that emphasise equity, with a focus on groups at greater risk of food insecurity and experiencing poorer nutrition outcomes.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

Introduction

Council's first 2010-2015 Food Security Policy provided a framework to guide local level action under six guiding principles and the following five action areas:

- Advocacy for Food Security
- Planning a Sustainable and Accessible Urban Environment
- Partnerships and Knowledge Building
- Community Development around Healthy and Sustainable Food
- Leading by Example

Key achievements delivered as part of this Policy and implementation plan include:

- Establishment of partnership with SecondBite and local Darebin businesses to donate surplus produce, including Preston Market and businesses at Northland Shopping Centre.
- Development of the Darebin Food Bank Hub in partnership with SecondBite and the Salvation Army which provides over 200kg of fresh produce to emergency relief agencies each week.
- Development of the 2014-2018 Urban Food Production Strategy and a permanent part time Urban Food Production Officer.
- Increase in the number of community gardens, including two in areas of high disadvantage.
- Ongoing development of the Backyard Harvest Festival.
- An increase in the number of social meals programs.

While the principles and focus areas remain relevant and have been reflected in the new Plan, the scope and focus of the Action Plan has been updated to reflect the advancements made by Council in this time and the current needs of the Darebin community.

The 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan complements the 2014-2018 Urban Food Production Strategy, which provides a comprehensive framework to guide and support food growing and preparation through local food responses. Together these Plans provide Council with a holistic framework to address food insecurity, improve nutrition in our community and strengthen the connection between local food production and food security.

Issues and Discussion

Food Security and Nutrition in Darebin

Food security refers to the ability of individuals, households and communities to access an appropriate and nutritious food supply on a regular and reliable basis, and using socially acceptable means. Food insecurity and demand for emergency relief are symptoms of underlying poverty and socio-economic disadvantage, which significantly impacts physical and mental wellbeing.

A 2015 survey of 424 residents found that in the past 12 months, 5.8% of households in Darebin reported running out of food and not having enough money to buy more (Darebin City Council 2014). Comparatively, in Victoria only 4.6% of people experience food insecurity (Victoria Department of Health 2013).

Food insecurity may be partly responsible for some of the lifestyles diseases prevalent in Darebin. 46.2% of Darebin residents are considered to be above a healthy weight (Victorian Department of Health 2013) and the most disadvantaged groups are most likely to be obese (Burns 2004).

What causes food insecurity?

The following factors are vital in influencing food access and security:

- Economic – having adequate income to buy food or having affordable food outlets in the neighbourhood.
- Physical ability – to walk, drive and carry purchases home.
- Physical infrastructure – the availability of public transport or safe walkable routes.
- Cultural relevance – availability of socially and culturally appropriate food.
- Geographical location – the availability of shops with appropriate food.

These factors reflect the broader social determinants of health and wellbeing. Council will continue to take a long term preventative approach to address these determinants through a range of strategic policies across the portfolios of transport, economic development, health and wellbeing, social inclusion and strategic planning.

Who experiences food insecurity?

While anyone can experience food insecurity at some point, those who experience the highest rate and are at most at risk of persistent food insecurity in Darebin are:

- Low income households.
- People with low proficiency in English, particularly newly arrived migrants and refugees.
- People from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.
- Frail older adults or people with a mental illness or disability who require support for meals.
- People in housing stress or homeless.
- Women experiencing or at risk of experiencing family violence.

Many people in our community may be represented in several of these groups, compounding their experience. These groups form the focus of the initiatives outlined in the Action Plan.

Guiding Principles

The Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is based on the following best practice and guiding principles:

- **Access to adequate and nutritious food is a fundamental human right** as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948.
- **Action must be equity focused** and recognise the social gradient of food insecurity. A focus on inequalities and those who are most vulnerable should be maintained to ensure that equity of access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food is achieved.
- **Focus on the prevention of ill health and diet-related disease** by targeting protective health factors associated with healthy eating and nutritional intake.
- **Promote environmental sustainability** through localised food production, sustainable food choices and food waste management strategies to support the future food security of the municipality against the impacts of broader factors such as climate change and peak oil.
- **Develop partnerships** at all levels to recognise the broad intersectoral context for food insecurity prevention and management. All levels of government must work with various sectors to influence the social, economic and environmental factors that determine food insecurity.

- **Work from an evidence-based approach** to ensure program planning and evaluation is informed by research and local information. Research, monitoring, evaluation are essential components that will underpin food insecurity and nutrition initiatives.

Strategic Objectives

The Action Plan provides direction to Council on where to best place implementation effort over the short, medium and longer term.

The goal of the City of Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is:

To increase food security and enhance nutrition outcomes for communities most at risk.

The Action Plan focuses on three objectives that focus on making a meaningful short and long-term impact on the way that residents of Darebin access and consume nutritionally adequate food.

Objective 1: Increase food access and affordability for Darebin residents

Objective 2: Increase nutrition awareness and improve food practices

Objective 3: Advocate for responsive and integrated food security and nutrition policy at all levels of government

An accompanying Background Paper (**Appendix B**) provides in detail the community consultation process, key data about food and nutrition insecurity, major international, national and state policy developments, as well as Council's current food and nutrition security responses.

Evaluation and Coordination

The overall Food Security and Nutrition is set against three Key Performance Indicators that reflect the objectives and can accurately assess the effectiveness of Council's role and efforts to deliver these objectives.

Measure	Current	Target
Number of local businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food to food relief programs	Preston Market and Northland Shopping Centre are the biggest donors of surplus food to food relief programs through the partnership with SecondBite	15% increase in the number of businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food over the next four years
Number of services and organisations in Darebin which adopt food and nutrition guidelines or policies.	No existing measure	Council to support two organisations / services each year to develop and adopt food and nutrition guidelines
Number of submissions made to support community partners	Included in three plans	Increase the number of relevant policies which respond to food security and nutrition.

Individual actions will be implemented, monitored and reviewed against a set of outputs outlined in the action plan.

The Darebin Emergency Relief Network will act as a reference group to guide Council in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Stakeholder Review Period

The Action Plan was made available for community and stakeholder feedback for two weeks in July 2016. Five submissions were received and where relevant feedback has been incorporated into the Action Plan. Key changes that have been made based on this feedback include updating the KPIs to better reflect the overall goal and streamlining the objectives to better reflect the core issues for the Darebin community.

Options for Consideration

That Council endorse the 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan.

Financial and Resource Implications

\$10,253 is allocated in 2016/2017 operating budget to deliver the Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan. Where resources are not available internally, Council will seek external funds.

Risk Management

Risks associated with individuals actions outlines in the plan will be mitigated during the planning and implementation phase through the application of Council's Risk Management Framework.

Policy Implications**Economic Development**

Local businesses can support the provision of emergency relief through the provision of excess food and fresh produce. Further to this, increasing the number of community food enterprises will provide jobs, skill development and economic opportunities related to food.

Environmental Sustainability

The Action Plan aims to encourage sustainable food production and food choices to minimise the impact on the environment and to minimise future food insecurity. Food security and nutrition strongly aligns with and complements the Urban Food Strategy 2014-2018 and supports the Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan, the Community Climate Change Action Plan and the Transport Strategy.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan recognises that access to food is a basic human right aligns with and supports Council's commitments to human rights, social inclusion and community wellbeing, focusing on community members at greatest risk of food insecurity and poor nutritional outcomes.

Other

There are no other policy implications from this report.

Future Actions

If endorsed by Council:

- Implementation of the 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan.

Consultation and Advocacy

Using Council's Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) and Community Engagement Plan over 160 people and 18 community organisations were consulted with through a variety of approaches, with community voices reflected throughout the document. A full list of external groups consulted with is outline in the background paper.

Internal consultations took place with the following Council areas:

- Environment and Natural Resource
- Aged and Disability
- City Development
- Economic Development
- Transport Management
- Libraries, Learning and Youth
- Information Services
- Children Families and Community
- Corporate Governance and Performance

Related Documents

- Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan 2016-2020 (**Appendix A**)
- Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan 2016-2020 Background Paper (**Appendix B**)
- Darebin Food Security Policy 2010

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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.

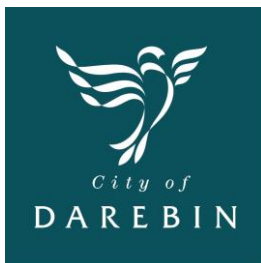
The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Economic Value and Social Benefit of the Arts & Creative Sector in the City of Darebin

Prepared for
City of Darebin
Date
17 August 2016



Geografia Pty Ltd



In 2016 Geografia was commissioned by the City of Darebin to undertake a study into the economic value and social benefit of the creative sector in Darebin. The aim was to provide a current-state picture of the arts, artists and creative industries sectors within the municipality. The study demonstrates that Darebin is a significant and valued home of choice for artists and creative industries, and provides a context for future arts planning and development to further develop a thriving and creative culture in Darebin. For more information about Darebin Arts, visit www.darebinarts.com.au, email DarebinArts@darebin.vic.gov.au or call 8470 8888.

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Executive Summary

- The Arts and Creative sector is a valuable part of the economies of developed, liveable cities, including Melbourne. It contributes to economic, social and community development; and this is in addition to the purely aesthetic value. It is, quite simply, a nation building activity.
- Local government has a recognised role in supporting arts and creative activity in the community.
- This report summarises the economic value and social benefits of the arts and creative sector in the City of Darebin, with a focus on the live music industry and on the Council's contribution. It is part of the City's ongoing effort to support and help develop arts and cultural activity in Darebin.
- There are 2,577 jobs in Darebin's Arts and Creative sector, which is 4.8% of the City's total. The sector's total (direct and indirect) contribution to GRP is \$436.2 million, or 7.5% of the City's GRP; with Council directly contributing around 1% of this (\$3.83 million). This makes the sector Darebin's 8th largest by GRP.
- The largest sector is fashion, employing 1,232 people and generating \$196m in GRP.
- The 317 workers and 771,461 patrons to the live music scene accounts for 6% of the sector's GRP, generating \$25.98m in GRP from \$32.48m in expenditure.
- There are also a range of other economic benefits that cannot be easily monetised. This includes the impact on gentrification and urban revitalisation; retail strip renewal; improved tourism brand value; health and wellbeing benefits reducing public health expenditure; and the economic benefits of clustering.
- Social values come from, firstly, the existence value of arts and creative activity (the satisfaction of 'knowing it is there'); to improved social connectedness, particularly for those at risk of isolation, such as the elderly; improved perceptions of safety; less anti-social behaviour; and opportunities for expressing self-identity.

Total Jobs
2,577
(4.8%)

Total GRP
\$436.2m
(7.5%)

Largest Sector
Fashion
(1,232/\$196M)

Council Contribution
\$4.83m

Council GRP Impact
\$3.83m
(+1%)

Council Supported Employment
45

Live Music Expenditure
\$32.48m

Live Music GRP
\$25.98m
(6%)

Live Music Employment
317



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1.0 Introduction

For some time now, the Arts and Creative sector has been recognised as a valuable part of the economies of developed, liveable cities, including Melbourne. It contributes to economic, social and community development; and this is in addition to the purely aesthetic value. It is, quite simply, a nation building activity. Moreover, local government has a recognised role, and relatively straightforward reason, for supporting arts and creative activity in the community. This report summarises the economic value and social benefits of the arts and creative sector in the City of Darebin, with a focus on the live music industry and on the Council's contribution. It is part of the City's ongoing effort to support and help develop arts and cultural activity in Darebin.

1.1 The Arts and Creative sector is nation building

The Arts and Creative sector is part of the knowledge economy; that part of the economy that employs a high proportion of skilled workers who translate their tacit and coded information into goods and services that are in demand; including designed products, experiences and works of art.

As part of the knowledge economy, the Arts and Creative sector thrives in an ecosystem with diverse inputs and density of activity. Not surprisingly, then, it is concentrated in inner urban areas, including the City of Darebin., which has a relatively dense urban form and a remarkably diverse community.

It is recognised that the sector is an increasingly important part of Australia's economy, particularly for 'liveable cities' such as Melbourne. Not only does it employ skilled workers, but it engages and attracts them from around the world.

It is nation building, as much as any airport or freeway as it:

- is a cost effective community development investment;
- employs people;
- connects communities; and
- adds intrinsic and extrinsic value to our daily lives.

Measuring the value of the Arts and Creative sector, then, merely confirms what we know: that it makes our cities more liveable and, in doing so, generates wealth for the long-term.



1.2 How long is a piece of string

Measuring something as complex as the arts and creative sector is a complex exercise in itself. There are several factors that have to be considered, which, together, put limits on how accurate we can be. It means we are always likely to under-estimate the value of the sector.

Firstly, as a public good, there are elements of value that cannot be quantified. For example, the 'expectation value' that assumes people may not attend a cultural activity, but gain personal satisfaction from knowing they live in a community where it is possible to do so. They can even gain personal wealth in the form of improved property prices¹.

Secondly, industry activities rarely pay attention to municipal boundaries, unlike the economic models we use to measure them. This means our municipal-scale measurements effectively 'cut off' the size and scope of industry sectors. This is even more challenging for the arts and creative sector, which is characterised by mobile activities (events), voluntary activity (amateur artists) and informal networks.

In fact, there is an extensive body of research on how to quantify the arts; the nature of 'value'; what should be included in the measurement; and even whether it should be done at all (that is, whether the intrinsic value of arts and culture should stand on its own merits).

There is value in carrying out the exercise, particularly when it is being done in support of public resource allocation decisions. For this study, Darebin economic measures have been used and no assumptions have been made about the applicability of these to arts and culture.

In relation to social value, this is, by its very nature, more intangible, and so, stakeholder consultation has been used to inform an assessment of the known social impact benefits that have accrued from arts and cultural activity.

Where possible, the economic and social values derived from Council and non-Council investment has been documented.

1.3 What defines the sector?

For the purposes of this study, the categorisation of arts and creative activity uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics satellite account categories to define the industry groups. These include an extensive list of ANZSIC categories, which can be found on the ABS website.

¹ A study into the economic value of proximity to arts venues in the City of Melbourne found that, amongst other things, there was still a 2% premium in land value 40 years after the establishment of an arts hub in the City (Geografia, 2012).



2.0 Economic Values

There are 2,577 jobs in Darebin's Arts and Creative sector, which is 4.8% of the City's total. The sector's total (direct and indirect) contribution to GRP is \$436.2 million, or 7.5% of the total for the City; with Council directly contributing around 1% of this (\$3.83 million). This makes the sector Darebin's 8th largest by GRP. The 317 workers and 771,461 patrons to the live music scene accounts for 6% of the sector's GRP.

2.1 An overview of the sector

- There are 2,577 jobs in Darebin's Arts and Creative sector. This has stimulated a further 1,429 jobs, for a total of 4,006. The sector's total value is \$436.2 million in GRP, making it the 8th largest industry in the City (Table 1).
- Live music attracts almost three quarters of a million patrons and directly employs 317 people.
- The music sector is worth around \$25.98 million in GRP, which is 6% of the sector's total.
- The Council's investment of around \$4.83 million generates \$3.83 million in GRP, which makes up around 1% of the total sectoral value.
- This investment directly and indirectly supports some 45 jobs.

Table 1 Summary of Economic Contribution of Arts & Creative Sector

	Direct	Flow on	Total
FTE job impact	2,577	1,429	4,006
GRP impact	\$258.2m	\$178.0m	\$436.2m
% of Darebin's GRP	4.4%	3.05%	7.5%
Live music job impact	220	97	317
Live music GRP impact	\$14.4m	\$11.6m	\$26m
Council job impact	30	15	45
Council GRP impact	\$2.05m	\$1.77m	\$3.83m

Source: Geografia 2016



2.2 A large workforce with flow-on effects

At 2,577 jobs (as at 2014), the Arts and Creative sector makes up 4.8% of all of the jobs in Darebin. Key features are:

- The sector indirectly supports a further 1,429 jobs for a total of 4,006;
- The largest employing sector is Fashion. Its 1,232 jobs make up nearly half of the sector; and
- This is followed by Performing Arts (15% of the industry or 388 jobs) and Visual Arts and Craft and Design (10% of the industry each).

While there are some key differences, the distribution of jobs within the sector in Darebin is similar to that of Australia². The differences amongst the larger subsectors are:

- the Performing Arts sector, which accounts for three times the share of total sectoral employment in Darebin, as it does in Australia (that is, 15% of Darebin Arts and Creative employment, compared with 5% nationally). This reflects the prominence of the local live music and festival scene;
- the Visual Arts and Crafts subsector, which is almost twice the share; and
- Music Composition and Publishing, which is 11 times the share.

Figure 1 shows the employment breakdown of the sector. This is compared with the national employment profile in the inner ring.

2.3 Work profile of artist and creative professionals

Given the prominence of the local arts and creative sector, we outline a brief occupational profile of artist and creative professionals in Darebin:

- A quarter of artists and creative professionals are employed as Journalists and Other Writers (26%), followed by Music Professionals (14%); Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors (12%). Although there is a larger proportion of visual arts and craft, and music professionals, the profile largely reflects the diversity of occupations seen in Melbourne.
- More than half are owners of unincorporated businesses, followed by 31% as employees not owning business, and the remaining 11% as owner-managers of incorporated enterprises.
- In line with profile seen in Greater Melbourne, half of artists and creative professionals are employed in full-time work, with the remaining half in part-time employment. ABS 2011 Census data shows that many are employed in industries outside the Arts and Creative sectors including, Professionals Services (16%); Education & Training (7%); and Information Media and Telecommunications (7%). The data shows Darebin's Arts and Creative sectors have the capacity to draw and expand the labour pool for industries

² X² tests were used to compare the distribution of employment and GRP by subsector for Darebin and Australia.



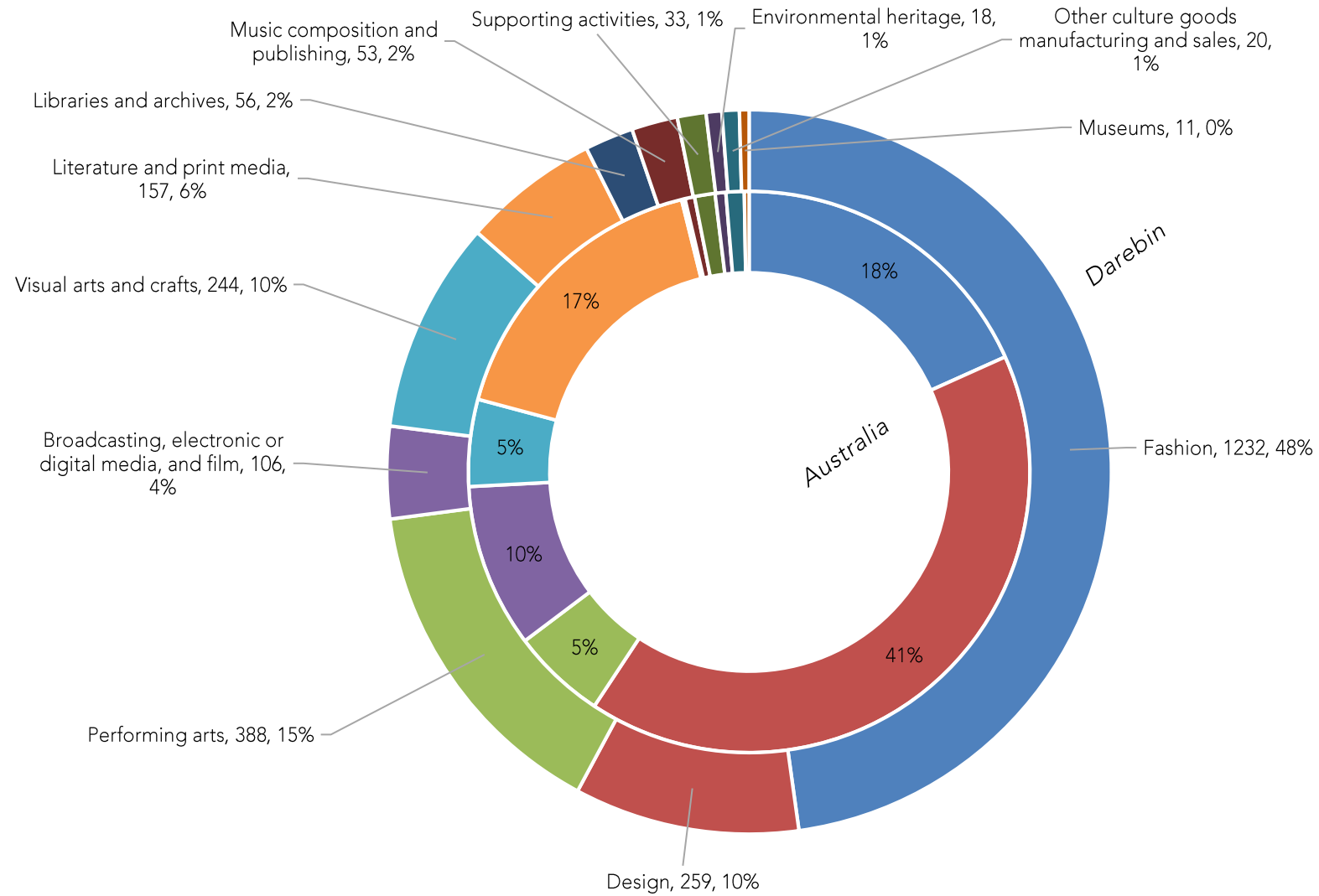
not-directly linked to arts and cultural activities.

The 2011 Census data also showcases that Darebin's artists and creative professionals are comparably younger to Melbourne's average. The data also shows that they are more likely to be of lower income compared to Melbourne's artist and creative professional community. The Census data suggests that Darebin is

more likely attract younger artists at the inception of their careers; this is unsurprising given the confluence of strategic factors that make Darebin unique for this segment including: affordability of rental housing options; its own thriving local arts scene; and its close proximity to the Melbourne CBD.



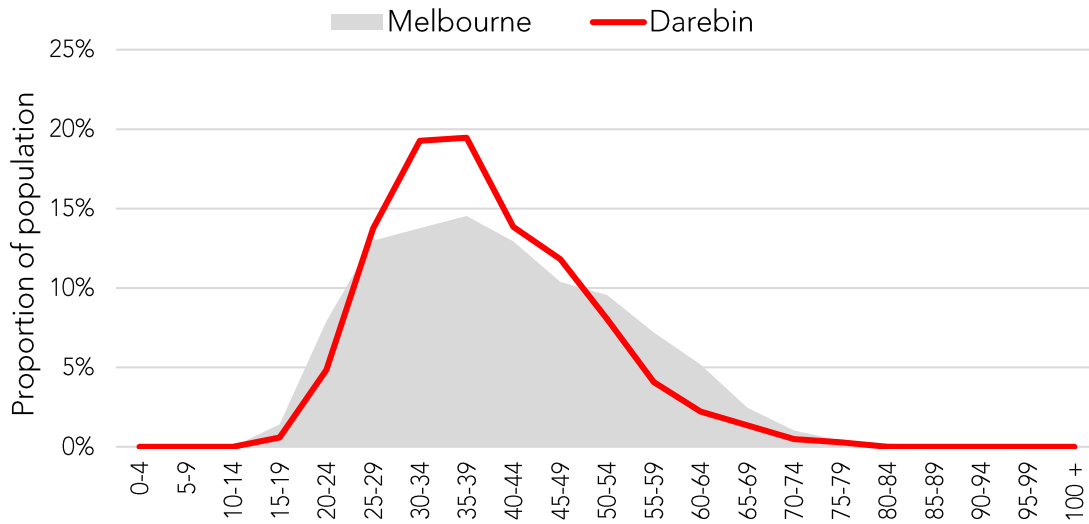
Figure 1 Arts & Creative Subsector Employment (2014)



Source: City of Darebin CLUE 2014 and Australian National Accounts 5271 ABS (2008-09)

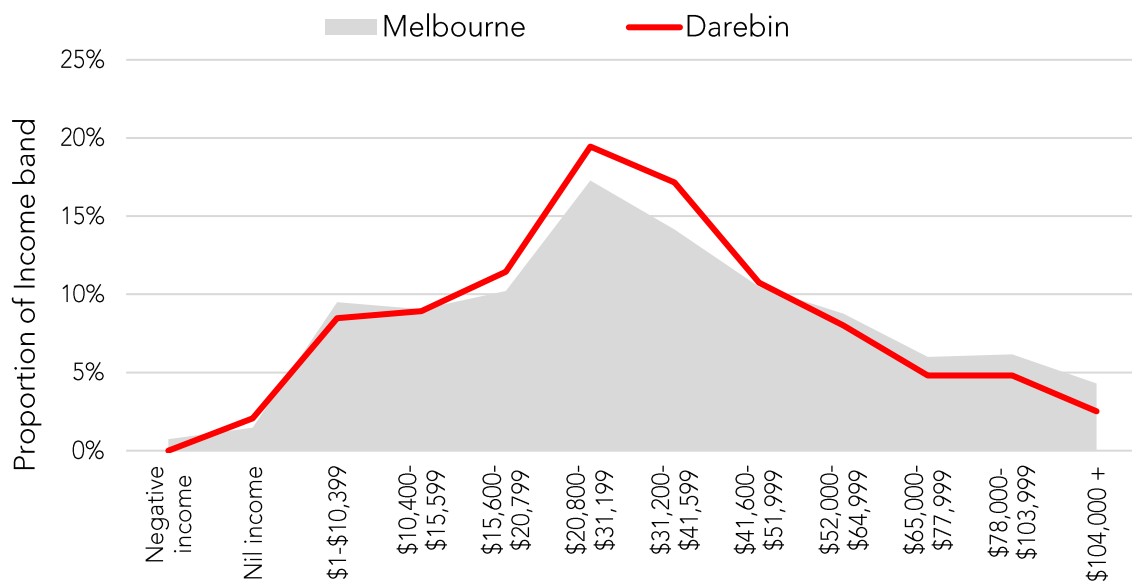


Figure 2 Age Profile of Creative Artists in Darebin



Source: ABS 2011 Census.

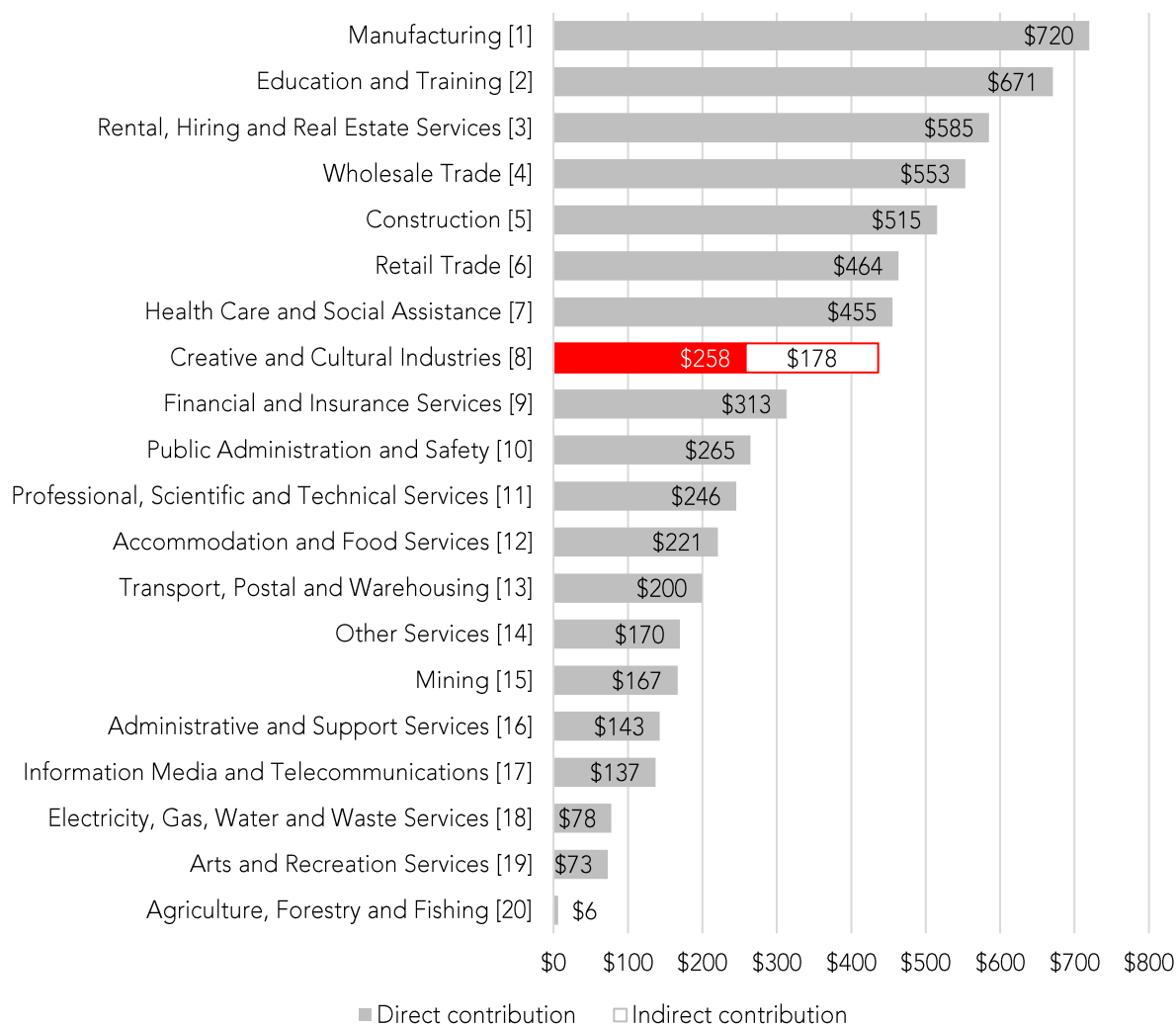
Figure 3 Income Profile of Creative Artists in Darebin



Source: ABS 2011 Census



Figure 4 All Industry Total GRP (\$m, 2014)



Source: Geografia 2016

2.4 Quarter of a billion in direct GRP

The arts and creative sector directly generates \$258.2 million in Gross Regional Product (GRP). An additional \$178 million is generated in flow-on effects, for a total of \$436.2 million in economic activity. Key indicators are:

- Arts and creative sector workers add value to the City's economy, in the order of 7.5% of total GRP; and
- Including the flow-on effects, the sector is the 8th largest industry sector in Darebin by GRP.
- Figure 5 shows the breakdown of total GRP contribution by sub-sector. By way of comparison, the national profile is shown in the inner ring.



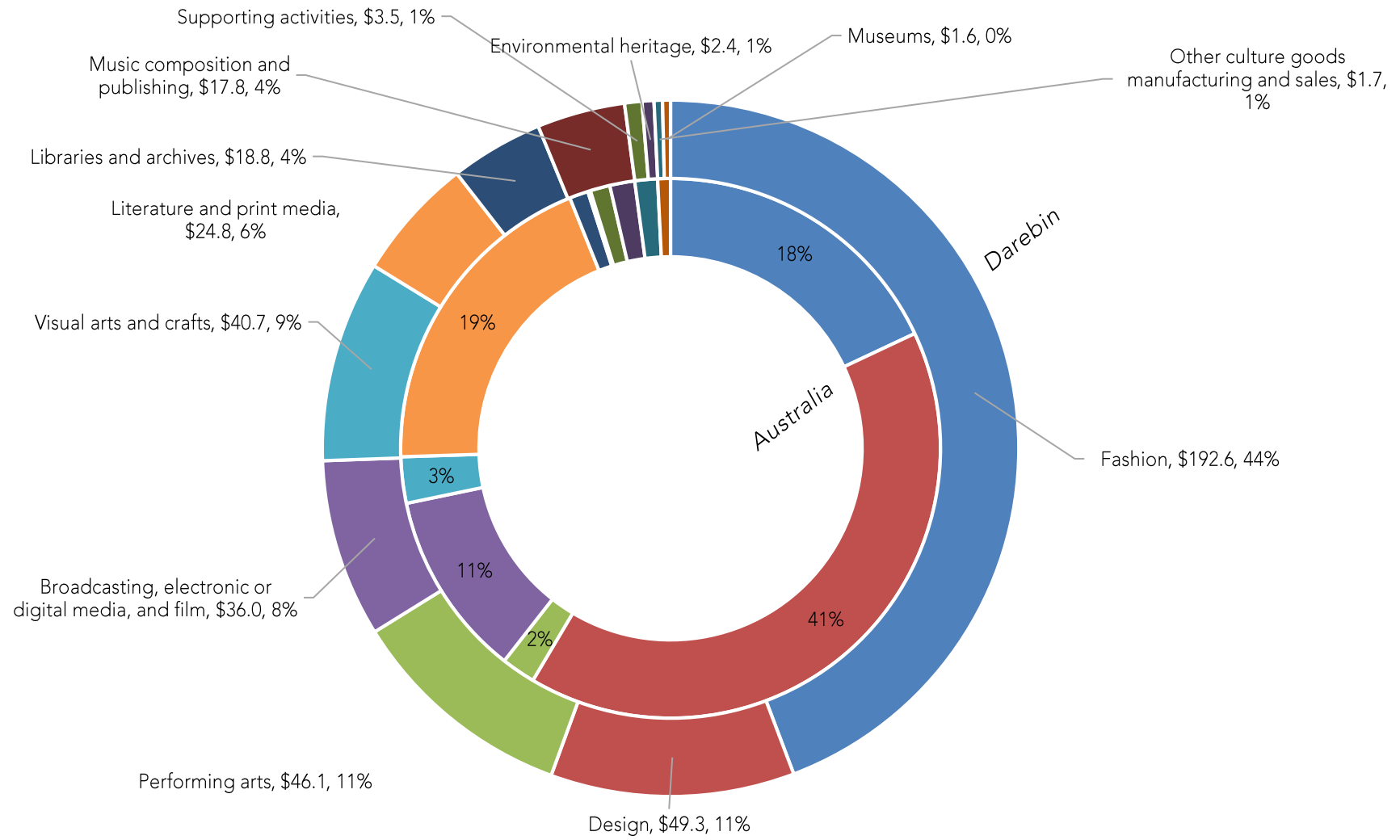
The largest sector by GRP is Fashion (44%). This is followed by Design (11.3%), Performing Arts (10.6%) and Visual Arts and Craft (9.3%). Combined, these four subsectors make up 75% of the GRP of the arts and creative sector.

2.5 High productivity sectors

Figure 6 compares the contribution to employment with contribution to GRP for each subsector (excluding Fashion). It highlights the high productivity sectors such as Broadcasting.



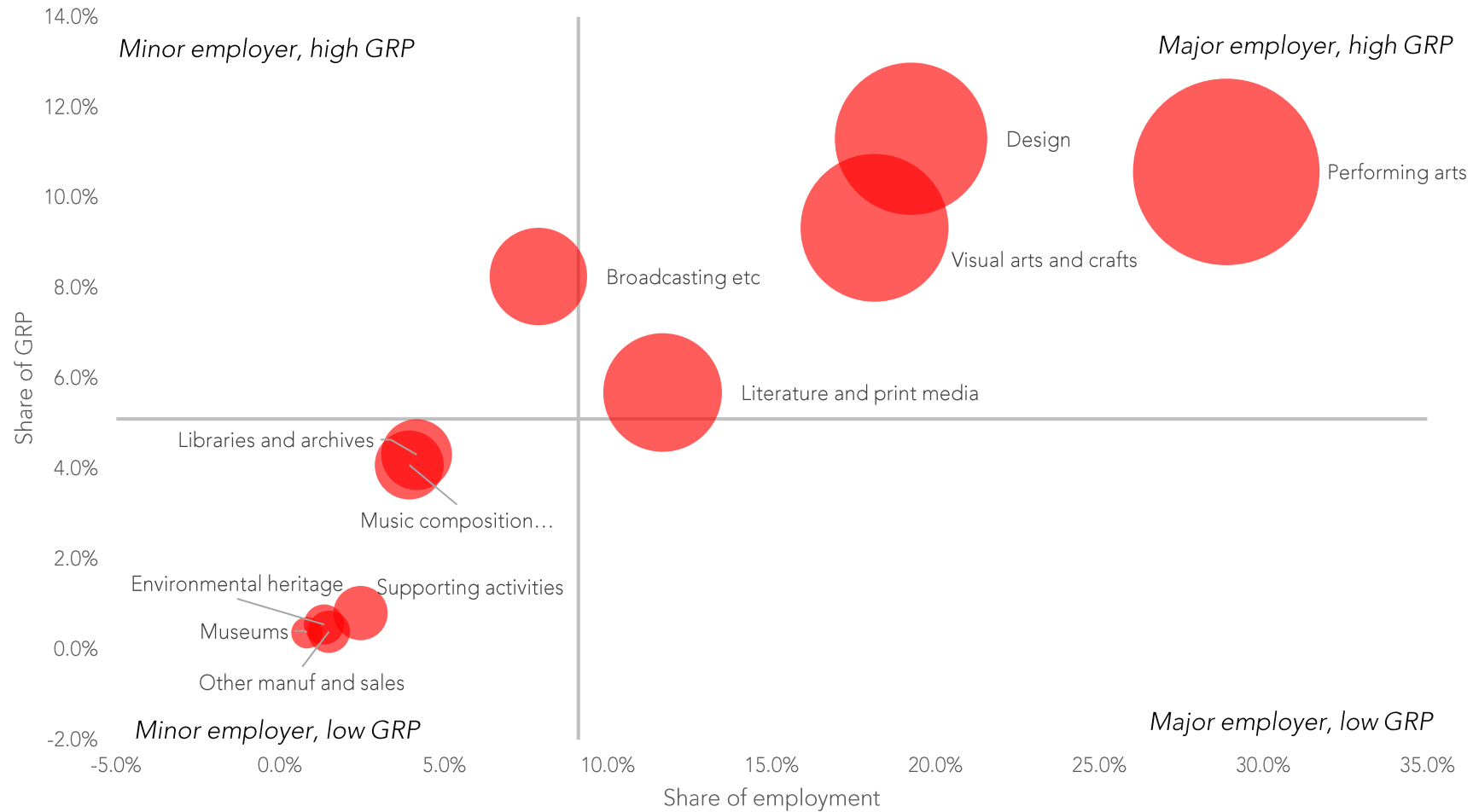
Figure 5 Arts & Creative Subsector Total GRP (\$m, 2014)



Source: Geografia 2016



Figure 6 Arts & Creative Subsector Employment and GRP



Quadrants are plotted at the average values; bubble size represents total employment. Upper left quadrant are high productivity sectors and lower right, are low productivity.
 Source: Geografia 2016



2.6 Three quarters of a million punters

Live music is estimated to have attracted 771,461 patrons to the City of Darebin in 2014.

This generated approximately \$32.5 million in patron expenditure, including door/entry ticket revenue and ancillary food and beverage spending.

Darebin's live music scene supported 317 FTE jobs in 2014 and an additional \$26 million to GRP.

If viewed as an industry sector, the GRP contribution of Darebin's live music scene would constitute 6% of the arts and creative sector's economic value (Table 2).

Table 2 Summary of Live Music Activity

Live Music Activity	Direct	Flow on	Total
Est. no. of patrons	-	-	771,461
Est. total expenditure	-	-	\$32,479,713
FTE job impact	220	97	317
GRP impact	\$14.4m	\$11.6m	\$26m
% of GRP	0.24%		0.43%

Source: Geografia 2016 estimates, using Victorian Live Music Census (NMIT, 2012) and Council data

2.7 Council contribution to the sector

The Council contribution to the sector is by way of two primary channels:

1. The provision/ownership and/or management of venues (specifically, the Northcote Town Hall, Bundoora Homestead, and Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre).
2. The operation of various arts initiatives, grants, festival and events.

This activity then attracts around 308,000 visitors to various venues and events, of

whom, at least 76,394 are visitors to Darebin (i.e. non-residents), thereby increasing expenditure in the municipality.

Total expenditure stimulated by Council investment is \$4.83 million. This includes \$3.8 million in direct expenditure from Council and \$1.45 million in induced expenditure by visitors. These are considered conservative estimates.

The Council's activities and investments generate direct and flow-on jobs and GRP (Table 4).



Table 3 Summary of Council Contribution to Visitor Economy

Council Contribution

Direct expenditure by Council	\$3.38m+
<i>No. of visitor patrons³</i>	<i>76,394+</i>
<i>Induced expenditure by visitors and patrons</i>	<i>\$1.45m+</i>
Est. Total expenditure from Council activity	\$4.83m+

Source: Geografia 2016 estimates, using Council data

Table 4 Summary of Council Contribution to Jobs and GRP

	FTE Job Impact	GRP Impact	% of GRP
Direct	30	\$2.05m+	0.03%+
Flow-on	15	\$1.77m+	
Total	45	\$3.83m+	0.06%+

³ Excluding the estimated 231,497 of local Darebin resident patrons.



2.8 Other economic benefits

There are several other benefits that the sector brings to Darebin. While these cannot be readily quantified without extensive primary data collection and analysis, they do need to be acknowledged and, in sum, are likely to amount to as much as, if not more than, the net benefits outlined earlier.

These benefits are:

- The **gentrification and urban revitalisation** of streetscapes and areas in the City. As with other cities around the world, arts and creative activities have resulted in the improvement in the built environment in many parts of our City. This includes raising the profile and attractiveness of Darebin as a place to visit and live;
- In so doing, arts and creative activities have promoted **retail revitalisation** and main street renewal through attracting new patrons and businesses to the City. Improvement in business activity directly benefits Council through increases in rates revenues;
- Arts and creative activities stimulates a unique **tourism brand value** for Darebin. The visitor market is quite competitive. This is particularly the case within the metropolitan area, as there is very little room for product differentiation. Darebin is fortunate as it has an increasingly strong brand as a music event destination. It has also more recently elevated itself as a unique food and dining destination through places like the Welcome to Thornbury;
- There are notable **health and wellbeing benefits** from increased participation in artistic and cultural activities. Although this is elaborated on in the social benefits section, improvements to population health are also strongly tied with economic benefits: including improvements in labour force participation and income generating activities; and also reduction in public health costs; and
- The confluence of arts activity has also resulted in **clustering effects**, where anchor venues and institutions can provide a strong 'draw factor' attracting new residents and business investors who are seeking complementary activities. Greater knowledge intensity is associated with higher levels of productivity due to **increased business/creative collaboration and 'knowledge spillover'** within these clusters. Consequently, it is reasonable to assume that the clustering is resulting in both a direct and indirect increase in value-generating activities.

Figure 7 and Figure 10 provide a clear depiction of the two most notable clusters in Darebin. They show the location of complementary businesses in the creative arts and music, illustrating the cluster effect around Darebin's prominent arts and music venues.



Figure 7 Creative Artists and Arts Venues

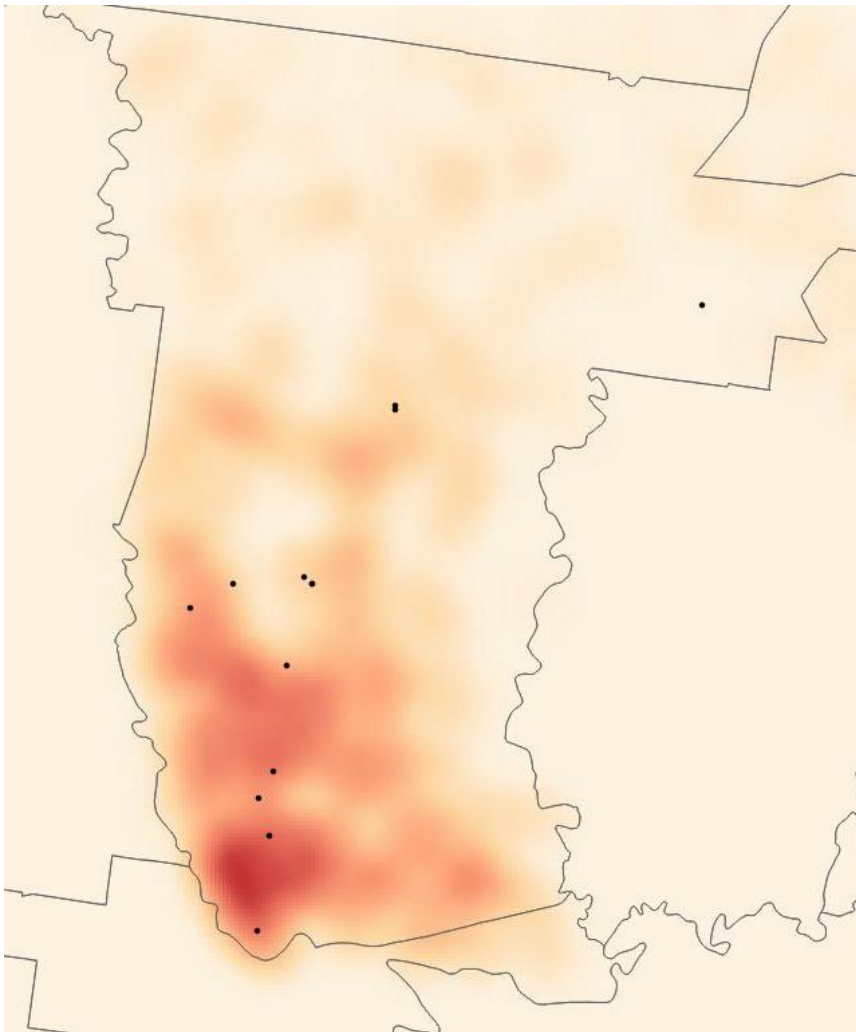
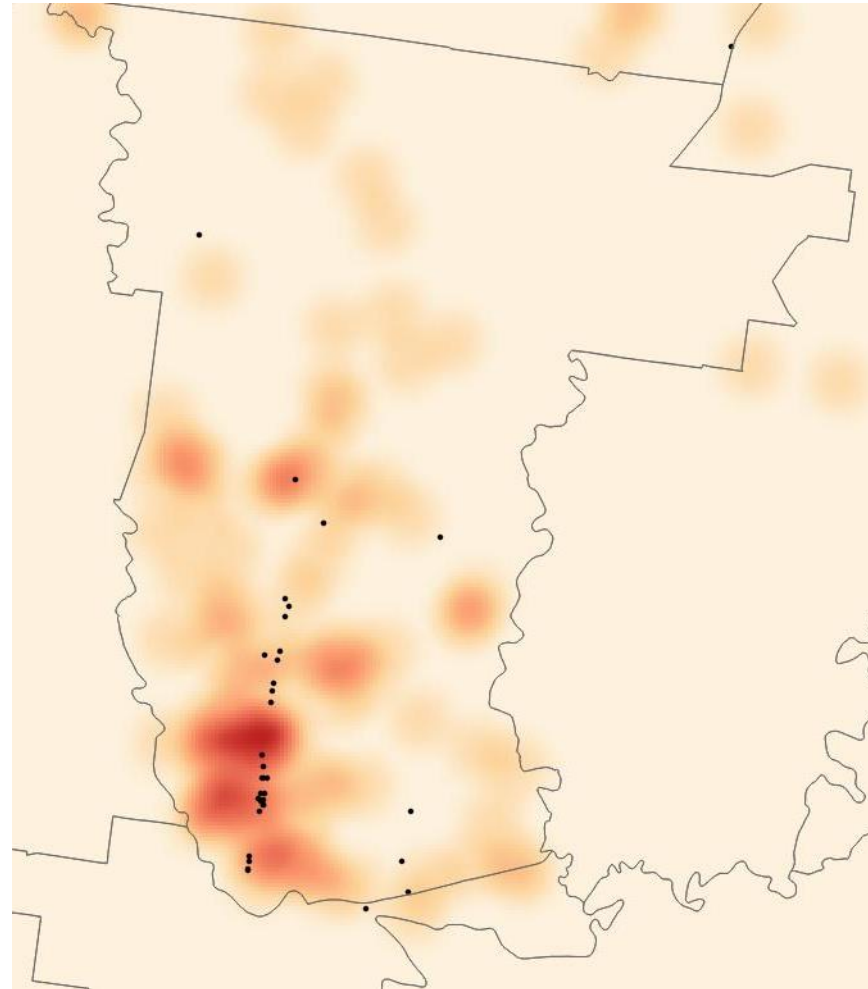


Figure 8 Music Composition & Publishing Professionals and Music Venues



Source: Darebin City Council, 2016. Maps prepared Geografia (2016)



3 Social Values

Community wide benefits extend from the satisfaction of knowing arts and creative activities occur in Darebin (within necessarily needing to attend them), to better health and wellbeing outcomes. Focus group discussions highlighted how social value was generated by arts and Creative activity in Darebin.

3.1 Diverse social benefits

The social values of arts and creative activities, particularly those derived from Council efforts, are in addition to the direct recreation and entertainment benefits experienced by patrons, visitors and residents. In fact, the latter can largely be measured in economic terms (e.g. captured through the admission payments that patrons choose to make, and additional sales made as a result of patronage to these activities).

Here we consider all of the other social benefits related to arts and creative activities. The focus is on societal and community level impacts, rather than personal benefits. The key social benefits are:

- The existence value of the sector (i.e. 'it's good to know it's there');
- Better connectedness and, consequently, improved mental wellbeing;
- Improved perceptions of safety;
- Reduced anti-social behaviour; and
- Self-identity.

High existence value and improved liveability

Although it is acknowledged that a large majority of residents do not directly participate in arts activities, there is nevertheless a high existence value placed on it in Darebin. Existence value is defined as utility is derived from simply knowing a resource exists, over and above its commercial value. Although normally applied to natural and environmental resources, it is equally applicable to arts and creative activities.

In Darebin's case, communities place a high existence value on knowing that arts and creative activities are taking place nearby. A survey conducted by Arts Victoria (2008) showed that existence value is very much apparent amongst the Victorian public, with 95% of respondents positively supporting the existence value of arts.

Consultation for this study revealed existence value is very real and apparent, especially amongst those who have made a decision to relocate to Darebin for the 'colour and vibrancy' of the area. Although they may not attend or consume arts and



culture directly, the availability of the programs increases the vibrancy and activity, and promotes a greater level of perceived liveability in the City.

Connectedness and mental well being

Arts and creative activities create a strong foundation for community building in Darebin. Events, especially those with free public access supported by Council, provide opportunities for families to spend time together. They are also occasions for socially isolated residents to feel more a part of the community.

From a population health perspective, these and other programs play a crucial role in minimising social isolation and improving connectedness; these are found to be strongly related with improved mental health outcomes, and even a reduction in self-harming behaviours (AIHW, 2014).

Consultant participants cited two examples of Darebin events that create this social value: 1) The Darebin Kite Festival; and 2) the Salami Festival.

In both cases, the events promoted family participation, and crucially involved those prone to social isolation, often senior members of the family. Specifically, in the Salami Festival's case, the event strongly promoted intergenerational mixing, as participants were encouraged to share heirloom recipes and enter into food making competitions.

Perception of safety from space activation and the built environment

Participants noted that vibrancy, including that created by arts activity has improved the perception of safety amongst residents.

The arts and creative sector has played a notable role in restoring blighted properties, and drawing crowds to events; thereby improving perceptions of safety.

For example, the Northcote Town Hall Precinct, historically an administrative area, has transitioned into a vibrant night-life and cultural precinct. In turn, the Precinct, which used to be dark and isolated after-hours, is now populated with people and patrons frequenting nearby restaurants, bars and the Northcote Town Hall itself.

Moreover, there is likely to be a self-reinforcing feedback effect: improved perceptions about the environment can result in more residents, and non-resident, visitors to a revitalising area. This, then, improves the financial viability of, and case for, investment in a physically improved built environment.

Reducing anti-social behaviour

Although no primary study has been undertaken in Darebin, arts and creative events and activities may directly contribute to reductions in crime, particularly amongst youth.

Studies have shown a positive correlation between participation in arts programs and reduction in anti-social behaviour.



This is due to arts and creative activities providing an avenue for self-expression. This activity also provides a greater level of exposure to community and role models (National Cultural Forum, 2010).

Self-fulfilment through the arts

Arts and creative activities also provide avenues for fulfilling individual aspirations. While much of the benefit goes to professional artists, non-professional participants also benefit.

Darebin's diverse grassroots artistic scene caters to every segment and need of its constituency: from young, amateur bands with access to affordable studios and numerous music venues; to the senior population, engaged in social and recreational clubs such as knitting and food making and historical research groups.

Research has shown that grass root arts participation is closely associated with improvements in self-esteem and self-confidence, overall strengthening of sense of identity and individual self-actualisation (Third Sector Research Centre, 2011).

The City is home to numerous and diverse arts groups, who together with the support from local community and Council, provide a very broad range of experiences and opportunities for the equally diverse community. This expands the capacity for ensuring people can express themselves, realise their self-identity and raise the quality and experience of life for all in Darebin.



4.0 References

ABS, 2011, *Census 2011*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra

Arts Victoria, 2008, *The Role of Arts and Culture in Liveability and Competitiveness*.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 2014, *Closing the Gap: Supporting healthy communities through arts programs*.

Geografia, 2012, *Economic Value of Proximity to Arts Venues*, Report to the City of Melbourne.

National Cultural Forum, 2010, *The Role of Culture and Sport in Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviours*.

Third Centre Research Centre, 2011, *The Role of Grassroots Arts Activities in Communities: Scoping Study*.



Appendix I Economic and Social Research Method

Estimating the economic value of arts and creative industries

Use of Input Output model methodology, with City of Darebin Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) 2014 data. Estimate economic value based on full-time job equivalent data from CLUE 2014.

Estimating patronage and economic value of live music scene

Patronage data, estimated ticketing revenue and ancillary patron expenditure were sourced from Live Music Survey (2012) and ticketing data from the Northcote Town Hall and Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre. Based on this data set, an estimated 771,461 patrons visited the 36 major music venues in Darebin and spent \$32,479,713 in ticketing and ancillary food and beverage expenditure.

Benchmark estimates from other studies were also used to assess the reasonableness of these results, including the Economic and Social Contribution of Live Music (Deloitte, 2011) and the Economic Contribution of the Venue-Based Live Music Industry in Australia (Ernst and Young, 2011). Based on these previous studies, the 36 music venues are estimated to support between \$22,335,840 and \$45,000,000 in patron expenditure. The estimates in this study lies within this benchmark range.

Estimating the economic value of Council's Contribution

Council's contribution is specifically defined as the value of expenditure on arts and creative activities including: the operational costs of the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Bundoora Homestead and Northcote Town Hall; grants to artists and arts initiatives; Council organised festival and events; and induced visitor expenditure as a result of Council-supported activities.

Social research method

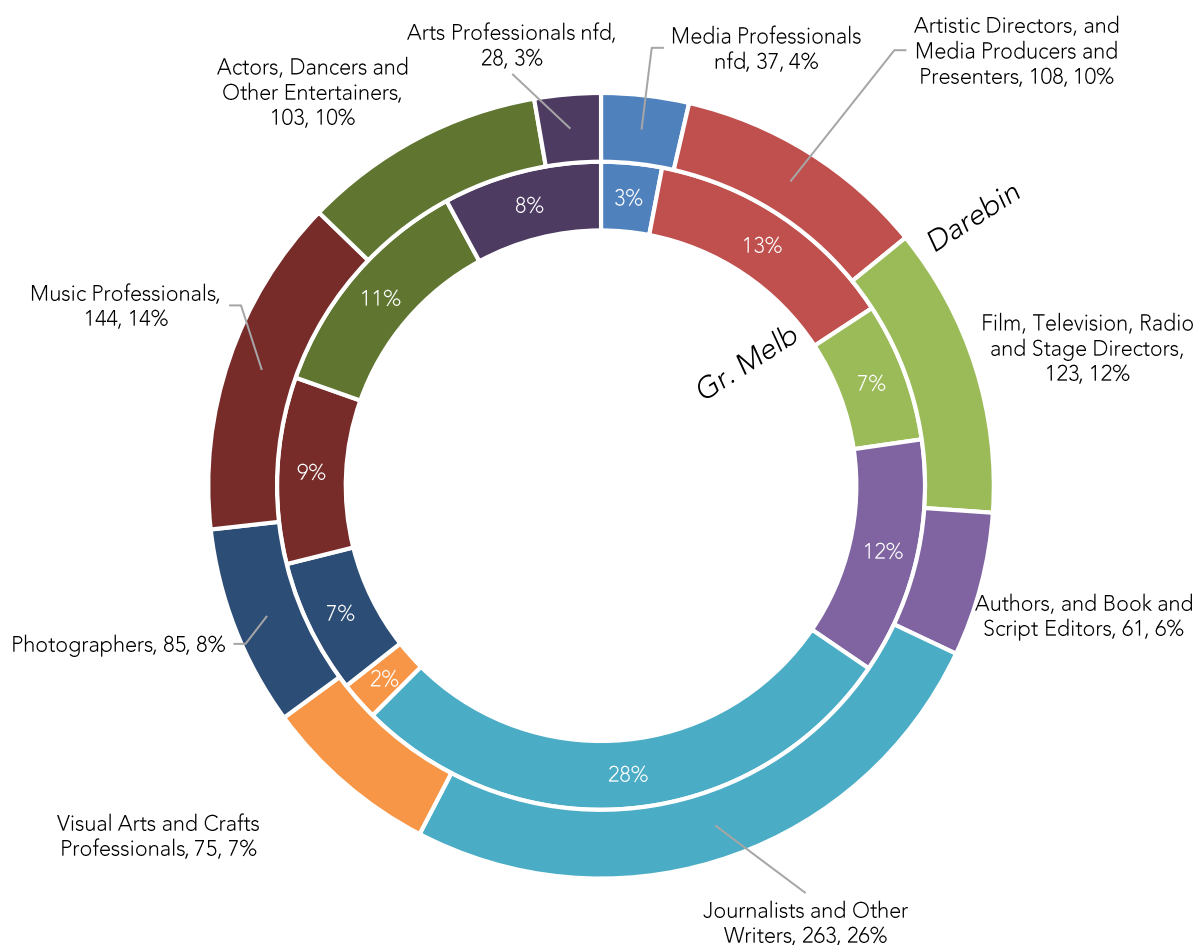
Consultation and social research with the City of Darebin's key staff members were the primary means for collecting qualitative data about the impact of the creative and arts activities in the municipality. The specific activities that informed the social impact assessment included a workshop of a total of 11 participants, over a two-hour period. The group discussed the profile of arts consumers and constituents likely to be affected by arts and creative activities; outlined the social benefits from existing arts activities; and the potential drawbacks from a hypothetical loss of arts activities.



Appendix II Arts and Creative Workers

The range of creative professionals in Darebin is as broad as in the rest of the metropolitan area, although there are, comparatively, more Visuals Arts and Crafts Professionals and Music Professionals than elsewhere (Figure 9).

Figure 9 Creative Professionals Profile by Occupation



Source: ABS 2011 Census

Most arts and creative professionals are younger, of lower income and more likely to be self-employed than elsewhere in the metropolitan area. They are also likely to be sourcing secondary income streams, usually outside of the sector (Table 5); working as employees or running small, unincorporated businesses (Figure 10); and working part-time (Figure 11).



Table 5 Employment of Arts Professionals by Industry Sector

Industry of Employment	Darebin
Arts and Recreation Services	53%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	16%
Education and Training	7%
Information Media and Telecommunications	7%
Manufacturing	3%
Retail Trade	3%
Other Services	3%
Public Administration and Safety	2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1%
Construction	1%
Wholesale Trade	1%
Accommodation and Food Services	1%
Administrative and Support Services	1%

Source: ABS 2011 Census

Figure 10 Creative Professionals Profile by Employment Type

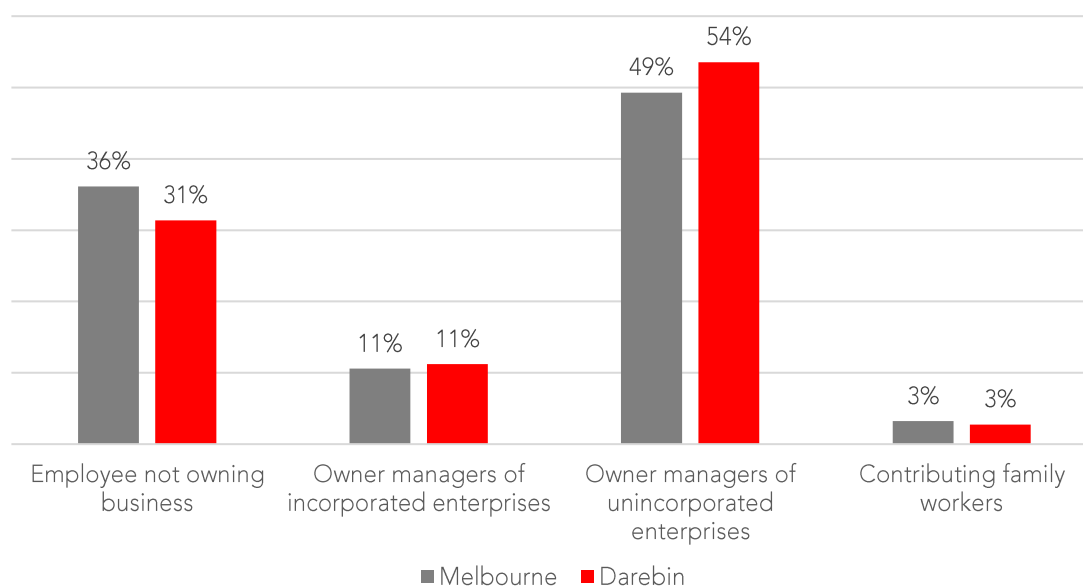
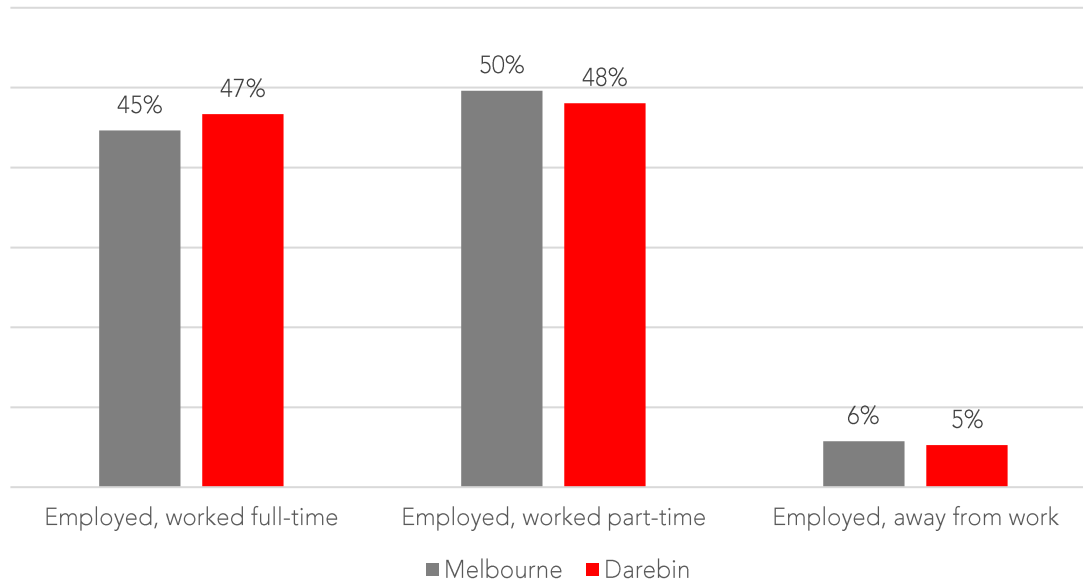


Figure 11 Creative Professionals Profile by Employment Type



6.5 2016 – 2017 ARTS PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Author: Manager Creative Culture

Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

The purpose of this report paper is to advise Council of the successful recipients of the 2016-2017 Arts Partnership Initiative.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Darebin Arts Strategy 2014 – 2020: 4.1 Inclusive – Increase access and meaningful participation in the arts for priority communities

Darebin Council Plan 2013 – 2017: Goal 4 – A Thriving Creative Culture

Summary

The Arts Partnership Initiative is designed to enable new artistic partnerships within Darebin through two streams:

1. Project Partnerships: Enabling collaborations between artists and priority communities as identified in the Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020.

Under stream one eight partnerships will support 33 artists, with 507 participants benefitting from the projects: Flag Youth Theatre, Walker Abercrombie, Joseph O'Farrell, Kids Own Publishing, Westside Circus, Ilbijerri Theatre Company, Jamie Lewis, Compassionate Voice Choir.

2. Key Cultural Organisation: Supporting partnerships with artistic organisations that are based within Darebin and have been incorporated for at least five years.

Under stream two four organisations will benefit: Arts Project Australia, Speak Percussion, Darebin City Brass and Preston Symphony Orchestra.

Following a review of the operation of the Arts Partnership Initiative changes will be made for the 2017/2018 program that will align the program more closely with the organisations wider grants programs.

Recommendation

That Council note the outcome of the 2016-2017 Arts Partnership Initiative.

Introduction

The Arts Partnership Initiative is designed to enable new artistic partnerships within Darebin through two streams.

Stream One: Project Partnerships

This stream enables collaborations between artists and priority communities as identified in the Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders community
- People with disability and their carers
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities
- Young People
- Older People

Stream Two: Key Cultural Organisation

This stream supports partnerships with artistic organisations that are based within Darebin and have been incorporated for at least five years.

Issues and Discussion

Application and Evaluation Process

In August 2016 expressions of interest were sought from artists and arts organisations to collaborate with the City of Darebin as part of the annual program, Arts Partnerships Initiative. The information brochure is attached as **Appendix A**. Twenty three Expressions of Interest were received and evaluated.

Sixteen expressions of interest were received for Stream One: Project Partnerships, and seven for Stream Two: Key Cultural Organisations, with the initiative being promoted via the following channels:

- Darebin Arts Website
- Darebin Arts What's On e-news
- Social media sites: Speakeasy, Loud Mouth, True North, DAEC, Northcote Town Hall
- City of Darebin communication channels via Buu-Kim – Corporate Social Media and Website
- Theatre Network Australia, national e-news letter to arts sector
- Arts Hub – premium listings in Bulletins and Grants and Funding Opportunities
- All previous recipients of a partnership
- Arts Ambassadors
- Creative Culture staff to direct artists and organisations within their database.

The expressions of interest were evaluated against the following criteria:

Stream One: Project Partnerships

- Quality of the proposed project and how it will add diversity to the City of Darebin.

- How effectively the proposed project reaches the priority communities within the City of Darebin. Explaining the current relationship with these communities or how the program intends to reach them.
- How the project progresses the organisation's/artist(s) key purpose or goals.
- The reputation of the applicant organisation/artist(s).
- A clear budget outline.

Stream Two: Key Cultural Organisation

- The organisation must have been based in Darebin for a minimum of five years.
- How the partnership will support the vibrant and visionary growth of the organisation within the City of Darebin.
- Explanation of how the work that is created is unique, interactive and inclusive.
- A detailed budget and outline of what the funding and relationship with council will result in within the 2016-2017 financial year; i.e. ongoing artistic creation, programming, public outcomes.

Internal and external representatives made up the evaluation panel:

- Manager, Creative Culture
- Manager, Children, Families and Community
- Arts Participation Coordinator
- Two (2) x Arts Ambassadors

Successful Applicants

Following the completion of the evaluation process the following partnerships will occur in 2016-2017:

Project Partnerships

Organisation	Project Title	Priority Community	Project Summary
Flag Youth Theatre	The Alfred Solomons Project	Young People + Old People	Intergenerational theatre project
Walker Abercrombie	Gathering Matters	CALD, ATSI, People with disability	One city, ten stories - free publication of informal and formal gatherings in Darebin
Joseph O'Farrell	The Cabin	Young People	Youth and community theatre workshops towards theatre show for adults
Kids Own Publishing	Partnership with Croxton School	Young People	Working with children with intellectual disability for a term in 2017 to write, illustrate and publish a 16 page book
Westside Circus	Unnamed	CALD, ATSI, Young People, People with disability	Work with participants towards production June 2017
Ilbijerri Theatre Company	The Darebin Indigenous Performance Lab	ATSI community and Young People	Week long theatre-devising and performance skills workshop for indigenous performers of all ages

Organisation	Project Title	Priority Community	Project Summary
Jamie Lewis	(Come, eat)	CALD community	Local social history performance - based on where does the food we eat come from. Stories of food, family and culture, and food security/politics
Compassionate Voices Choir	Choir	People with disability	Socially inclusive choir with regular long term members; most members have a disability and or are carers. Began as a NEAMI National program.

These successful Project Partnerships will support 33 artists, and 507 participants will benefit from and participate in the projects.

Key Cultural Organisations

Organisation	Purpose	Benefits of Partnership
Arts Project Australia	Supports artists with intellectual disabilities. Enhance opportunities for development of artists and artistic programs.	Arts Partnership Australia has a strong, long history based in Darebin. The partnership will support APA to continue and expand their work with artists with an intellectual disability. The council will be able to recommend artists to engage with the organisation, and encourage opportunities for other teams that work with community, diversity, youth and disability to engage participants in the workshops, support and access APA provides.
Speak Percussion	Internationally acclaimed profession percussive arts organisation.	Speak Percussion is driving new music in Australia, delivering ambitious music projects and championing the best in the field whilst continually nurturing new musical talent from their HQ in Thornbury. They work closely with young musicians from local high schools in Darebin. City of Darebin will be a Government Partner as they embark on key projects which will take place internationally, nationally and locally throughout 2016-2017. Within the Partnership we will explore opportunities for other areas of Council to be introduced to their work and programs for young people.
Darebin City Brass	Leading brass band in Australia, est. 1934	The partnership will directly support the operations of Darebin City Brass. DCB is an Integral organisation within the city that engages hundreds of participants of all ages throughout the year. The networking opportunities through the Arts Partnership Initiative might encourage the organisation to produce future collaborations with other artistic forms, as they have done recently. I.e. – Performance with New Zealand Dance Company at Arts Centre Melbourne.
Preston Symphony Orchestra	Orchestra performs four main concerts per year, including a Youth Concerto Competition.	The partnership will support the growth of the Youth Concerto Competition. The company intend to expand the competition, it's number of members. It will also directly support its ongoing rehearsal and performance operations.

Notifications to successful artists and organisations occurred in early September supported by formal contractual agreements with defined key performance outputs and partnership obligations stating the terms and conditions of the partnership. Successful artists and organisations will build a relationship with council over the year and will be invited to present at networking opportunities.

Review of the Program

Concurrent with the implementation of the Arts Partnership Initiative in 2016, a review of the program has been conducted. The review recommendations include:

- Streamlining the expressions of interest process by using the Smarty Grants system currently being used by the Community Grants Program.
- Aligning the Arts Partnership Initiative with Council's wider grants and investment programs for the 2017/2018 financial year.
- Working with the Finance Department and the Community Grants program to scope and assess the community benefit in integrating the Arts Partnership Initiative into the overall Council granting programs into the future.

The review is being driven by delivery of community benefits that will be reflected in the creation of a centralised and coordinated partnership program for artists, communities and organisations wanting support from Council for creative and artistic opportunities and ventures.

Options for Consideration

Note the success applicants under the 2016-2017 Arts Partnership Initiative.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Arts Partnership Initiative is funded within the 2016-2017 operational budgets with a total of \$83,154 being allocated across the two streams.

Risk Management

Any risks related to the implementation and delivery of this project delivered through the Arts Strategy 2014-2020 have been identified through assessment and compliance with Council's risk management framework.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

The initiative aims to continue leveraging benefits through a partnership approach. Our relationship with these key partners enables Darebin Council to reach more communities and continues to effectively activate Darebin through arts and culture.

Environmental Sustainability

There are no Environmental Sustainability impacts related to this report.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Arts Strategy 2014-2020 has an emphasis on social inclusion and engagement with Darebin's diverse communities. Work continues to ensure the implementation of policies, programs and initiatives, considers all aspects of Darebin's unique and diverse community based but not limited to gender, age cultural indemnity and ability.

A partnership approach to implementing the strategy has ensured community collaboration has been a primary focus in achieving the underpinning goals of the strategy and Council Plan.

One of the Guiding Principles underpinning the Arts Strategy is Equity and a non-negotiable expectation of diversity and inclusiveness in practice.

One of the 5 Key Focus Areas includes Actions that specifically target Darebin's Aboriginal communities as well as many other "hard to reach" priority communities.

Other

Nil

Future Actions

Implement review recommendations prior to the commencement of the 2017-2018 program.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Manager, Creative Culture
- Manager, Children, Families and Community
- Arts Participation Coordinator
- Two Arts Ambassadors

Related Documents

- 2016–2017 Arts Partnership Initiative Guidelines (**Appendix A**)
- Darebin Arts Strategy 2014 – 2020

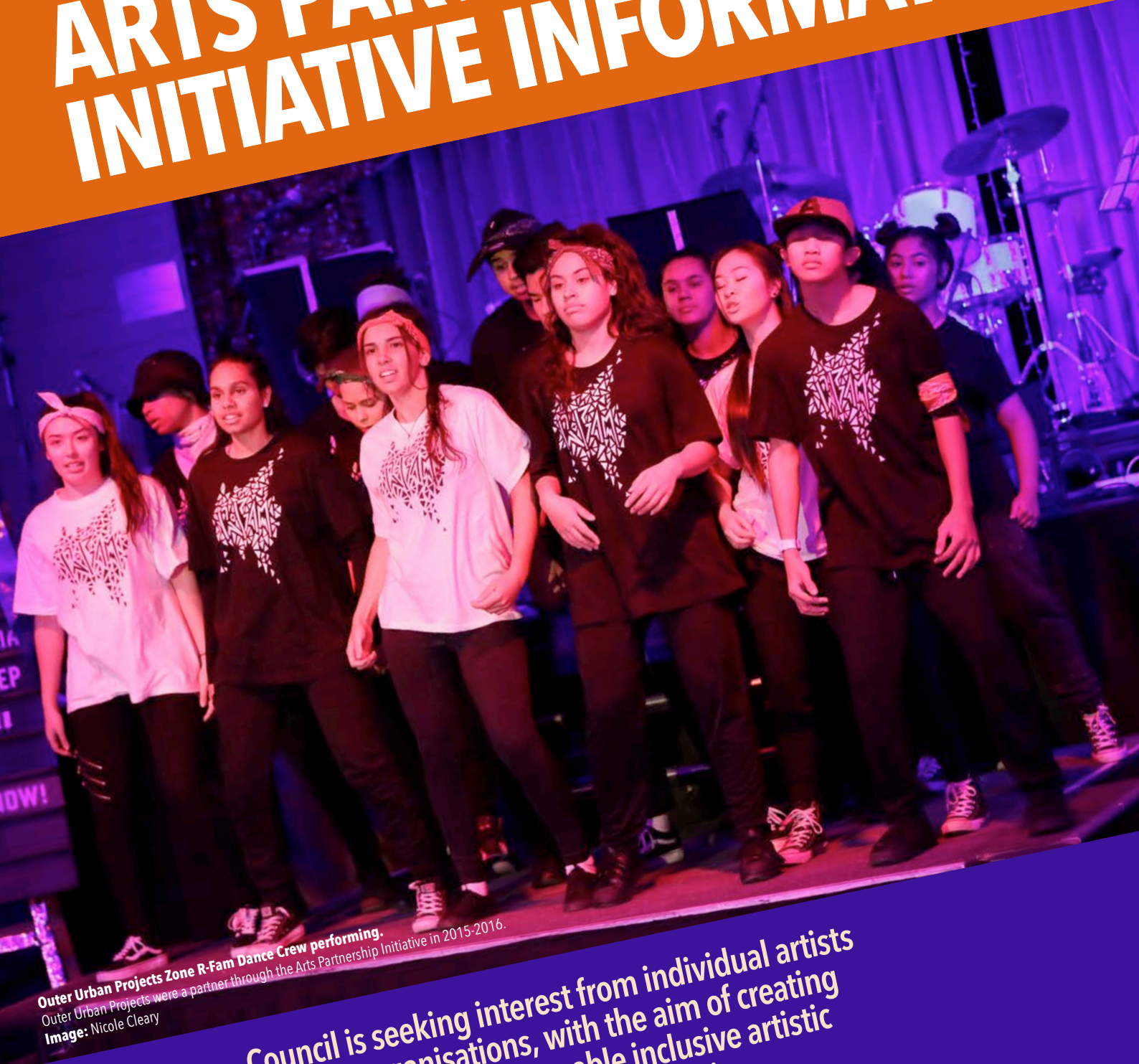
Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



2016 - 2017 ARTS PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE INFORMATION



Outer Urban Projects Zone R-Fam Dance Crew performing.
Outer Urban Projects were a partner through the Arts Partnership Initiative in 2015-2016.
Image: Nicole Cleary

Council is seeking interest from individual artists and arts organisations, with the aim of creating new partnerships that enable inclusive artistic collaborations to occur within Darebin.

2016 – 2017 Arts Partnership Initiative



**Darebin
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This initiative contributes to a key ambition of the Creative Darebin Arts Strategy 2014 – 2020; to increase access and meaningful participation in the arts for priority communities.

Successful organisations will build a relationship with council over the year and will be invited to present at networking opportunities.

Recognising the importance and value of a partnership approach in achieving better outcomes for all in Darebin, the initiative in 2016-2017 has expanded to enable creative partnerships between Council and Key Cultural Organisations as well as artists and companies making work with communities within Darebin.

City of Darebin is seeking Expressions of Interest to two streams of partnerships. There are eight project focussed-partnerships and up to four key cultural organisation partnerships. These are capped at \$8,000 and \$7,000 respectively.

Stream One: Project Partnerships

This stream supports individual artists and creative organisations to engage in projects and new initiatives that enable collaborations between artists and priority communities as identified in the Creative Darebin Arts Strategy. These are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders community
- People with disability and their carers
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities
- Young People
- Older People

Organisations can be based outside of Darebin, but must be accessing our Darebin communities in an artistic capacity through their work. A public outcome is encouraged.

Stream Two: Key Cultural Organisations

This stream supports partnerships with artistic organisations that are based within Darebin.

A Key Cultural Organisation must be working with an art form as the primary focus of the organisation. The organisation must be incorporated, rather than auspiced by another company.



Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

Stream One: Project Partnerships

Funding capped at \$8,000

1. Quality of the proposed project and how it will add diversity to the City of Darebin.
2. How effectively the proposed project reaches the priority communities within the City of Darebin. Explain the current relationship with these communities or how you intend to reach them.
3. How the project progresses the organisation's/artist(s) key purpose or goals.
4. The reputation of the applicant organisation/artist(s). List the key artists central to the project. CV's and Bios will be accepted in addition to the application.
5. A clear budget outline.

Stream Two: Key Cultural Organisations

Funding capped at \$7,000

1. The organisation must have been based within Darebin for a minimum of 5 years. Please provide:
Artistic Statement
Artist CV's of key personnel
Annual Report and/or an Audited Financial Statement
2. How the partnership will support the vibrant and visionary growth of the organisation within the City of Darebin.
3. Explanation of how the work you create is unique, interactive and inclusive.
4. A detailed budget and outline of what the funding and relationship with council will result in within the 2016-2017 financial year; i.e. ongoing artistic creation, programming, public outcomes.

To find out if we're on the same page and if your proposal is suitable for the Arts Partnership Initiative, you will need to read:

[Creative Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020.](#)

Expressions of Interest will open on Thursday 28th July via www.darebinarts.com.au

- Include the following information at the start of your application:
Artist / Organisation Name
Address
Contact Name
Email Address
Phone Number
Stream Requested
Amount Requested
- Respond to each Selection Criteria.
- Responses to selection criteria should not exceed more than 2 pages (unless additional information has been requested).

Expressions of Interest will close on Friday 19th August at 5pm

- Submissions must be emailed in PDF format to darebinarts@darebin.vic.gov.au
- If you experience any trouble with submitting this application online please make contact with Mary Harvey prior to submission deadline.
- It is recommended that you contact Mary Harvey prior to submitting an expression of interest.

Mary Harvey

Arts Participation Programmer
Creative Culture

mary.harvey@darebin.vic.gov.au

03 8470 8478

Applications will be assessed by a panel of Council Officers and Darebin Arts Ambassadors.

Successful applicants will be notified by Thursday 1st September

All successful applicant organisations will be required to sign a Service Agreement with Council, and provide a partnership acquittal in July 2017.



**Darebin
Arts**

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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ភាសា Việt

6.6 ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY ON THE VALUE OF THE ARTS IN DAREBIN

Author: Manager Creative Culture

Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

This report is in response to the *Council Plan 2013 -2017* Four Year Priority Action: *'Evaluate the impact of local arts and culture industries on the local economy'*.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

Councillor Briefing – 16 May 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

- Darebin Arts Strategy 2014 – 2020
- Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017, Goal 4 – A Thriving and Creative Culture
- Four Year Priority Action: *'Evaluate the impact of local arts and culture industries on the local economy'*

Summary

Council commissioned Geografia to conduct a study on the economic value and social benefit of the arts and creative sector in Darebin, including Darebin's owned and managed venues and programming. The study (**Appendix A**) provides a current-state picture of the arts, artists and creative industries in the City of Darebin and demonstrates that Darebin is a significant and valued home of choice for artists and creative industries.

Highlights of the report include

- The Arts and Creative sector is Darebin's eighth largest by Gross Regional Product (GRP), contributing \$436.2 million or 7.5% of the City's GRP.
- There are 2,577 jobs in Darebin's Arts and Creative sector that makes up 4.8% of all the jobs in Darebin. The sector indirectly supports a further 1,429 jobs through associated and complementary industries.

The study will be a valuable source of context and information for future strategies to ensure investment and approaches support a vibrant creative economy in Darebin and assist Council with decision making, asset management and future planning.

Recommendation

That Council notes the report and findings of the Economic Impact Study on the Value of Arts in Darebin attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

Introduction

Despite various reports detailing the state of the arts at a national and state level, little is known of the current state of the arts, artists and creative industries sectors in Darebin. Since the implementation of the *Creative Darebin: Darebin Arts Strategy 2014 – 2020*, there has been an increasing interest in the activities, impact and outcomes derived from investment in Darebin Council's cultural facilities, creative spaces, festivals, events and programming. This interest in economic and social uplift of the arts is growing and a report that provides evidence to demonstrate current and future shifts in the contribution of the creative sector to Darebin's liveability and social cohesion will provide a context for future arts planning and development.

Issues and Discussion

Economic Impact Study

Geografia Pty Ltd was appointed to conduct the study in early 2016. Geografia used a multi-method, collaborative approach to specifying and quantifying the creative sector in Darebin. This included disaggregated measure of the economic value and social impact of the live music scene in Darebin. Additionally, the disaggregated value derived from Council activities, including programs, facilities, festivals and grants was also assessed as part of the study. The approach considered an analysis of the effect of broader trends such as housing development and population change on the prospects for the sector; workforce and activity levels; and the likely impact of the sector with respect to Darebin's liveability.

The Arts and Creative sector has been recognised as a valuable part of the economies of developed, liveable cities, including Melbourne. It contributes to economic, social and community development. Local government has a recognised role for supporting arts and creative activity in the community.

The *Economic and Social Value of the Arts and Creative Sector in Darebin* full study is attached as **Appendix A** to the report.

Study Findings

The study highlights the following findings:

- The Arts and Creative sector is Darebin's eighth largest by Gross Regional Product (GRP), contributing \$436.2 million or 7.5% of the City's GRP.
- There are 2,577 jobs in Darebin's Arts and Creative sector that makes up 4.8% of all the jobs in Darebin. The sector indirectly supports a further 1,429 jobs through associated and complementary industries.
- The largest sector is fashion, employing 1,232 people and generating \$196 million in GRP. Followed by Performing Arts at 15% of the industry with Visual Arts and Craft and Design at 10% of the industry each.
- The 317 workers and 771,461 patrons to the live music scene generates \$32.48 in local expenditure.
- Total expenditure stimulated by Council investment in the sector is estimated at \$4.83 million. The investment of \$3.8 million in direct expenditure generates \$1.45 million in induced expenditure by visitors with the creation of an additional 15 full time flow-on jobs locally.
- Gentrification and urban revitalisation, retail strip renewal, improved tourism brand value and health and wellbeing impacts are attributable to the Arts and Creative sector.

- Community satisfaction, improved social connectedness, improved perceptions of safety and increased opportunities for self-expression are attributable to the Arts and Creative sector.

Options for Consideration

The report is for information and noting only.

Financial and Resource Implications

The study was funded within the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 operational budgets.

Risk Management

No risks have been identified with this report.

Policy Implications**Economic Development**

The study is designed to inform, influence and enhance new strategies that recognise and support Darebin's arts and creative industries including the benefits and intersection with economic development, tourism, planning and industry.

Environmental Sustainability

There are no environmental sustainability implications related to this report.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no human rights, equity and inclusion implications related to this report.

Other

There are no other policy implications related to this report.

Future Actions

Distribution of the study to local and regional stakeholders, including but not limited to the Australian and Victorian governments and arts funding and investment bodies.

The development of a Cultural Infrastructure Framework for the City to identify arts and cultural infrastructure located within the municipality.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Darebin Arts Ambassadors
- Identified creative industries stakeholders
- Live music venues in Darebin
- Director Culture, Leisure and Works
- Business Development Coordinator
- Coordinator Performance Support
- Coordinator Arts Participation
- Coordinator Performing Arts Venues

- Coordinator Arts Programming
- Gallery Manager Bundoora Homestead Art Centre

Related Documents

- Darebin Council Plan 2013 – 2017
- Darebin Arts Strategy 2014 – 2020
- Creative State Global City - Creative Industries Taskforce Report November 2015
- Economic Impact of the Victoria Arts and Cultural Sector (Arts Victoria 2013)

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

6.7 SENIORS HOME GARDENING PROGRAM UPDATE

Author: Manager Parks and Vegetation

Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

The report provides details of activity to date and the current state in relation to options for establishing a home gardening scheme for seniors that is cost neutral for Council.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 2 December 2013, Council resolved:

'That Council receive a report in February 2014 on the viability of establishing a Seniors Home Gardening Help Program. The report will consider ways of delivering a cost neutral program through the establishment of traineeships working with youth and migrants, local agencies (e.g. migrant resource centres, employment agencies, etc.), existing Council plant and equipment and Home and Community Care program.'

At its meeting held on 20 April 2015, Council resolved:

- (1) *Notes the report on the Seniors Home Gardening Help Program.*
- (2) *Maintains the current service as per arrangements with HACC Service.*
- (3) *Officers provide a further report on exploring the 'seed funding' option noted in the report on pp 6-7. The report is to outline how council can partner with a community organisation in Darebin that supports youth at risk being skilled to establish a 'horticultural maintenance business'. The funding for this program would contribute to 'start up fees' and a 12 month trial period can be considered for 2016.*

Previous Briefing(s)

- Councillor Briefing – 28 April 2014
- Councillor Briefing – 23 February 2015

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal 2 - Healthy and Connected Community
2.1 Community Services
2.3 Ageing in Place

Summary

The current limited home gardening service operates within CHSP guidelines under the home maintenance program. To extend the program to establish a home gardening scheme for seniors would require a change in model.

In responding to Council's resolution of 20 April 2015 the option for a community partner/facilitation model was investigated. With the support of the Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN) the Croxton Special School was identified as a suitable local provider for an extended service as the school was already operating a horticultural program for their students and had an existing relationship with Council.

This arrangement however would require 'third party' support to be sustainable which after several approaches to agencies and initial interest from a social enterprise unfortunately could not be achieved.

Other options to extend the program such as a traineeship or Council contractor/provider could not be delivered cost neutral to Council without setting fees and charges at a full cost recovery rate.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Note the seniors home gardening program update.
- (2) Maintain the current home gardening service operating under Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) guidelines.

Introduction

Previous reports and briefing papers identified:

- Council currently and historically has offered a limited home gardening service under the property maintenance component of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) formerly the Home and Community Care (HACC) program. As with other services provided under this program the service is limited to CHSP eligible clients and activities that ensure older community members are safe within their homes. This program has never offered services such as mowing of lawns and general pruning.
- Neighbouring Council's provide similar services to Darebin, with only Whittlesea and Yarra offering a limited lawn moving service with a means tested fee structure.
- If Council were to extend the service there are a number of operating model options including: Traineeship, Volunteer labour, Community Partnership/Facilitation and Council contractor or provider.
- The cost of the available options varies, with none being totally cost neutral for Council without a fee recovery cost structure.

In support of the Council resolution of 20 April 2015 officers have explored the viability of establishing a community partnership/facilitation model.

Issues and Discussion**Community Partner/Facilitation Model**

In exploring options for a community based partnership it was determined that working in partnership with the Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN) would be an advantage. In consultation with the INLLEN the Croxton Special School was identified as a suitable local provider as the school was already operating a horticultural program for their students and had an existing relationship with Council. Croxton expressed interest, but were clear that they would not proceed with a program unless the program was sustainable in the long term. In view of this it was agreed that a 'third party' to auspice the students with Council and INLLEN support would best achieve this outcome.

Due to the nature of the partnership Croxton, Council and the INLLEN agreed that potential 'third parties' should be a not for profit agency or social enterprise.

Both Council and INLLEN committed to contacting potential agencies with Council approaching both AGA/Aplus Apprenticeships and local social enterprise Clean Force. Whilst AGA/Aplus Apprenticeships advised of an inability to support the program, Clean Force expressed interest.

Unfortunately after Clean Force held further discussions with their parent company Wise Employment due to commitments in other areas of the business they advised they were not in a position to proceed. Council has not been able to attract interest from any other suitable agency, with agencies focussed on the preparation of their business operations for the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and aged care reforms.

The INLLEN were also unsuccessful in attracting support from appropriate agencies.

Due to the lack of success in attracting a 'third party' discussions in relation to implementation of a community partner/facilitation model have been placed on hold.

Other Options

Due to the inability to establish a community partner/facilitation model the only way extend the current service at this time would be to take up one of the previous models presented that included a traineeship, volunteer service or Council contractor or provider.

The costs of these models are estimated at:

- Traineeship: \$150,000 (including salary, equipment and supervision)
- Council contractor or provider: \$50 per hour, plus staff support costs.

As an extended service has never previously been offered it is hard to estimate what the take up would be and accordingly an accurate total cost for this model. However, based on a monthly visit of one hour and 100 clients the cost per annum of the program would be \$60,000, plus support costs. This is a minimal number with Council having in excess of 4,000 CHSP eligible clients.

Whilst a volunteer model cannot be directly costed the model has not been adopted in neighbouring Councils due to the potential for an inconsistent and unreliable service, the cost of supervision and equipment set up costs.

Options for Consideration

1. Maintain the current service offered to CHSP eligible clients limited to a service that ensures these clients are safe within their homes.
2. Extend the current service through either a traineeship or Council contractor or provider model

Financial and Resource Implications

If the current service is not maintained and Council extends the program either additional resources would need to be allocated to the program, or if seeking a cost neutral approach, fees and charges need to be set for full cost recovery.

Risk Management

Existing controls are in place to manage the risks associated with the current program. If an extended program was implemented identified risks would include:

- Traineeship model: Primarily increased OH&S exposure for Council.
- Council contractor or provider: Reputational risk if contractor does not perform to the required standard, plus increased OH&S risk.
- Extensive take up of the service leading to a significant additional cost burden to Council.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

Extending the current CHSP program may assist with job creation in the garden care industry.

Environmental Sustainability

There are no factors in this report which impact on environmental sustainability.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The focus of the CHSP program is to remove perceived or actual barriers to care and support for older community members so they can remain living independently in their homes and communities. The current limited home gardening service is delivered in support of this focus.

Other

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

Future Actions

Any future actions will be determined by Council resolution.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Croxton Special School
- Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN)
- Clean Force
- AGA/Aplus Apprenticeships
- Economic Development Department – Business Development Unit

Related Documents

- Council Minutes – 2 December 2013 and 20 April 2015

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**6.8 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN
POD/3/2015**

Author: Manager Planning and Building

Reviewed By: Acting Director Future City and Assets

Report Background

On 7 May 2015, the Minister for Planning approved Amendment C122 to the Darebin Planning Scheme. The Amendment rezoned land at 198 Beavers Road from Industrial 3 Zone to the Residential Growth Zone, and included the site within an Environmental Audit Overlay and Development Plan Overlay (DPO). This process included a 2 month exhibition period and consideration of submissions by an independent planning panel. The Residential Growth Zone in this instance provides for a discretionary height of 4 storeys.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Council Plan Goal 1: Vibrant City and Innovative Economy

1.3 Well-designed housing development

Encourage well-designed, well-located, higher-density housing development that is accessible, inclusive, safe, affordable and consistent with Council's Housing and Affordable Housing Strategies.

Summary

This report seeks the adoption by Council of a development plan as required by schedule 12 to Clause 43.04 to the Darebin Planning Scheme. The development plan provides the guiding design principles and requirements for the future consideration of planning applications and ensures development outcomes are coordinated where there are multiple property ownerships. Development plans are relatively high level documents and are not required to include the level of detail typically expected in a planning application.

This development plan application proposes the following:

- Up to 120 dwellings with three (3) or more bedrooms.
- One vehicle access point to beavers road to the east of the site,
- Three storey development to the north of the site and four storey development in the middle, and to the east, west and south of the site.
- A maximum building height of 13.5m
- Car parking provided in accordance with clause 52.06.

Recommendation

THAT Council adopt development plan POD/1/2015 subject to the following alterations/requirements:

The approved documentation is to comprise plans: LSK01, SK1.4, SK1.5, SK1.6, SK1.7, SK1.8, SK1.9, SK1.10, SK1.11, SK1.12, SK1.13 All Rev A modified as follows:

- (1) Provision of a minimum 3 m wide paved Disability Discrimination Act 1992 compliant public pedestrian and bike access (public access) through the site from Beaconsfield Parade / Leinster Grove to Beavers Road. This is to be achieved by a Section 173 Agreement that will be required prior to the completion of the development. The public access is to be appropriately illuminated. Development adjacent to the public access is to be designed and orientated to maximise passive surveillance of the public pedestrian access. The public access is to incorporate clear sight lines / minimise hiding places where possible. Surface treatments, vehicle access / circulation and signage to ensure appropriate safety for any areas of shared pedestrian and bike / vehicle access along internal roads. The access is to be to the satisfaction of Council.
- (2) Building envelopes set back a minimum 3m from the east boundary of 200 Beavers Road except where the development plan for 200 Beavers Road approved 17 December 2016 under POD/1/2015 allows buildings on the common boundary at the same level. Where balconies or living areas are orientated towards the apartment envelope for 200 Beavers Road approved under POD/1/2015 these shall be setback 4.5m from the east boundary of 200 Beaver Road.
- (3) The building envelope setback 2m from the east boundary increased to 3m at level 1, 2 and 3 and setback 5m at level 4 with no other reductions in setbacks.
- (4) The building envelope setback a minimum 5m from Beavers Road at level 4.
- (5) The building envelope setback a minimum 5m from the golf course to the west at level 4.
- (6) Passive surveillance provided to the west over the Northcote Golf Course (SK1.10).
- (7) Building envelopes at level 2 to 4 to match section B on SK1.8.
- (8) The development plan to show any proposed super lots (maximum of 5) and staging.
- (9) Include the following notations:
 - a) Buildings fronting Beavers Road to be designed to minimise noise and other impacts associated with surrounding non – residential uses and that an acoustic, odour and emissions assessment accompany any permit application as appropriate.
 - b) Minimal balconies or living areas provided facing Croxton Special Education School.
 - c) Canopy trees are to be provided along the perimeter of the site adjacent to:
 - The Northcote Golf Course,
 - The rear yards of dwellings fronting Beaconsfield Parade; and,
 - Croxton Special Education School.
 - Beavers Road
 - d) Subdivision to create super lots only will be allowed once development is approved and common areas constructed. Subdivision of individual residential allotments to occur only once the development of the land / individual super lot is substantially completed.
 - e) Pedestrian access to dwelling entries from the internal communal access way to maximise landscaping opportunities in the shared internal access way.
 - f) Crossovers to the street 5.5m wide with visibility splays.
 - g) Car parking provided on site in accordance with Clause 52.06 for dwelling residents.
 - h) A maximum of 120 dwellings provided.

- i) Collection of waste by a private contractor.
 - j) No direct vehicle access to Beaconsfield Parade / Leinster Grove.
 - k) Earthy muted tones and non-reflective or low reflectivity materials to be used.
 - l) Garages and driveways will not dominate the internal communal access way.
 - m) Except for the buildings in the centre of the site where garages will be screened by electric gates, two car space garages will generally be in a tandem / car stacker layout unless architecturally treated in a manner where passive surveillance and activation of the ground floor of dwellings can be clearly demonstrated.
 - n) No fencing provided in the Beavers Road front setback or between dwellings and the communal shared access way.
 - o) Boundary fencing adjacent to the Northcote Golf Course a minimum 25% visually permeable.
 - p) Architectural treatments to accentuate dwelling entries and to integrate garage doors into the design of the development potentially incorporating windows / glazed panels and materials not typically associated with garage doors.
 - q) Setbacks, articulation and built form to the west boundary are to be provided having regard to the future use and development of 200 Beavers Road.
 - r) Building envelopes do not imply a right to build over the entire envelope
 - s) Setbacks from boundaries and / or internally between buildings may need to be increased to ensure equitable development opportunities and / or appropriate amenity of future neighbours and protect the amenity of the public realm.
 - t) Buildings are to be setback sufficiently to allow adequate solar access to other buildings on the land.
 - u) Environmental Audit process and building design to address gas migration issues.
 - v) Internal road paving to reinforce pedestrian / shared access requirements (not asphalted).
 - w) Fencing on the north boundary as existing or a maximum 2m in height.
 - x) SIDRA analysis must be undertaken as part of the Town Planning Application.
 - y) All outdoor lighting to be designed, baffled and/or located to ensure that no loss of amenity is caused to adjoining and nearby land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
 - z) The design of the built form towards any access ways is to reflect the fine grain pattern of nearby streets, floors to be distinguishable from each other through punctured facades (e.g. balconies, windows, façade articulation) and located to provide a comfortable pedestrian scale.
- (10) Deletion of the Standard B17 building envelope and associated notation on Plan SK1.12 and SK1.13 which contradicts with the building envelopes.
 - (11) Deletion of “no setback is provided to Beavers Road...” notation on plan SK1.4, SK1.5, SK1.6, SK1.7 which contradicts with the building envelopes.
 - (12) Deletion of proposed rooftop terrace mass from section A and B on plan SK1.8 Rev A and inclusion of a notation that any roof top terrace to be designed to have minimal visual mass and bulk.

Introduction

The Development Plan Overlay (DPO) is a flexible tool that can be used to implement a plan to guide the future use and development of the land. The overlay has two purposes:

- To identify areas that require the planning of future use or development to be shown on a plan before a permit can be granted.

- To exempt a planning permit application from notice and third party review if it is generally in accordance with an approved plan.

The approval of a development plan is a conceptual point in the process and the development plan sets the broad principles that future use and development of the land needs to satisfy, enabling it to successfully integrate with other developments likely to occur on other land within the DPO.

Issues and Discussion

See attached assessment (**Appendix A**) and advertised plans (**Appendix B**).

Options for Consideration

See attached assessment (**Appendix A**) and advertised plans (**Appendix B**).

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications as a result of the determination of this application.

Risk Management

Nil

Policy Implications

Economic Development

There are no factors in this report which impact upon economic development.

Environmental Sustainability

All new dwellings are required to achieve a minimum six (6) star energy rating under the relevant building controls.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no factors in this report which impact on human rights, equity and inclusion.

Other

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

Future Actions

Nil

Consultation and Advocacy

- There is no prescribed notification process for development plans under the *Planning and Environment Act*.
- Notification comprising letters to the surrounding owners and occupiers and two (2) notices on site, one (1) fronting Beavers Road and one (1) fronting Leinster Grove were provided. Eight (8) submissions were received.
- The matter was referred internally to the Transport Management and Planning, ESD Officer, Public Realm and Capital Works.

- This application was referred externally to the Merri Creek Management Committee, Director of Public Transport and Melbourne Water.

Related Documents

- Assessment Report (**Appendix A**)
- Advertised Plans (**Appendix B**)
- Darebin Planning Scheme
- *Planning and Environment Act (1987)* as amended.

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN - POD/3/2015

198 Beavers Road, Northcote

Subject site and surrounding area

- Located on the northern side of Beavers Road the land is irregularly shaped and measures approximately 118 metres deep by 80.47 metres wide and has an area of approximately 11,980 square metres. The site was formerly located within an Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z). An existing building exists on the site with a total floor area of approximately 6,465sqm. Vegetation including canopy trees and 82 car spaces are provided along the north, east and west property boundaries.
- To the south is Beavers Road with commercial properties beyond which were recently rezoned from Industrial 3 Zone to Commercial 1 Zone.
 - The land at 1/177 Beavers Road is used as an art studio and caretakers dwelling under planning permit D/782/2012.
 - The land at 2/177 Beavers Road is used as a place of worship allowed under planning permit D/553/2011 with a maximum 350 patrons (600 patrons for special events).
 - The land at 3 and 4/177 Beavers Road is used as a warehouse.
 - The land at 1/169 Beavers Road appears to be used as a warehouse.
- To the west abutting the site is 200 Beavers Road comprising vacant industrial buildings with a recently approved POD/1/2015 and Planning Permit D.1048/2015 for apartments and townhouses. Also the west abutting the site is the Northcote Golf Course. Beyond this is the Merri Creek.
- To the north are rear yards of residential dwellings facing Beaconsfield Parade.
- To the east in a public use zone, is Croxton Special Education School is located to the east of the site.
- The site has reasonable access to public transport being 400m from St George's Road and 800 metres from Nicholson St (Brunswick).
- On-street parking on Beavers Road is subject to a no standing restriction on the northern side (site frontage) and subject to no stopping restriction on the southern side.

Proposal

The development plan outlines that future residential redevelopment of the land will include the following:

- up to 120 dwellings with three (3) or more bedrooms.
- one vehicle access point to Beavers Road to the east of the site,

- three storey development to the north of the site and four storey development in the middle, and to the east, west and south of the site.
- a maximum building height of 13.5m
- car parking provided in accordance with Clause 52.06.

The intent of the building envelopes is to show broadly how the site will be developed. It is not practical or reasonable for the building envelopes to prescribe in fine minutiae the layout of the entire site. This information will be provided at the planning permit stage. Any future permit applications must be generally in accordance with the development plan.

Objections summarised

As a result of public notification 8 submissions were received and are summarised as follows:

- Traffic impacts.
- Safety issues associated with the crossover to the site.
- Impacts during construction.
- Insufficient car parking / overflow parking impacts including evening and weekends / impacts on Beaconsfield Parade.
- Access over private road at 177 Beavers Road.
- Traffic calming measures required in Beavers Road.
- No details of measures to address noise and other impacts associated with surrounding non – residential uses.
- No details of dwelling numbers.
- No details of number of residents.
- No details of power substation.
- No details of future bridge link across Merri Creek.
- No details of changes to on street parking.
- No details of building materials.
- No details of light spill.
- No details of stormwater.
- No details of sustainability.
- Mass / bulk impacts associated with roof terraces / contrary to the Development Plan Overlay DPO12 height limits / heights non-compliant with Standard B17 / over 13.5m as specified by the Development Plan Overlay.
- Noise impacts.
- Overshadowing.
- Overlooking.

- Failure to respond to development approved at 200 Beavers Road / Four storey height at zero setback on the south western corner inappropriate.
- Failure to respond to the Environmental Significance Overlay / Insufficient landscaping opportunities and canopy trees / Extent of tree removal.
- Contrary to the Design Guidelines outlined the Development Plan Overlay
- Lack of graduated building heights / Insufficient variation in form or setbacks / Inadequate setbacks.
- Insufficient site permeability for pedestrians and cyclists / no connection to 200 Beavers Road / no connection from Beaconsfield Parade to Beavers Road. Safety needs to be ensured with any access. Insufficient variation in form or setbacks
- Insufficient diversity of dwellings
- Contamination not addressed
- Passive surveillance not addressed
- Location of access where Beaver Road Narrows / opposite loading bays at 177 Beavers Road inappropriate.
- Improved bike lanes and footpaths should be provided in Beavers Road and surrounding area to access any future Merri Creek foot bridge at the end of Beavers Road.
- Lack of public transport infrastructure.

Officer comment on summarised objections

Traffic impacts

The traffic report submitted by the applicant concludes that the maximum yield of 120 dwellings with two car spaces per dwelling would generate 840 vehicle movements per day. The assessment also found that a SIDRA analysis would be required in association with any Planning Permit Application and this should be included in the development plan.

The applicants report classifies Beavers Road as an Access Street is capable of catering for a traffic volume of 1,000 to 2,000 vehicle movements per day. Surveyed rates in Beavers Road to the east of Woolhouse Street are at 713 vehicle movements per day. Surveyed rates in Woolhouse Street to the south of Beavers Road are 3215 vehicle movements per day.

The development plan approved for 200 Beavers Road estimated its residential redevelopment would generate 245 vehicle movements per day. The two redevelopments combined will generate approximately 1085 vehicle movements per day.

The Transport Management and Planning Unit has reviewed the report and have not disputed this assessment or found any traffic issues with the proposal. It is noted that, having regard to the size and types of vehicles currently accessing the existing warehouse, the residential redevelopment of the land would likely have a more appropriate impact on the surrounding residential streets.

Safety issues associated with the crossover to the site.

The redevelopment will likely have less safety impacts / conflicts associated with entering and exiting the site than the existing warehouse use having regard to the size and type of vehicles accessing the site.

The location of the proposed vehicle entry point in Beavers Road is more proximate to the loading bay entry of the neighbouring commercial use to the south. Provided adequate visibility splays are provided the vehicle access will be not be unsafe and there will be minimal conflict issues.

Impacts during construction

Construction impacts – noise, dust, stability of existing foundations and damage to nearby dwellings are not a consideration under the Planning & Environment Act or Darebin Planning Scheme.

Insufficient car parking / overflow parking impacts including evening and weekends / impacts on Beaconsfield Parade

The traffic assessment submitted identifies that car parking will be in accordance with the Clause 52.06 requirements and no reduction in car parking is proposed. Additional Car parking above and beyond this level cannot be required. A notation should be provided on the development plan to require resident parking in accordance with the Clause 52.06 requirements.

Access over private road at 177 Beavers Road

It is beyond the scope of this application to control traffic beyond the site boundaries. If a private road is being illegally used this is a matter for the owners of that land to resolve.

Traffic calming measures required in Beavers Road

The applicant's traffic engineer and Council's Transport Management and Planning Unit have not identified the need to provide traffic calming measures. The introduction of traffic calming measures will be considered as required by Council's Transport Management and Planning Unit.

No details of measures to address noise and other impacts associated with surrounding non – residential uses

The recommendation requires that a notation be provided on the development plan that buildings fronting / in proximity to Beavers Road to be designed to minimise noise and other impacts associated with surrounding non – residential uses and that an acoustic, odour and emissions assessment accompany any permit application.

No details of dwelling numbers.

The traffic report details that between 90 and 120 dwellings with 3 or more bedrooms are proposed. The recommendation requires that a notation be provided on the development plan that the upper limit of 120 dwellings be specified in development plan.

No details of number of residents.

The traffic report details that between 90 and 120 dwellings with 3 or more bed rooms are proposed and the upper limit of 120 dwellings must be specified in development plan. Density of habitation of dwellings cannot be controlled beyond this.

No details of power substation.

This level of detail would be provided at the planning permit stage.

No details of future bridge link across Merri Creek.

This is a matter separate from the proposal.

No details of changes to on street parking.

This is an issue beyond the scope of the current application. On street parking is controlled by Council. Council may review parking controls in the future as required.

No details of building materials.

A notation that earthy muted tones and non-reflective or low reflectivity materials to be used is recommended.

No details of light spill.

A notation ensuring light spill impacts do not occur is recommended.

No details of stormwater.

This level of detail would be provided at the planning permit stage.

No details of sustainability.

Sustainability measures would be provided at the planning permit stage. Council's ESD officer has reviewed the layout and has recommended that a building envelope notation that buildings are to be setback sufficiently to allow adequate solar access to other buildings on the land directly to the south be included.

Mass / bulk impacts associated with roof terraces / contrary to the Development Plan Overlay DPO12 height limits / heights non-compliant with Standard B17 / over 13.5m as specified by the Development Plan Overlay.

In principle the roof top terraces are supported as they allow improved on site amenity, efficient uses the site, and, given they are located to the centre of the site well away from sensitive interfaces, raise no off site amenity impact issues.

It is recommended that the plan show the deletion of the proposed rooftop terraces mass from section A and B on plan SK1.8 Rev A and a notation be included that any roof top terrace be designed to have minimal visual mass and bulk.

The application of Standard B17 in a Residential Growth Zone is not an appropriate development outcome. A B17 envelope has been shown and should be deleted from the development plan as this contradicts the building envelopes, particularly from the north boundary where greater setbacks are needed and have been provided.

See assessment below.

Noise impacts

The proposed residential use will have noise impacts consistent with those normal to a residential zone. Speech, laughter, music etc. are noises associated with people living their lives and are all part of life in an urban area.

Overshadowing

See Clause 55 Assessment Below

Overlooking

See Clause 55 Assessment Below

Failure to respond to development approved at 200 Beavers Road / Four storey height at zero setback on the south western corner inappropriate.

The proposal has generally responded to the approved development plan at 200 Beavers Road and conditions are recommended to ensure fair and equitable development outcomes for both properties. In relation to the south west corner a 3m setback from the boundary of 200 Beavers Road is recommended reflecting the building envelope approved to the west.

Failure to respond to the Environmental Significance Overlay / insufficient landscaping opportunities and canopy trees / extent of tree removal

Whilst the removal of all trees from the land is undesirable having regard to the contamination issues on the land it is unavoidable. See Contamination and ESO1 assessment below.

Contrary to the BARD Guidelines outlined in the Development Plan Overlay

See BARD Guidelines assessment below.

Lack of graduated building heights / Insufficient variation in form or setbacks / Inadequate setbacks.

The development plan provides indicative building envelopes. Subject to conditions the envelopes provide sufficient graduation of heights throughout the site. A notation is recommended to be added to the development plan that:

- building envelopes do not imply a right to build over the entire envelope
- setbacks from boundaries and / or internally between buildings may need to be increased to ensure equitable development opportunities and / or appropriate amenity of future neighbours and protect the amenity of the public realm.
- buildings are to be setback sufficiently to allow adequate solar access to other buildings on the land.

Insufficient site permeability for pedestrians and cyclists / no connection to 200 Beavers Road / no connection from Beaconsfield Parade to Beavers Road. Safety needs to be ensured with any access

Amendments to the plans are recommended to address this issue. See Clause 43.04 Development Plan Overlay DPO12 Compliance Summary

Insufficient diversity of dwellings

See Clause 43.04 Development Plan Overlay DPO12 Compliance Summary

Contamination not addressed.

See assessment under contamination below.

Passive surveillance not addressed

A plan detailing passive surveillance and dwelling orientation has been provided which clearly indicates how this matter is addressed. Subject to conditions seeking to minimise the dominance of garages the development plan layout provides sufficient passive surveillance opportunities. Additional passive surveillance of the Northcote Public Golf Course should be provided and the plan should be amended accordingly.

Location of access where Beaver Road Narrows / opposite loading bays at 177 Beavers Road inappropriate

Council's traffic engineers have reviewed this matter and are satisfied that access is sufficient.

Improved bike lanes and footpaths should be provided in Beavers Road and surrounding area to access any future Merri Creek foot bridge at the end of Beavers Road.

This is an issue beyond the scope of the current application. Shared pedestrian / bike access through the site is recommended which will improve accessibility to any future bridge.

Lack of public transport infrastructure

This is an issue beyond the scope of the current application.

PLANNING ASSESSMENT

Contamination

Section 60 (1) (e) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* directs that before deciding on an application the responsible authority must:

Consider any significant effects which the responsible authority considers the use or development may have on the environment or which the responsible authority considers the environment may have on the use or development.

The subject site is in an Environmental Audit Overlay as the subject land and adjacent land has historically been used as a quarry and land fill site. The applicant has completed environmental investigations at the site to support the Statutory Environmental Audit. These investigations have identified soil contamination at levels that pose potential risk to ecological and in some areas human receptors.

To render the site suitable for the proposed use and ensure acceptable risk to the future on-site receptors, the investigations have recommended that the risks be mitigated by provision of a separation barrier across the entire site. The barrier may include permanent paving, concrete building slabs or a layer of clean fill at least 0.5 m thick.

The Auditor appointed for the site has agreed with this recommendation and has indicated that this requirement will be reflected in the Statement of Environmental Audit.

As a consequence of the recommended contamination management requirements no trees can be retained on site and the development plan reflects this. The removal of all on site vegetation, providing a barrier and providing planters for vegetation / canopy trees was the same outcome reached at 200 Beavers Road by an independent environmental assessment and supported by Council under POD/1/2015 where potential risks to human safety take precedence over tree retention.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Given proximity to Merri Creek the site is in an area of area of cultural heritage sensitivity as defined by the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007, however being a former landfill site the land has been subject to significant ground disturbance and as such a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is not required. Cultural Heritage is also a matter that is typically considered at the planning permit and not development plan stage.

Clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1) Merri Creek Environs

Whilst buildings and works are not proposed, an assessment against the requirements of the Environmental Significance Overlay is required. The site is proximate to the Merri Creek (45m to 85m) and partly adjacent to the Northcote Public Golf Course.

]

The principal objective of the ESO1 is related to Landscape Character, being to protect and enhance the natural and visual character of the waterway corridor and to ensure that the scenic qualities and visual character of the waterway corridor are not compromised by the inappropriate siting of buildings, the placement of fill, or lack of screening vegetation. The principal decision guidelines to consider are:

- The effect of the height, bulk, and general appearance of any proposed buildings and works on the environmental values and visual character of the creek.
- The extent that buildings or works are designed to enhance or promote the environmental values of the creek and the visual character of the creek corridor.
- The need for landscaping or vegetation screening.

The 3m building envelope setback proposed from the Northcote Public Golf Course will provide sufficient area for planting of landscaping. Other boundary setbacks that are less sensitive having regard to their minimal prominence to the Merri Creek also provide sufficient landscaping opportunities responding to the sites context and sensitivities to the north, east and south. A notation is recommended requiring canopy trees be provided along the perimeter of the site adjacent to the Northcote Golf Course, the rear yards of dwellings fronting Beaconsfield Parade, Croxton Special Education School and Beavers Road. The development plans also provides canopy trees throughout the site.

The subject site is not prominent when viewed from the Merri Creek, a fact accentuated by the topography of the land relative to the creek and the orientation of the creek away from the site to the north west. Given the distance of views and the developments lack of prominence setting back of upper levels from the west boundary will have negligible benefits on the matters sought to be protected by the ESO1.

Having regard to the approved development plan and permits issued to 200 Beavers Road which allow three and four storey buildings it is envisaged that once the land to the west is developed that development to the south of the subject site will have no presence to the Merri Creek.

Subject to conditions including appropriate materials and canopy trees the development is considered to respond to the above matters and will present more favourably than the previous industrial development and use.

Clause 52.06 Car Parking Provision

The development plan anticipates car parking to be provided fully in accordance with Clause 52.06 for residents and visitors.

Number of Parking Spaces Required

The traffic assessment outlines that car parking will be provided in accordance with Clause 52.06 as follows:

- one car space provided each of the one and two bedroom dwellings,
- two car parking spaces provided for each of the three or more bedroom dwellings
- one visitor car parking space provided for every five dwellings.

It is recommended that a notation be provided on the development plan to require resident parking in accordance with Clause 52.06 requirements.

Design Standards for Car parking

This is a matter best assessed under the planning permit process.

Clause 43.04 Development Plan Overlay DPO12 Compliance Summary

	Compliance
Existing conditions plan	
Information provided.	Y
Relationship between proposed uses and built form and existing and proposed development on adjoining land	
<p>Information provided.</p> <p>Overall the development plan has responded well to its context.</p> <p>Having regard to the recently approved development plan POD/1/2015 and planning permit D/1048/2015 at 200 Beavers Road the following changes are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building envelopes at level 2, 3 and 4 setback a minimum 3m from the east boundary of 200 Beavers Road excepting where the development plan for 200 Beavers Road allows buildings on the common boundary. Where balconies or living areas on the subject site are orientated towards balconies or living areas at 200 Beavers Road these shall be setback 4.5m from the east boundary of 200 Beaver Road. • The building envelope setback a minimum 5m from Beavers Road at level 4. • The building envelope setback a minimum 5m from the golf course to the west at level 4 to minimise mass and bulk impacts to the west. <p>Having regard to the playground adjacent to the east boundary at Croxton Special Education School the following changes are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building envelope setback 2m from the east boundary increased to 3m at level 1, 2 and 3 and 5m at level 4. <p>See comments regarding passive surveillance.</p> <p>Further assessment of interface issues will need to be undertaken at the planning permit stage.</p>	Y
Details of the proposed land use	
Dwelling use is proposed.	Y

	Compliance
Extent of active frontages at ground level and street frontages	
<p>The location of vehicle access is shown on the submitted plans. Active frontages are indicated to Beavers Road and to the communal access way from the two central buildings. It is noted that the majority of the ground floor of the development on the perimeter of the site as it presents to the communal access way will potentially be dominated by vehicle access. It is recommended that the plan include a notation that garages not dominate the frontage and that passive surveillance of the communal access way be provided for view lines from the perimeter of the development. Double garages for development on the perimeter of the site should have a tandem arrangement or architectural treatment that reduces the visual impact of garages. This outcome is similar to that allowed at 200 Beavers Road.</p>	Y
Design and siting of building that will maximise passive surveillance of public and communal areas and nearby creek environs	
<p>See comments regarding extent of active frontage.</p> <p>It is recommended that passive surveillance be shown to the west over the Northcote Golf Course. Having regard the way in which the development at 200 Beavers Road has provided low fences with no attempt at privacy from the adjacent park this outcome is consistent with that allowed to the west and will not result in unreasonable overlooking outcomes.</p> <p>Overlooking of the secluded private open spaces of dwellings to the north will be assessed at the planning permit stage. However having regard to the slope of the land it is recommended that fence heights be limited to prevent the use of unreasonably high boundary screening to address overlooking from any first floor north facing windows within the subject site.</p> <p>With regards to the issue of overlooking the school to the east under <i>Pysk v Nillumbik SC [2009] VCAT 1764</i>, the Tribunal stated the following in respect of this issue inter alia: <i>The issue in dispute is one which the Tribunal has considered on a number of occasions in recent years. A review of those decisions ... establishes a reasonable set of tests or guidelines which might be used to determine whether restrictions on overlooking of school grounds from an adjoining development are reasonably imposed. In broad terms these tests are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does the overlooking impact on class room windows?</i> • <i>Does the overlooking impact on a private or secluded part of the school grounds?</i> • <i>Are the school grounds visually exposed to the public domain?</i> • <i>Does the form, scale or nature of the proposed development contribute to a need to restrict overlooking?</i> • <i>Does the planning scheme include policies or provisions which provide guidance on the consideration of the issue?</i> 	Y

	Compliance
<p><i>The Tribunal has commented on a number of occasions that these tests ought to be applied in the context that a level of passive surveillance of public spaces including school grounds, should be regarded as a positive outcome from a security or safety perspective.</i></p> <p>The development plan specifies that there will not be active frontages facing the east however it recommended that a notation be required that balconies and living areas generally not be located facing the east boundary (adjoining the school).</p>	
<p>A mix of dwelling sizes to provide for a diversity of housing.</p>	
<p>Details of a diversity of dwellings have not been provided. This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.</p>	Y
<p>Minimisation of potential conflict (eg. noise, odours, hours of operation) between a proposed use and or development and existing uses and developments on adjoining and nearby land.</p>	
<p>There are no immediately adjoining uses to the east, west of north that raise such issues and the officers inspection indicated relatively benign uses on the south side of Beavers Road.</p> <p>However having regard to the commercial zoning and uses on the south side of Beavers Road the recommendation requires that a notation be provided on the development plan that buildings fronting / in proximity to Beavers Road be designed to minimise noise and other impacts associated with surrounding non – residential uses and that an acoustic, odour and emissions assessment accompany any permit application.</p>	Y
<p>Proposed streetscape treatments including landscaping to complement the existing surrounding streetscapes.</p>	
<p>The plans show a 2 metres setback to Beavers Road which is consistent with the Beavers Road Streetscape and the development plan approved at 200 Beavers Road. The landscape concept plan indicates that this will be landscaped. It is recommended that canopy trees be provided in the Beavers Road frontage also.</p>	Y
<p>The design and siting of any new development on any site not associated with existing industrial use should increase permeability through the site and surrounding area through the provision of publicly accessible linkages between land north of Beavers Road and Beaconsfield Parade.</p>	
<p>No permeability is provided through the site.</p> <p>In the report to Planning Committee for the 200 Beavers Road development plan the following was stated:</p> <p>“The plan has the intent of improving permeability east - west through the land from 198 Beavers Road to the Merri Creek parkland. The internal access-way design is not sufficient to allow appropriate access as a road and will remain as a body corporate / private road.</p>	Y

	Compliance
<p>It is noted that a public right of access cannot be required over the land without a Public Acquisition Overlay and if the access-way is not constructed to Council requirements and specifications (widths etc) this will remain common property / private land. This is the Transport Management and Planning units preferred outcome. A section 173 agreement is the enabling mechanism that is typically required to provide legal access from private land to a public park as proposed and requires the consent from Council. The development plan should note this.”</p> <p>In contrast to the above “intent” the Development Plan Overlay is quite explicit in stating that publicly accessible linkages between Beavers Road (officer’s interpretation) and Beaconsfield Parade should be provided.</p> <p>It is recommended that the development be amended to show the provision of a minimum 3 m wide paved Disability Discrimination Act 1992 compliant public pedestrian and bike access (public access) through the site from Beaconsfield Parade / Leinster Grove to Beavers Road. This is to be facilitated through a Section 173 Agreement. Development adjacent to the public access is to be designed and orientated to maximise passive surveillance of the public pedestrian access. The public access is to incorporate clear sight lines / minimise hiding places where possible. Surface treatments, vehicle access / circulation and signage to ensure appropriate safety for any areas of shared pedestrian and bike / vehicle access along internal roads. The access is to be to the satisfaction of Council.</p>	
<p>Development in the northern precinct should seek to reinforce the residential purpose of the land with limited commercial use at the ground level, where appropriate.</p>	
<p>Only residential development proposed.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>Detail regarding amongst other matters, the scale, form, setbacks, height and anticipated materials and colour of buildings and the landscaping.</p>	
<p>See comments above regarding relationship between proposed uses and built form and existing and proposed development on adjoining land.</p> <p>The following notations are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Earthy muted tones and non-reflective or low reflectivity materials to be used. ▪ Garages not to dominate the internal access-way. ▪ Double garages to be in a tandem and / or car stacker layout. 	<p>Y</p>

The built form should gradually rise and should not be more than 8 metres above existing ground level where within 5 metres of an abutting lot boundary of existing residential land that is outside of the DPO area.	
The setbacks from the north boundary comfortably comply with this requirement. See also comments under the ESO1 assessment regarding impacts on Merri Creek.	Y
The design of the built form towards any access ways should reflect a fine grain pattern of nearby streets, floors should be distinguishable from each other through punctured facades (eg. balconies, windows, façade articulation) and be located to provide a comfortable pedestrian scale.	
A notation should be provided reflecting this. This level of detail is best assessed at the planning permit stage.	Y
Details of design measures to maximise passive surveillance and activation of streetscapes and the public realm.	
A notation should be provided reflecting this. This level of detail is best assessed at the planning permit stage.	Y
Provision of environmental sustainable design principles including maximising opportunities for northern orientation and natural lighting, reduction of impervious surfaces and stormwater reduction and management to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.	
Indicative ESD measures are provided. This level of detail is best assessed at the planning permit stage.	Y
Graduated building heights where the overall height should not exceed 13.5 metres above existing ground level and a maximum of four storeys.	
The setbacks from boundaries should be greater as outlined above.	Y
Limited commercial uses that may be considered under the applicable zone should be located to front Beavers Road.	
Only residential development proposed.	Y
Recognition, enhancement and protection of the integrity of the Merri Creek landscape, environment and recreation functions after consideration of the Merri Creek Development Guidelines 2004 and the Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 2009-2014,	
Subject to the plan including notation related to materials as outlined above the mass, form and scale of buildings and fencing treatments comply with the Merri Creek Development Guidelines 2004 in relation to landscape character and the Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 2009-2014 Chapter 1.3 Visual character having regard to the proximity of development to the parkland, the extent to which buildings address the creek corridor and are of architectural or historic merit, or are screened by vegetation and the presence of indigenous vegetation are all addressed by the development plan.	Y

Provision of development setbacks from the Merri Creek environs which respond appropriately to topographical conditions and provision of public thoroughfares in the public and private domain adjacent to the creek, as appropriate.	
The land is not adjacent to the Merri Creek environs or public thoroughfares.	Y
Design and siting of buildings to minimise visual and landscape impacts experienced from the Merri Creek environs and adjoining pedestrian paths, including the transition of building heights to reduce height and mass nearby the Merri Creek environs. The built form should gradually rise and should not be more than 8 metres (above existing ground level) or a maximum two storeys within 5 metres where a lot boundary abuts creek or park environs.	
The land is not adjacent to the Merri Creek environs. The proposed setbacks will minimise the visual and landscape impacts experienced from the Merri Creek environs and adjoining pedestrian paths.	Y
Buildings adjacent and nearby the Merri Creek corridor being constructed of materials and colours that reflect the natural setting of the creek environment and in finished in muted tones.	
Ensuring adequate materials should be a requirement of the development plan.	Y
Appropriate development design and interface treatment to respond to and complement the Merri Creek environs, after consideration of the Merri Creek Development Guidelines 2004 and other land uses nearby.	
Subject to conditions this has been adequately addressed.	Y
Urban design treatment at the western section of the area to address and protect the gateway approach from the west across Merri Creek into Darebin City.	
This is more related to the southern part of the DPO on Arthurton Road. If a pedestrian and cycle bridge is proximate to Beavers Road the the proposal will present appropriately to this new gateway.	Y
Environment/landscaping – Appropriate landscaping buffer and treatments along Merri Creek to be provided. Consideration of the provision of appropriate linkages between new developments and areas of existing open space.	
The site does not abut Merri Creek.	Y
Minimisation of light spill into the Merri Creek valley.	
It is recommended that a notation be required to address this.	Y
An Integrated Transport and Traffic Management Plan	
The assessment addresses existing conditions, the internal road layout, car parking location, the expected traffic generation and management, bicycle and pedestrian movement and their connections to the external movement network including public transport to meet any relevant road standards. No works are required to existing intersections to accommodate traffic increases and safe pedestrian movement.	Y

Clause 55 Compliance Summary

Below is a general comment on the matters of Clause 55. There are no sensitive interfaces and as a consequence Clause 55.04 has minimal relevance.

Clause	Std		Compliance	
			Std	Obj
55.02-1	B1	Neighbourhood character		
		Please see assessment in the body of this report.	Y	Y
55.02-2	B2	Residential policy		
		The proposal complies with the relevant residential policies outlined in the Darebin Planning Scheme.	Y	Y
55.02-3	B3	Dwelling diversity		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.02-4	B4	Infrastructure		
		Adequate infrastructure exists to support new development.	Y	Y
55.02-5	B5	Integration with the street		
		The layout of dwellings generally interfaces well with the street. This will be further assessed at the planning permit stage.	Y	Y
55.03-1	B6	Street setback		
		The required setback is 3 metres, the building envelopes are set back 2 metres from the Beavers Road street frontage. This is consistent with setbacks allowed at 200 Beavers Road, the Residential Growth Zone and surrounding development.	Y	Y
55.03-2	B7	Building height		
		See Clause 43.04 compliance summary.	Y	Y
55.03-3	B8	Site coverage		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.03-4	B9	Permeability		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.03-5	B10	Energy efficiency		
		See Clause 43.04 compliance summary.	N/A	N/A
55.03-6	B11	Open space		
		See Clause 43.04 compliance summary.	Y	Y

Clause	Std		Compliance	
			Std	Obj
55.03-7	B12	Safety		
		The proposed development is secure and the creation of unsafe spaces has been avoided.	Y	Y
55.03-8	B13	Landscaping		
		See Clause 43.04 compliance summary.	Y	Y
55.03-9	B14	Access		
		Access is sufficient and respects the character of the area.	Y	Y
55.03-10	B15	Parking location		
		The plan indicates that parking facilities will be proximate to the dwellings they serve. This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	Y	Y
55.04-1	B17	Side and rear setbacks		
		See Clause 43.04 compliance summary. It is noted that in a residential growth zone subject to conditions the building envelopes proposed are acceptable.	Y	Y
55.04-2	B18	Walls on boundaries		
		There may be walls on the west boundary reflecting the development plan allowed at 200 Beavers Road. It is noted that in a residential growth zone this design outcome is acceptable.	Y	Y
55.04-3	B19	Daylight to existing windows		
		No dwelling windows affected by the proposal. It is a fundamental planning principle that this matter is assessed based on existing conditions but this remains true for the permit issued to the land to the west at 200 Beavers Road.	N/A	N/A
55.04-4	B20	North-facing windows		
		No dwelling windows affected by the proposal.	N/A	N/A
55.04-5	B21	Overshadowing open space		
		No dwellings affected by the proposal. It is a fundamental planning principle that this matter is assessed based on existing conditions but this remains true for the permit issued to the land to the west at 200 Beavers Road.	N/A	N/A
55.04-6	B22	Overlooking		
		See Clause 43.05 compliance summary. It is a	N/A	N/A

Clause	Std		Compliance	
			Std	Obj
		fundamental planning principle that this matter is assessed based on existing conditions. This will be further assessed at the planning permit stage.		
55.04-7	B23	Internal views		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.04-8	B24	Noise impacts		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.05-1	B25	Accessibility		
		See Clause 43.04 compliance summary.	N/A	N/A
55.05-2	B26	Dwelling entry		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.05-3	B27	Daylight to new windows		
		Adequate setbacks are proposed to allow appropriate daylight access.	Y	Y
55.05-4	B28	Private open space		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.05-5	B29	Solar access to open space		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.05-6	B30	Storage		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.06-1	B31	Design detail		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.06-2	B32	Front fences		
		No front fence should be allowed given setbacks proposed.	Y	Y
55.06-3	B33	Common property		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage.	N/A	N/A
55.06-4	B34	Site services		
		This will be assessed at the planning permit stage. The traffic report notes that waste collection may be by a private contractor. Private waste collection is required and this should be reflected by the development plan.	N/A	N/A

Clause 56 Subdivision

It is recommended that the development plan allow the creation of staged super lots with any subdivision to create super lots only be allowed once development is approved and common areas are constructed and with subdivision of individual residential allotments to occur only once the development of the land / individual super lot is substantially completed.

REFERRAL SUMMARY

Department/ Authority	Response
Assets and Properties	<p>Properties has reviewed the plans for the above application and has no objection to the proposed development on the following basis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no direct access provision from the property to the golf course without any further consideration from Properties. 2. That if required, due consideration be given to the type and height of the fencing between the golf course and the property for the prevention of stray golf balls. 3. That any proposed public pedestrian / bike linkages from Beavers Road to the unnamed road be formalised.
Capital Works	No objection. Standard Conditions.
Transport Management and Planning	<p>No objection subject to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A minimum 3m wide dedicated footpaths are to be accommodated throughout the internal street network, to provide direct connectivity to and between Beavers Road and Leinster Grove. b. Provide a higher rate of resident bicycle parking, ideally at a rate of 0.5 per dwelling, indicated on the plans.
Darebin Parks	No objection
Urban Designer	<p>Site interfaces</p> <p>The street interface to Beavers Road has a 2m setback. This provides some semi-private buffer space for future ground floor residential uses. A minimum 3m front setback is preferred as it would able to accommodate modest canopy planting</p> <p>The ground level is on the west boundary which is acceptable given that the adjacent site to the west proposes the same arrangement. At upper levels an 'equitable development outcome' is sought, with overlooking issues to be addressed by providing adequate separation from facing development, rather than reliance on screening (as proposed on the Overlooking and Passive Surveillance Plan). A greater setback is sought from the west boundary at upper levels</p>

Department/ Authority	Response
	<p>The setback to the east side is still proposed at 2m minimum and this should be increased to achieve canopy planting in rear garden spaces</p> <p>Site layout</p> <p>The Access Plan indicates potential for vehicle access from all the building frontage around the perimeter of the site. Previous advice is reiterated to avoid frontages dominated by garages, however the Overlooking and Passive Surveillance Plan indicates that the 'main outlook' of development adjacent to east and west boundaries will be towards the internal street. This will help to achieve the DPO12 requirement to maximise passive surveillance and activation of streetscapes and the public realm.</p> <p>Passive surveillance to Beavers Road is still not indicated. This should be achieved and the development must not turn its back on the street front.</p> <p>Potential building form</p> <p>Roof top terraces are indicated on the site cross-sections as potentially extending across the entire roof top level. Structures associated with a roof terrace should have limited visibility from surrounding development, and their arrangement should avoid overlooking without the need for screening which would add to building bulk. The extent of potential roof terrace shown is questioned.</p>
Melbourne Water	No Objection
Director of Public Transports	No Objection
Merri Creek Management Committee	<p>Lack of internal road connectivity between site and 200 Beavers Road.</p> <p>Lack of provision for public movement north-south between the development site and the adjacent special school.</p>

PLANNING SCHEME SUMMARY

Applicable provisions of the Darebin Planning Scheme

Section of Scheme	Relevant Clauses
SPPF	11.02-1, 13.03-1, 15.01-1, 15.01-5, 15.02, 16.01, 18.02-2
LPPF	21.05-1, 21.05-2, 21.05-3, 22.04
Zone	32.07 RGZ1
Overlay	42.01 ESO1, 43.04 DPO12, 45.03, 45.06

Section of Scheme	Relevant Clauses
Particular provisions	52.06, 55.
General provisions	65.01
Neighbourhood Character Precinct	N/A

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

All new dwellings are required to achieve a minimum six (6) star energy rating under the relevant building controls.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications as a result of the determination of this application.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Nil

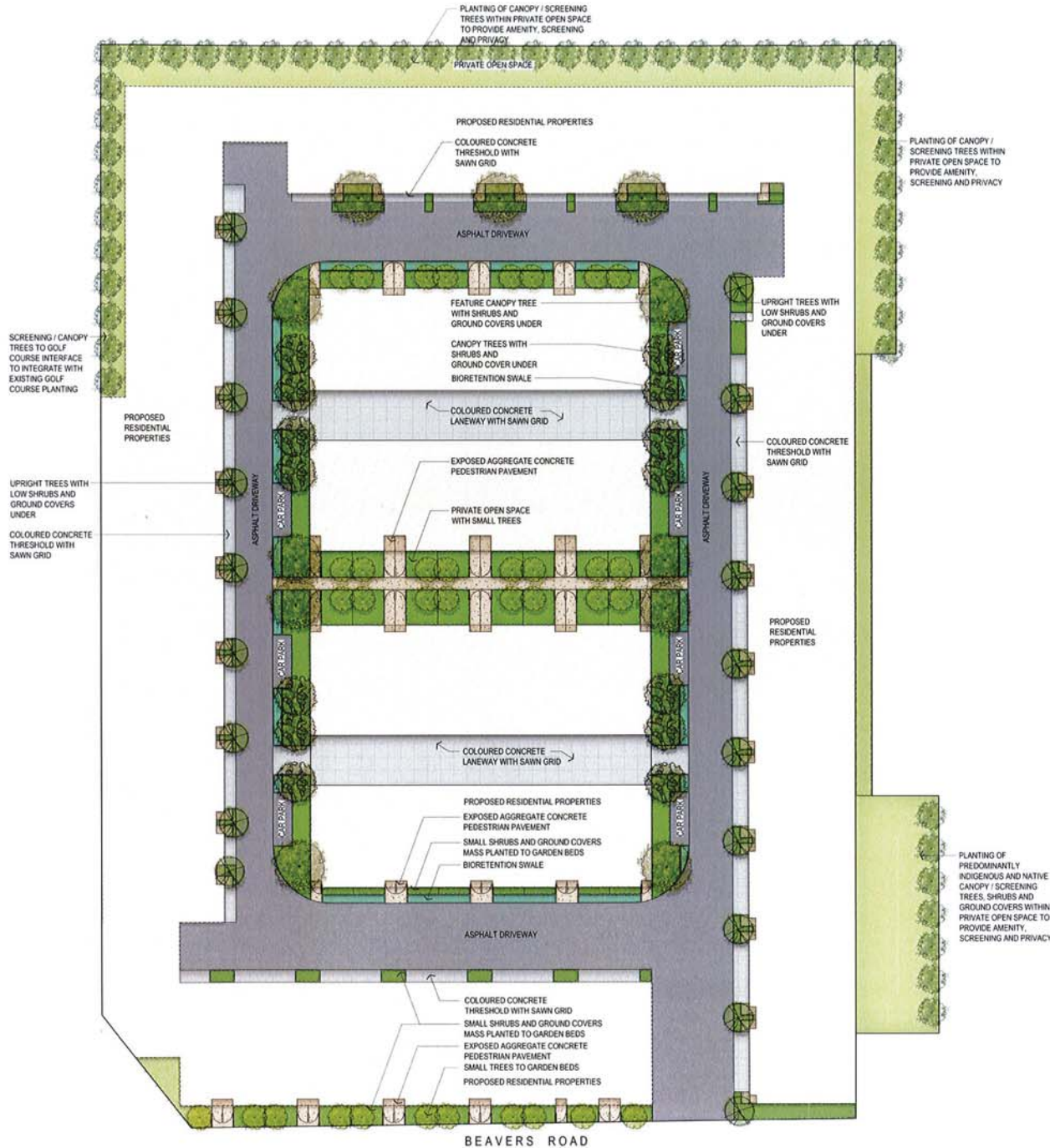
DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of 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 Manager authorising this 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 Planning Scheme and the *Planning and Environment Act (1987)* as amended.



- ### LEGEND
- PROPOSED CANOPY TREE
 - PROPOSED FEATURE TREE
 - PROPOSED BOUNDARY TREE
 - PROPOSED UPRIGHT STREET TREE
 - PROPOSED SMALL GARDEN TREE
 - COLOURED CONCRETE PAVEMENT WITH SAWN CUT GRID
 - EXPOSED AGGREGATE PEDESTRIAN CONCRETE PAVEMENT
 - ASPHALT DRIVEWAY
 - PROPOSED 1200 HIGH STEEL OR TIMBER PICKET FENCE
 - MASS PLANTING OF SMALL SHRUBS AND GROUND COVERS TO GARDEN BED
 - BIORETENTION SWALE

PLANT SCHEDULE

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE AT MATURITY
TREES		
BOUNDARY TREES - from a selection including		
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood	5-8m x 4-5m
<i>Betula pendula 'Fastigiata'</i>	Pyramidalis Birch	8-10m x 4m
<i>Callitris columellaris</i>	White Cypress	8-10m x 2m
<i>Corymbia chinensis 'Scentibus'</i>	Lemon Scented Gum cullivar	8-8m x 3-5m
<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'</i>	Ornamental Pear	8-10 x 4-5m
<i>Tristanopsis laurina 'Luscious'</i>	Water Gum cullivar	5-7m x 4-6m
STREET TREES - from a selection including		
<i>Brachycton populneus x acerifolius 'Verdeline Red'</i>	Kurrajong Hybrid	8-8m x 5-7m
<i>Callitris columellaris</i>	White Cypress	8-10m x 2m
<i>Corymbia chinensis 'Scentibus'</i>	Lemon Scented Gum cullivar	6-8m x 3-5m
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani	8-10m x 2-3m
GARDEN TREES - from a selection including		
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon Tree	2-3m x 2-3m
<i>Lagerstroemia indica x L. laurei 'Tuscarora'</i>	Crape Myrtle	4-5m x 3-4m
<i>Malus ioensis 'Plena'</i>	Crab Apple	4-6m x 3-4m
SMALL SHRUBS AND GROUND COVERS - from a selection including		
<i>Brachycome multifida</i>	Cut-leaf Daisy	0.3m x 0.3m
<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>	Pig Face	0.2-0.4 x 1.0-2.0m
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Native Fuchsia	1m x 1m
<i>Dianella caerulea 'Little Jess'</i>	Piano Lily cullivar	0.5m x 0.5m
<i>Ficinia rostrata</i>	Kinohby Club Rush	0.5-1.0m x 0.5-1.0m
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Happy Wanderer	0.5m x 1.0-2.0m
<i>Lomandra longifolia 'Tanika'</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush cullivar	0.6m x 0.6m
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Native Violet	0.2m x 0.3m
<i>Westringia frutescens 'Grey Box'</i>	Coastal Rosemary cullivar	0.4m x 0.4m

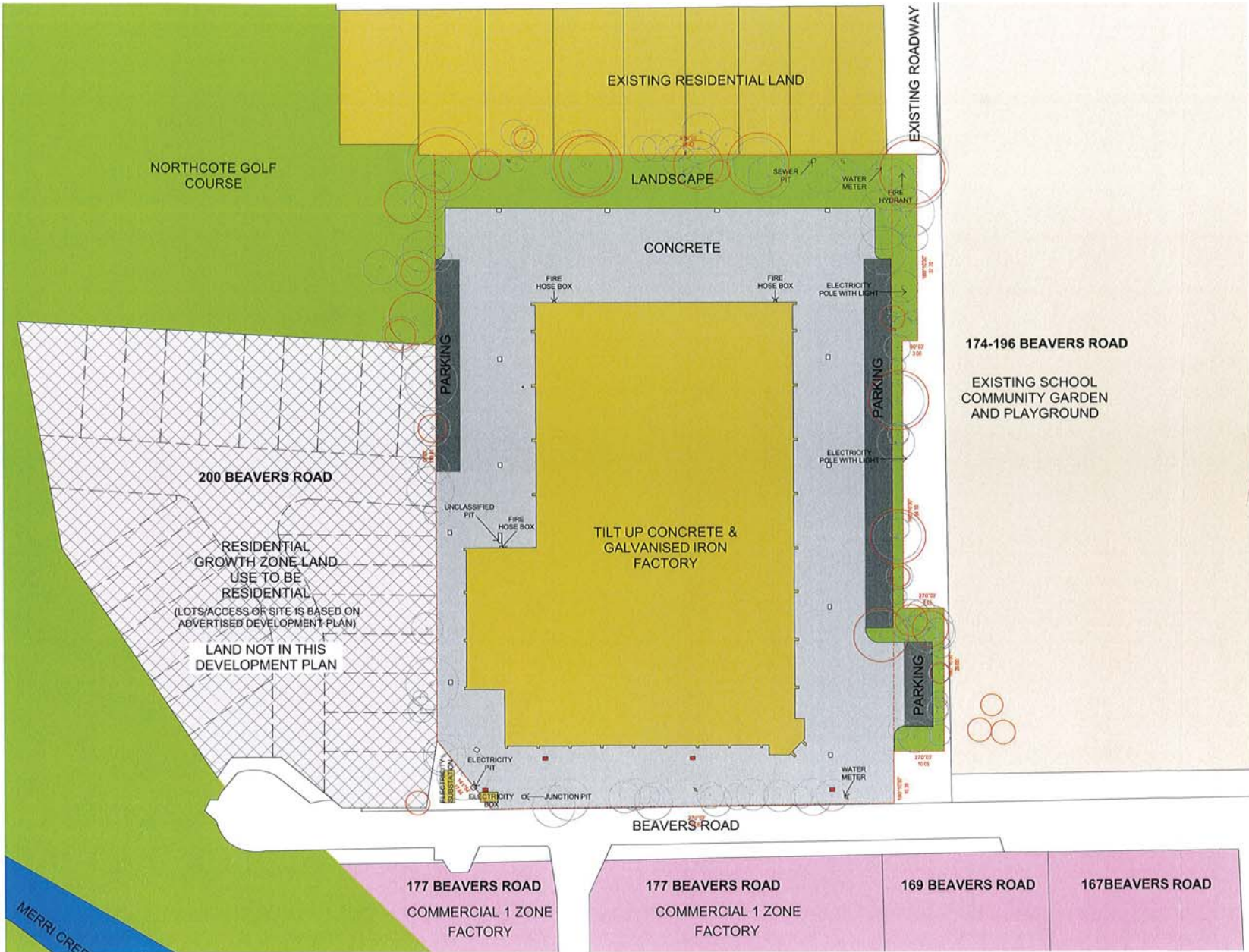
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DRAFT STATUTORY PLANNING

Land Design Partnership
198 Beavers Road
Northcote Landscape DA

Scale: 1:250 @ A1
Date: 12/04/2016
Author: CS
Reviewer: A
Project: LSK01

100% April 2016
100% GP



Tree shown as per the Arboricultural Report prepared by Treelogic.

Tree removal subject to approval as part of future planning permit application.

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- GRATED ENTRY PIT
- SIDE ENTRY PIT
- STOP VALVE
- TREE PROTECTION ZONE



Client
THE FIRST STONE

Project Name
MASTERPLAN 06
198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE

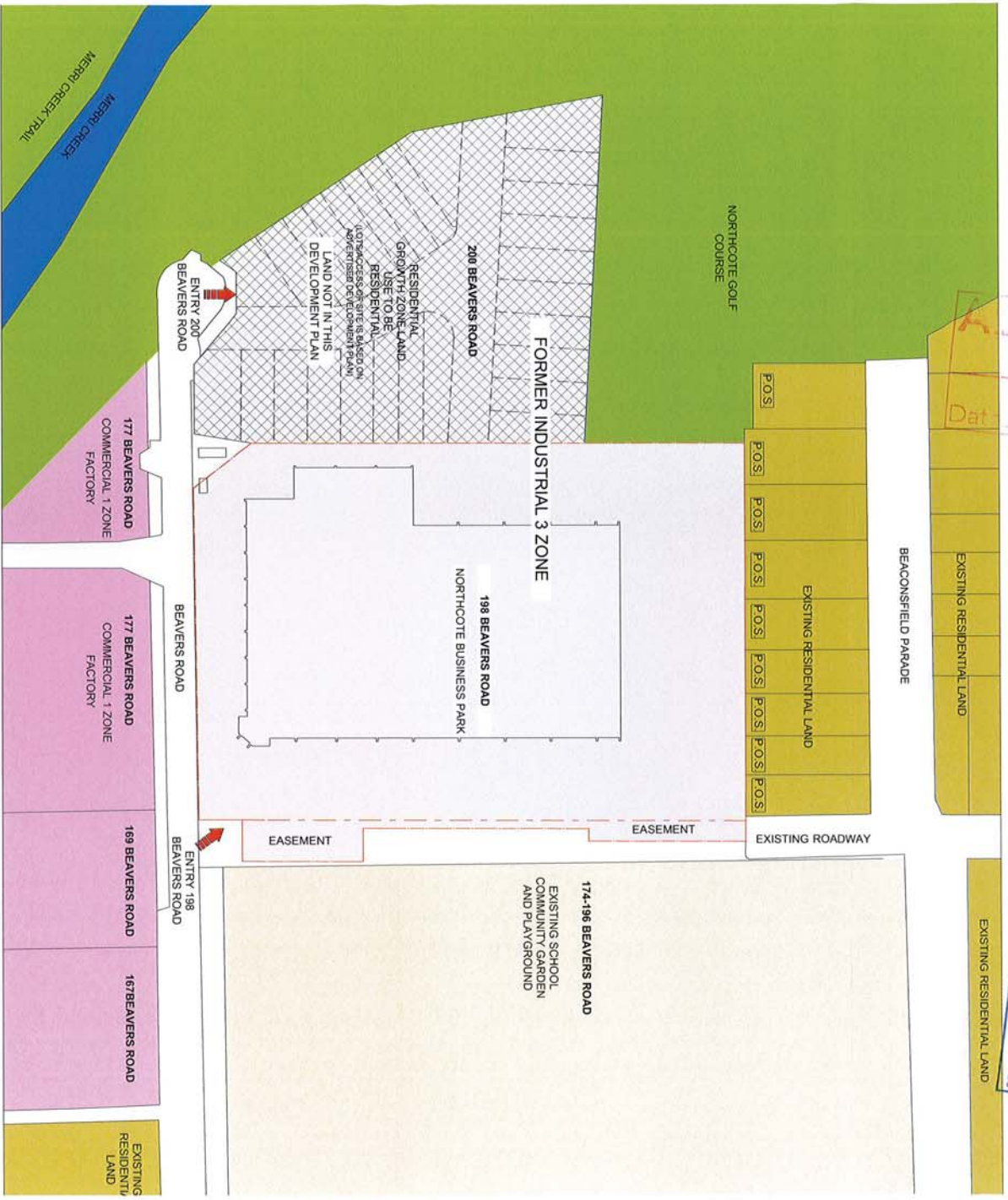
EXISTING CONDITIONS SURVEY	
Scale 1:750 @ A3	Date 19/04/2016
Drawn By	Checked By
Project No 12.019	Drawing No SK1.1
	Rev. A

METAXAS ARCHITECTS PTY LTD ABN 160 791 1606 102 QUEENSBERRY STREET CARLTON VIC 3053 AUSTRALIA
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Specific details of existing conditions at the subject site shown on SK1.1.

Client		Drawing Title	
THE FIRST STONE		CONTEXT PLAN	
Project Name		Scale: 1:1000 @ A3/low 19.04.2016	
MASTERPLAN 06		Drawn By: SK1.2	
198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE		Checked By: A	
Project No: 12.019		Date: 19.04.2016	
No. 208		Rev: A	

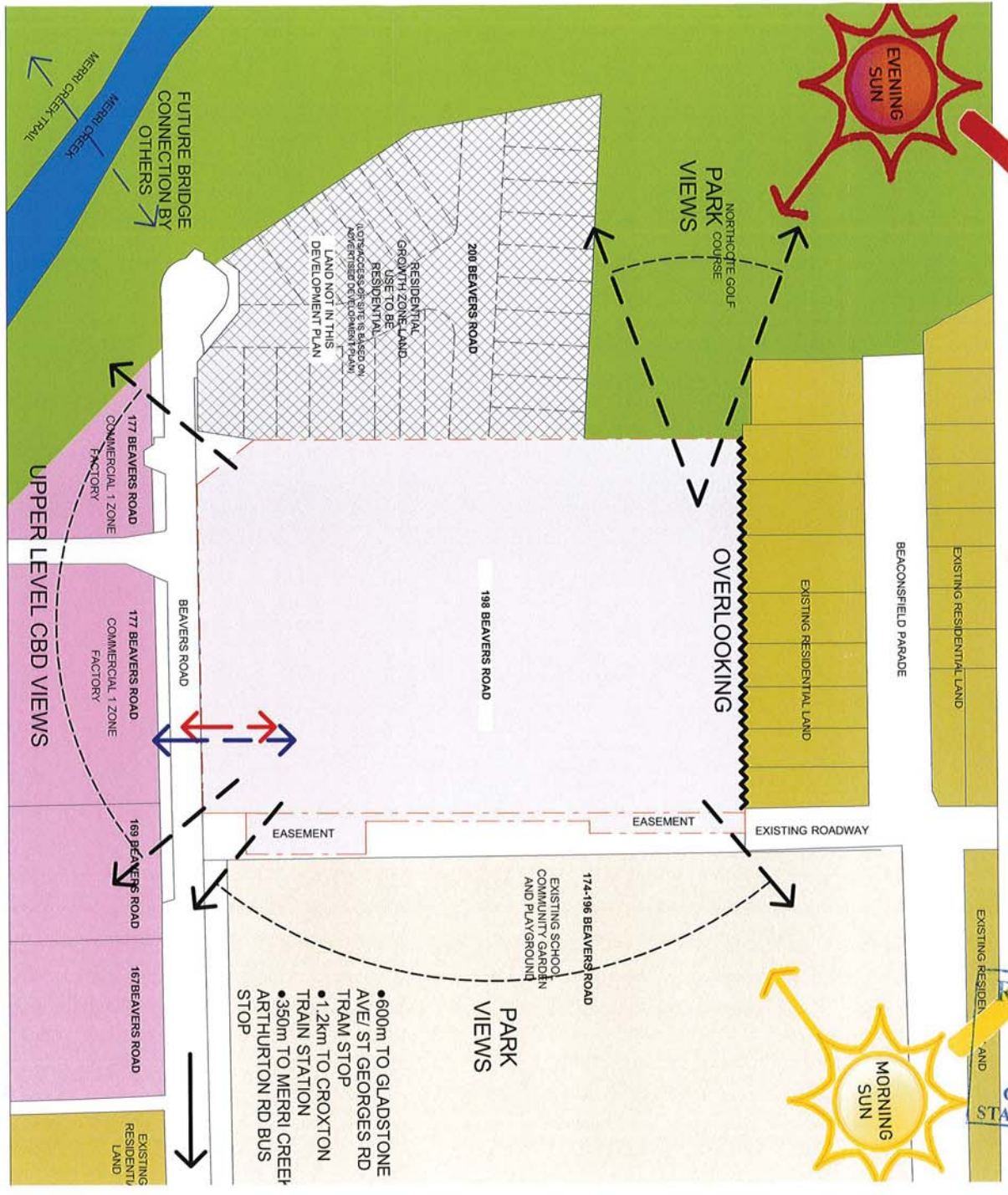
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- 600m TO GLADSTONE AVE/ ST GEORGES RD TRAM STOP
- 1.2km TO CROXTON TRAIN STATION
- 350m TO MERRI CREEK ARTHURTON RD BUS STOP

- — — VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
- — — PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRAFFIC

The site is a large piece of residentially zones land creating an opportunity for the provision of housing in an area that has tram, bus and train routes in within close proximity.

The proposed dwellings will have access to park views to the east and the west and upper level CBD views to the south.

Residential interfaces to the rear (south) and as such create the potential for overlooking from the subject site. This has been considered in the detailed design.

The site is within an area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity due to its proximity to Merril Creek.

The former use of the site as a quarry creates the potential for it to be contaminated.

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Client: THE FIRST STONE

Project Name: MASTERPLAN 06
198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE

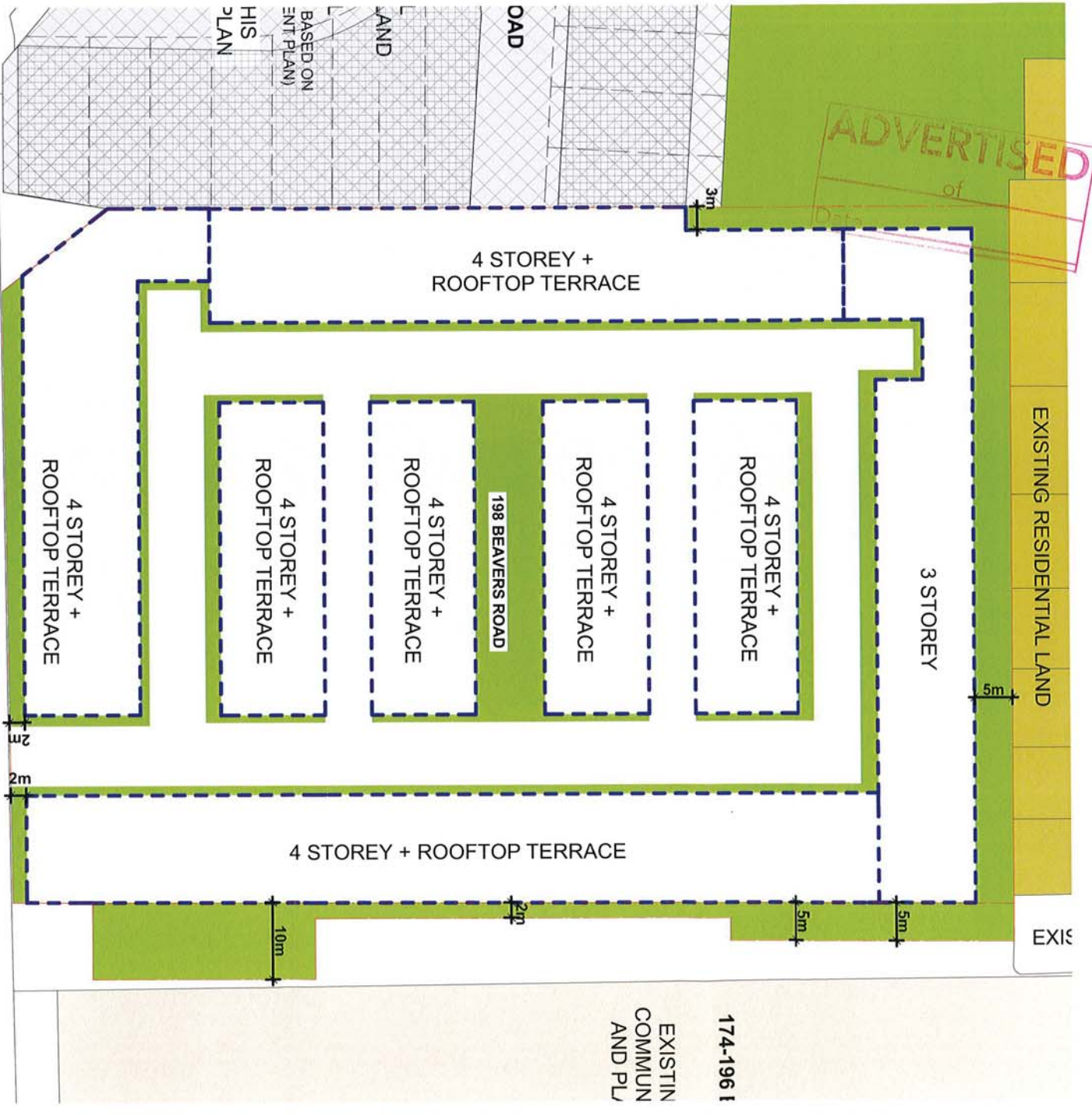
Scale: 1:1000 @ A3 Date: 19.04.2016

Project No: 12.019

Checked By: SK1.3

Drawn By: A

N



The proposal will include a mix of housing types.

An Overall maximum height of 4 storeys is proposed in accordance with Council's preferred built form outcomes with setbacks that increase as the heights increase to provide for recessive upper levels. Setbacks noted are minimums.

Maximum height of 3 storeys proposed for rear built form to provide for an appropriate transition towards the low scale residential properties to the north. Greater setbacks are provided to the rear property boundary to provide for suitable separation from sensitive interfaces of residential properties and to provide for meaningful landscaping.

No setback is provided to Beavers Road to provide for a street wall that will activate the frontage through provision of glazing and balconies facing Beavers Road. This is consistent with the robust commercial buildings opposite the site.

Minimal setbacks provided to the west due to wall on boundary associated with development plan for 200 Beavers Road that shows wall abutting the common boundary. The dwellings on the western side of the site will include balconies facing east to provide for passive surveillance within the site and a sense of activation for the internal streets.

Landscaping provided adjacent to driveways and within setbacks to soften the presentation of built form and hard surfacing.

177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

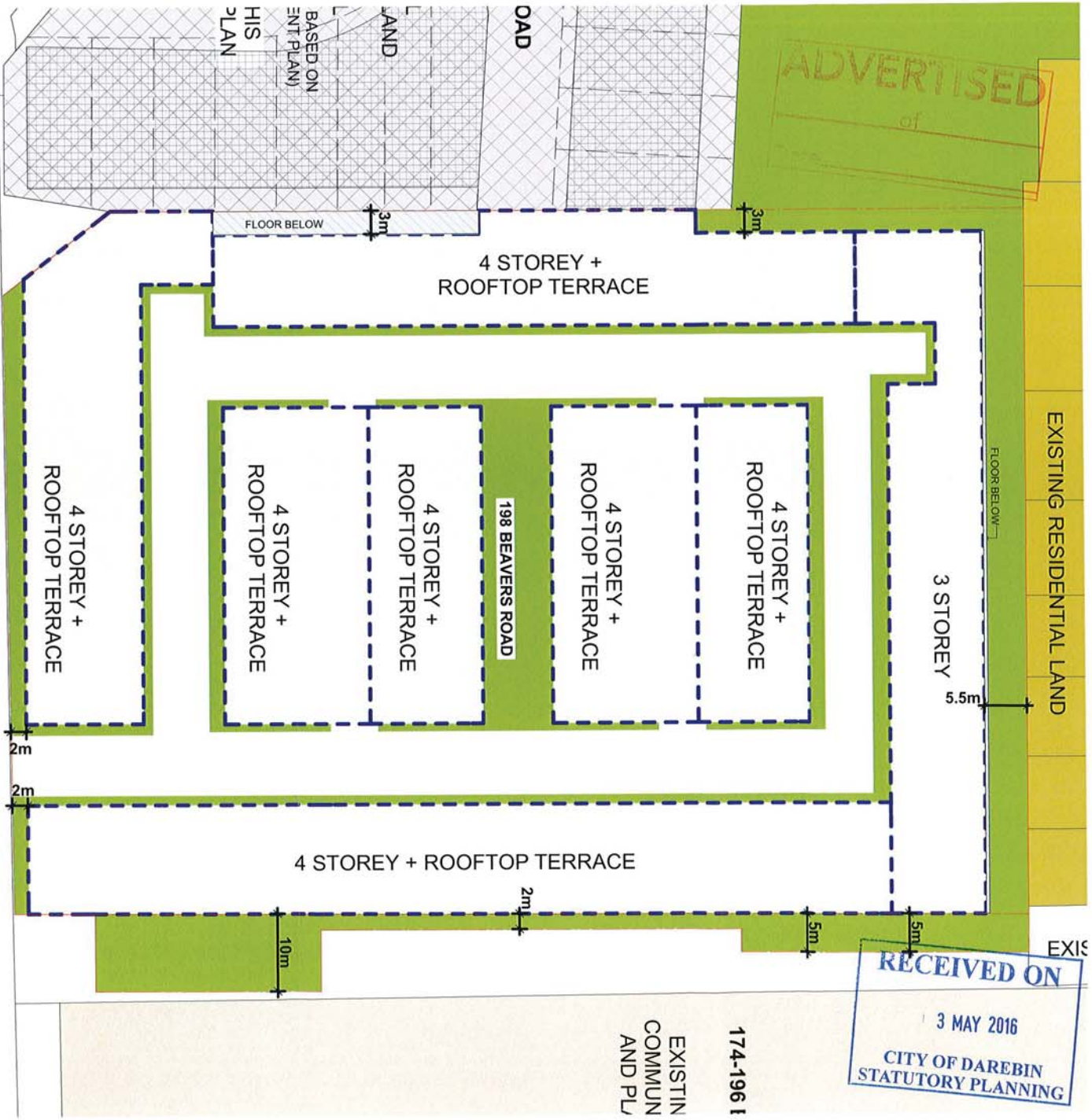
169 BEAVERS ROAD



Client	THE FIRST STONE
Project Name	MASTERPLAN 06 198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE
Scale	1:500 @ A3 (Date: 19.04.2018)
Scale: DPO	Checked By
Project No	SK1.4
Site No	A
12.019	19/04/2018



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177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

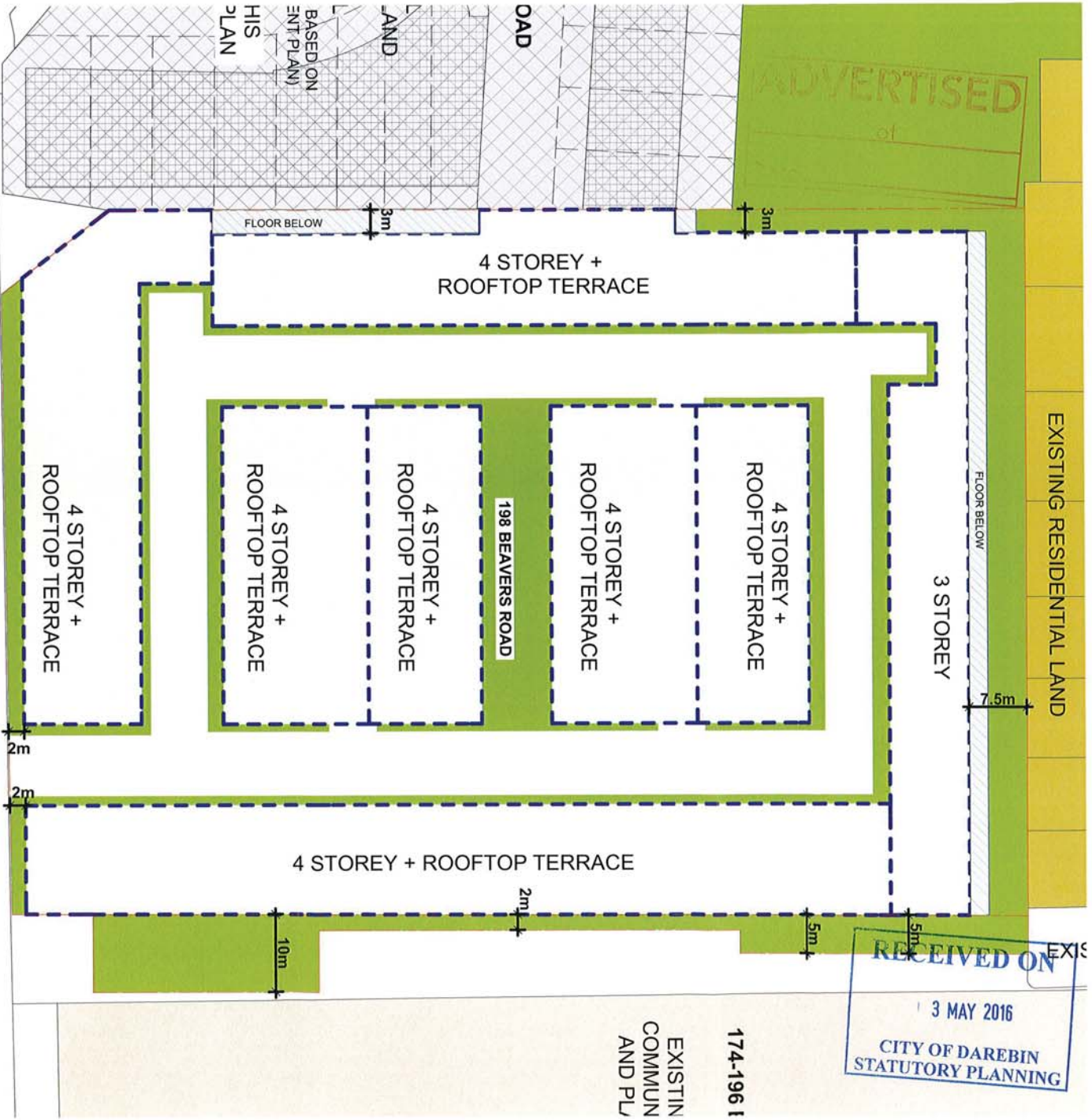
169 BEAVERS ROAD

The proposal will include a mix of housing types.
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Landscaping provided adjacent to driveways and within setbacks to soften the presentation of built form and hard surfacing.



Client: **THE FIRST STONE**
Project Name: **MASTERPLAN 06**
198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE

Drawing Title: **PROPOSED SITE PLAN - LEVEL 02**
Scale: 1:500 @ A1 Date: 19/04/2016
Scale: 1:500 @ A1 Date: 19/04/2016
Project No: **12.019**
Drawing No: **SK1.5**
Rev: **A**



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177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

169 BEAVERS ROAD

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Project Name: MASTERPLAN 06
198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE

Scale: 1:500 @ A3 Date: 19.04.2016

Project No: 12.019

Drawing No: SK1.6

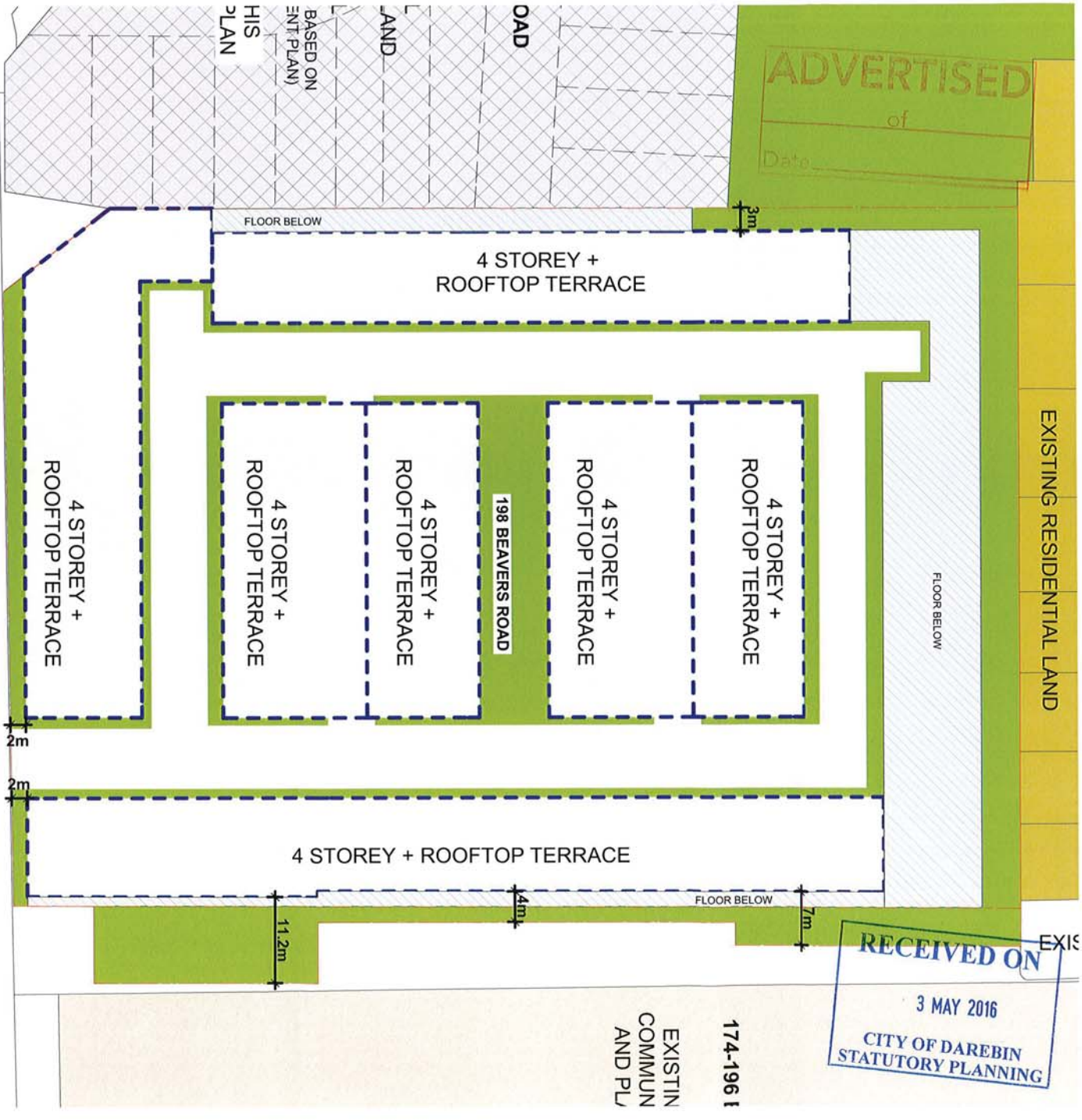
Sheet: 1 of 1

Project No: 12.019

Sheet: 1 of 1

Project No: 12.019

Sheet: 1 of 1



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EXISTING RESIDENTIAL LAND

FLOOR BELOW

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EXIS

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EXISTING COMMUN AND PL

OAD
AND
BASED ON
ENT PLAN
HIS
PLAN

FLOOR BELOW

4 STOREY +
ROOFTOP TERRACE

4 STOREY +
ROOFTOP TERRACE

4 STOREY +
ROOFTOP TERRACE

198 BEAVERS ROAD

4 STOREY +
ROOFTOP TERRACE

4 STOREY +
ROOFTOP TERRACE

4 STOREY +
ROOFTOP TERRACE

BEAVERS ROAD

4 STOREY + ROOFTOP TERRACE

FLOOR BELOW

177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

169 BEAVERS ROA

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177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

177 BEAVERS ROAD
COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE

169 BEAVERS ROA

N

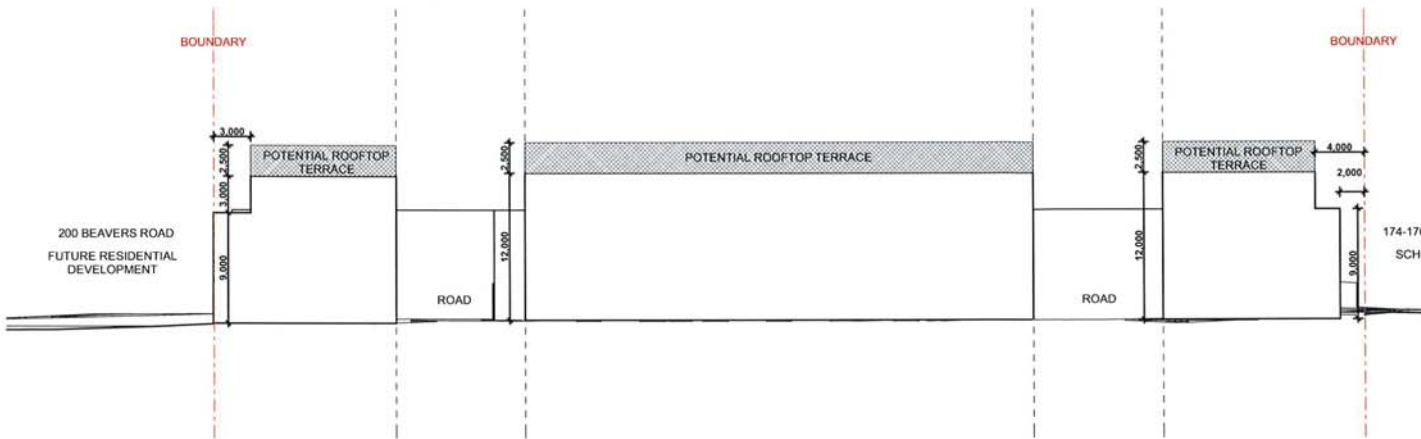
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Project Name		MASTERPLAN 06 198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE	
Scale		1:500 @ A1 (1:1000 @ A2)	
Status		DPO	
Project No		12.019	
Drawing No		SK1.7	
Rev		A	

PROPOSED SITE PLAN -
LEVEL 04

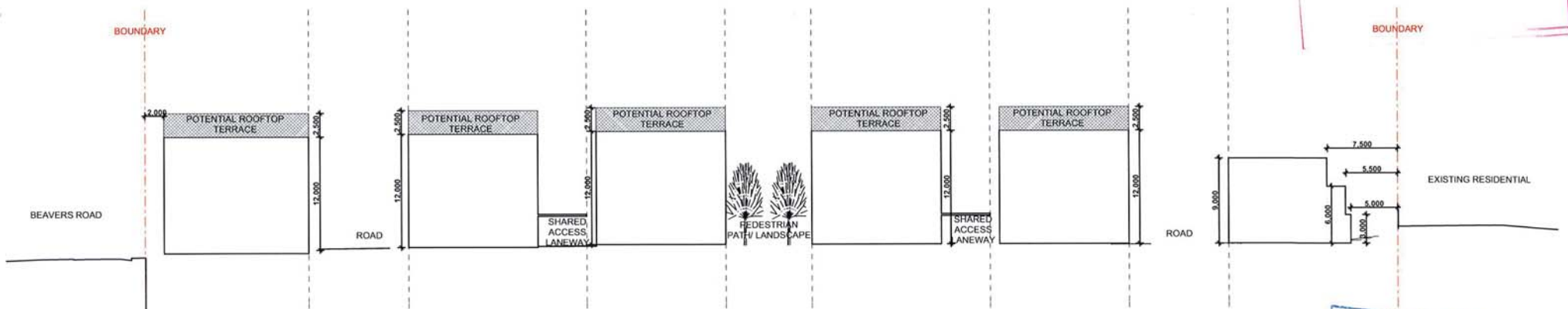
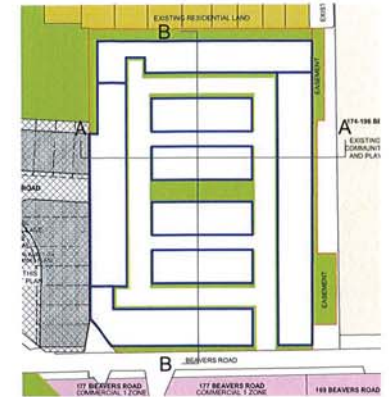
174-1961

EXISTING COMMUN AND PL

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Section A - Setbacks



Section B - Setbacks

Setbacks shown are minimum setbacks. Articulation and visual interest is to be provided through varied setbacks, a mix of materials, balcony projections and varied window forms. Details to be provided at planning permit application stage.

Screening/ Vegetation(planters) will be provided for roof terraces

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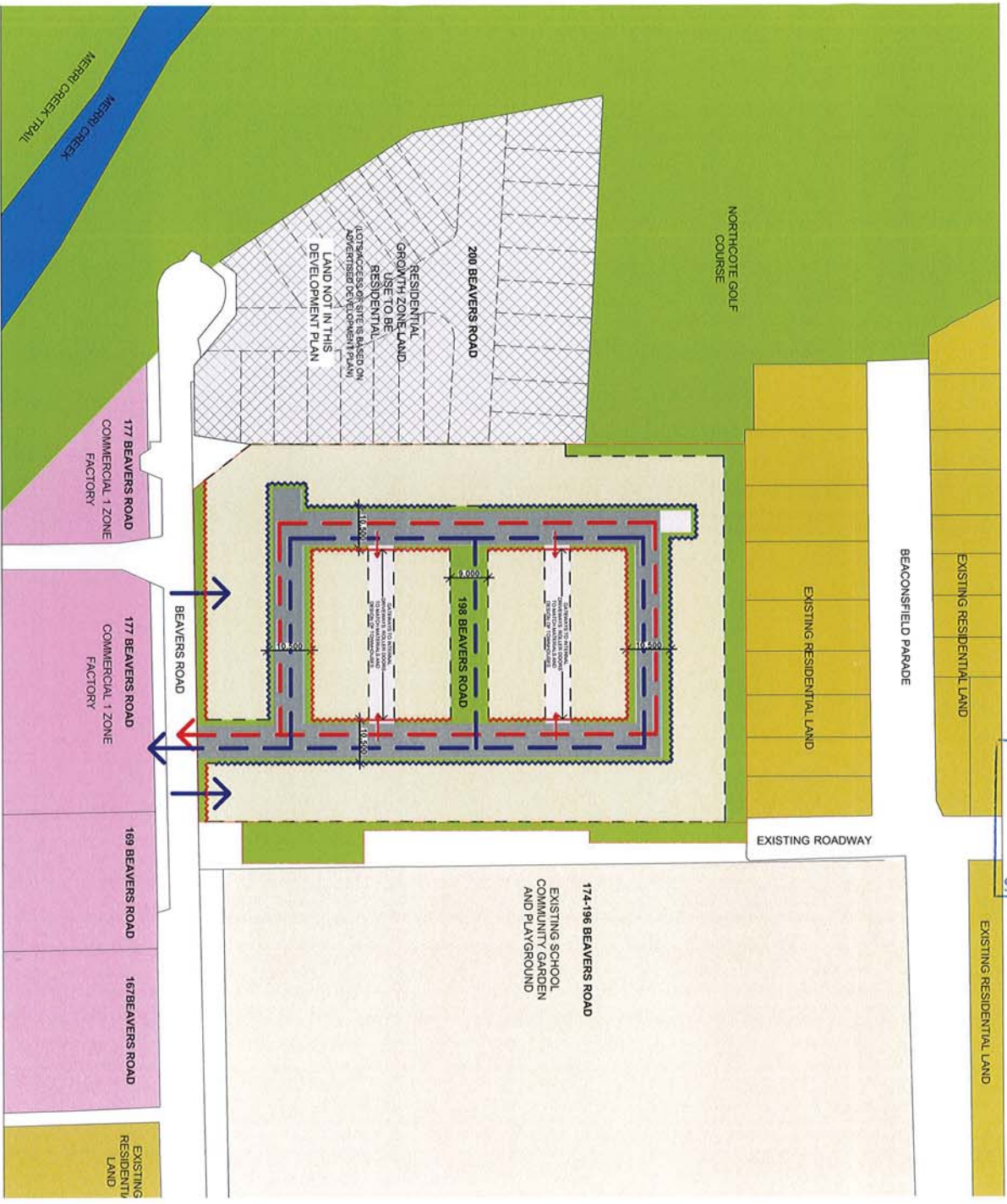
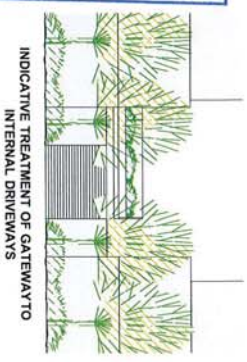
METAXAS ARCHITECTS PTY LTD ABN 161 791 18628 102 QUEENSBERRY STREET CARLTON VIC 3053 AUSTRALIA
 TEL 03 8398 5344 FAX 03 8398 7523 EMAIL info@metaxas.com.au WEB www.metaxas.com.au



Client THE FIRST STONE		Drawing Title SECTIONAL SETBACKS	
Project Name MASTERPLAN 05 198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE		Scale 1:400, 1:200, 1:100	Date 19/04/2016
Project No. 12.019	Drawing No. SK1.8	Checked By	Rev A

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- VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
- PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRAFFIC
- MULTI-UNIT ACCESS
- POTENTIAL VEHICLE ACCESS POINT
- NO VEHICLE ENTRY/CROSSOVER

Potential access to dwellings from internal roads - details are subject to apartment / townhouse layout.

Accessways provided between central dwellings blocks to reduce garage car parking dominance to main internal roads.

Pedestrian access directly from Beavers Road to the front dwellings

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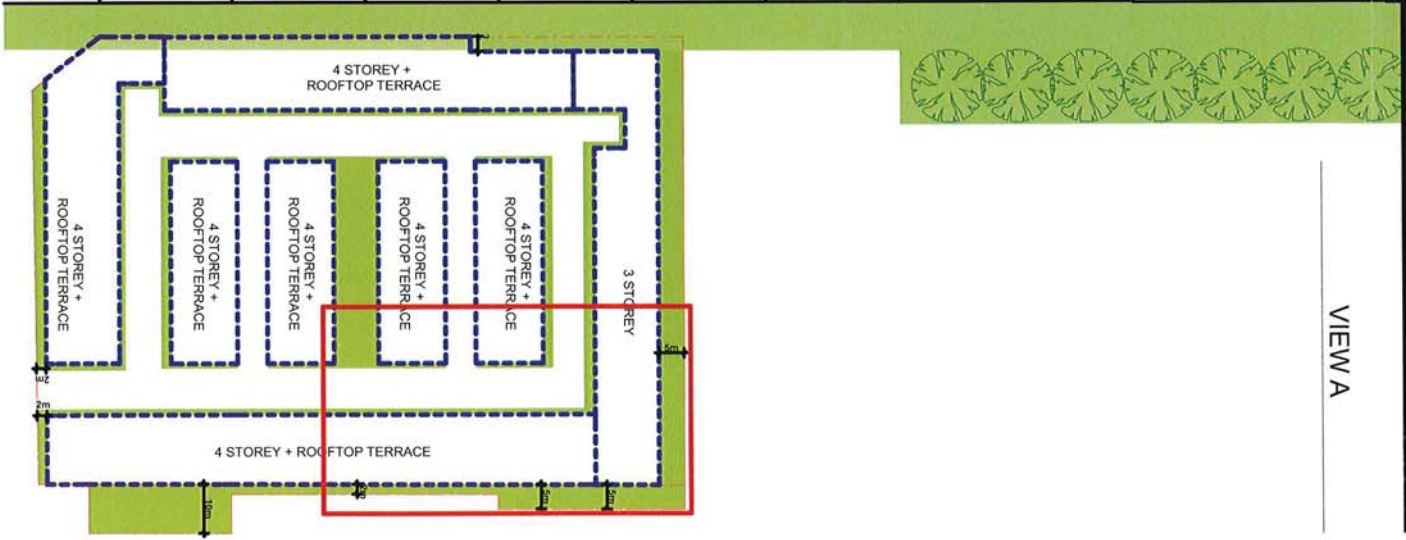
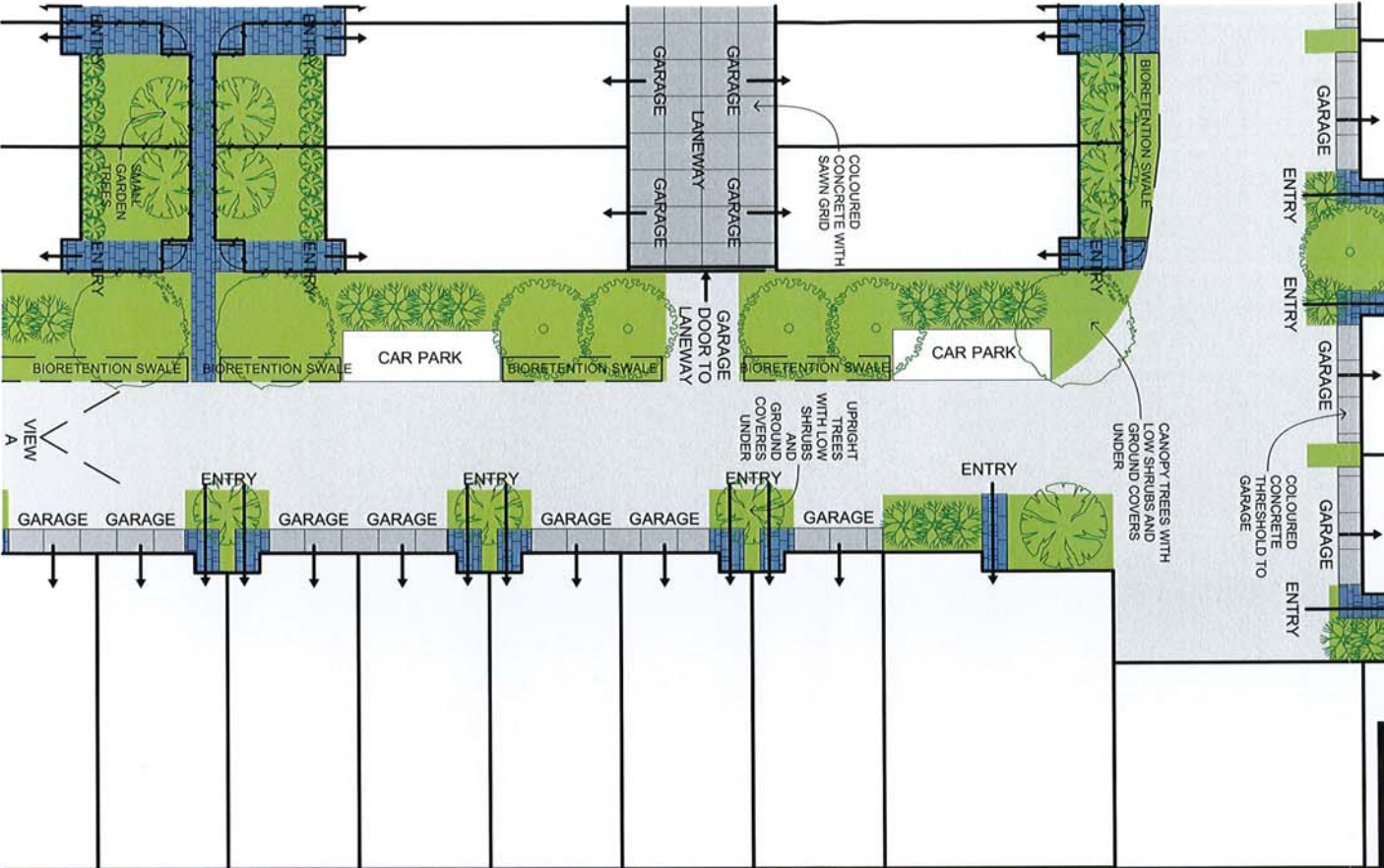
Client: **THE FIRST STONE**
Project Name: **MASTERPLAN 06
198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE**

Drawing Title: **CIRCULATION & ACCESS PLAN**
Scale: 1:1000, 1:2000 A3 Date: 19.04.2016
Sheet: 06/0
Project No: **12.019**
Drawn By: **SK1.9**
Checked By: **A**
Date: 19/04/2016



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Date of _____ of _____



VIEW A

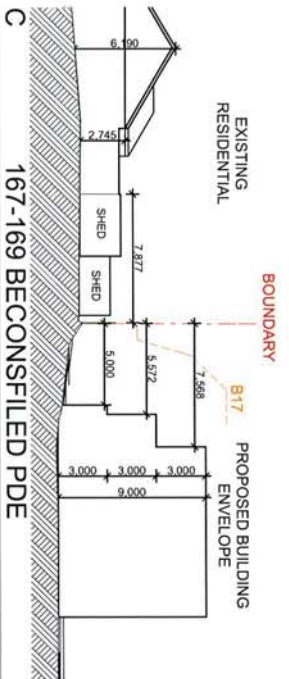
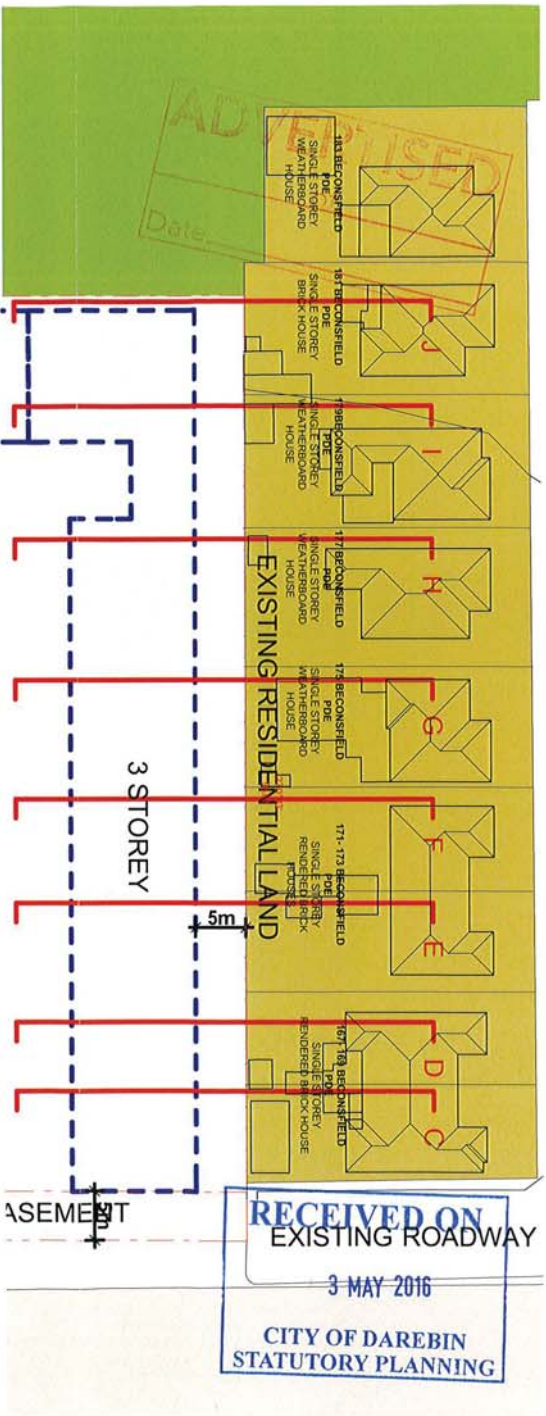


Client: THE FIRST STONE

Project Name: MASTERPLAN 06
198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE

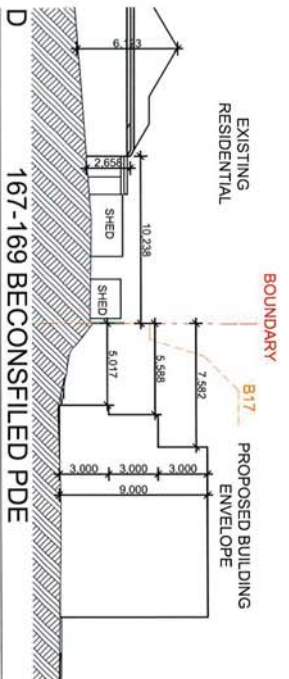
Drawing Title: INDICATIVE STREET TREATMENT

Scale:	1:200, 1:100 @ A1	Date:	19.04.2016
Sheet:	04/03	Drawn by:	
Project No:	12.019	Checked by:	
Drawn by:	SK1.11	Checked by:	
Project No:	12.019	Checked by:	
Scale:	1:200, 1:100 @ A1	Date:	19.04.2016

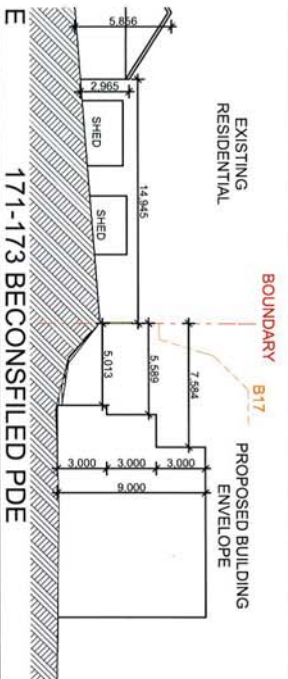


Standard B17:
 A new building not on or within 150 mm of a boundary should be set back from side or rear boundaries:
 • At least the distance specified in the schedule to the zone, or
 • If no distance is specified in the schedule to the zone, 1 metre, plus 0.3 metres for every metre of height over 3.6 metres up to 6.9 metres, plus 1 metre for every metre of height over 6.9 metres.

Sunblinds, verandahs, porches, eaves, fascias, gutters, masonry chimneys, flues, pipes, domestic fuel or water tanks, and heating or cooling equipment or other services may encroach not more than 0.5 metres into the setbacks of this standard.



Landings having an area of not more than 2 square metres and less than 1 metre high, stairways, ramps, pergolas, shade sails and carports may encroach into the setbacks of this standard.

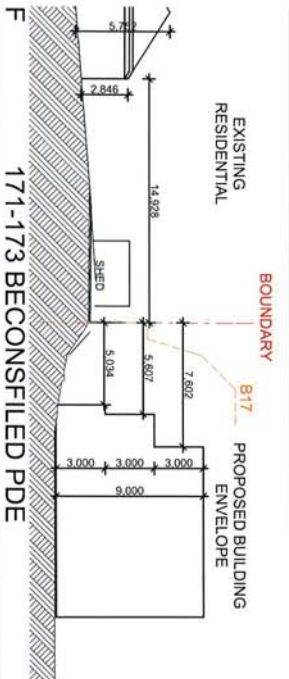


Any upper level windows and balconies facing the properties to the north will comply with Standard B22-Overlooking:-

Standard B22:
 A habitable room window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio should be located and designed to avoid direct views into the secluded private open space and habitable room windows of an existing dwelling within a horizontal distance of 9 metres (measured at ground level) of the window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio. Views should be measured within a 45 degree angle from the plane of the window or perimeter of the balcony, terrace, deck or patio, and from a height of 1.7 metres above floor level.

A habitable room window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio with a direct view into a habitable room window of existing dwelling within a horizontal distance of 9 metres (measured at ground level) of the window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio should be either:

- Offset a minimum of 1.5 metres from the edge of one window to the edge of the other, or
- Have sill heights of at least 1.7 metres above floor level, or
- Have obscure glazing in any part of the window below 1.7 metres above floor level, or
- Have permanently fixed external screens to at least 1.7 metres above floor level and be no more than 25 per cent transparent.



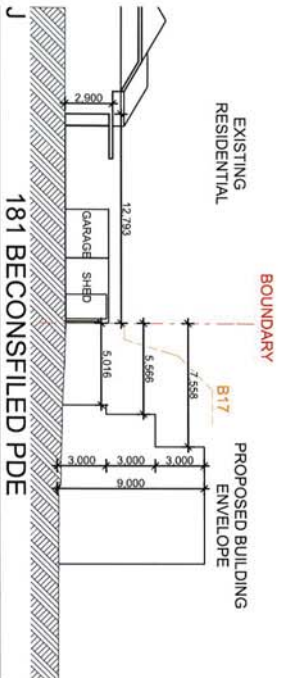
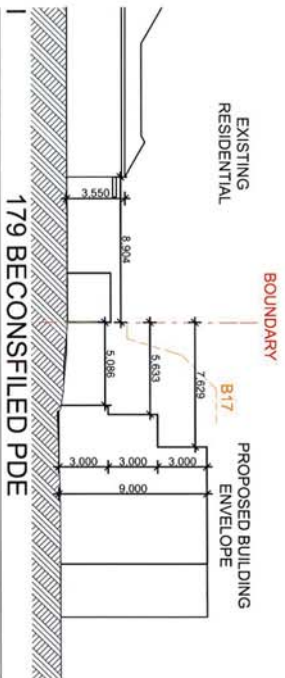
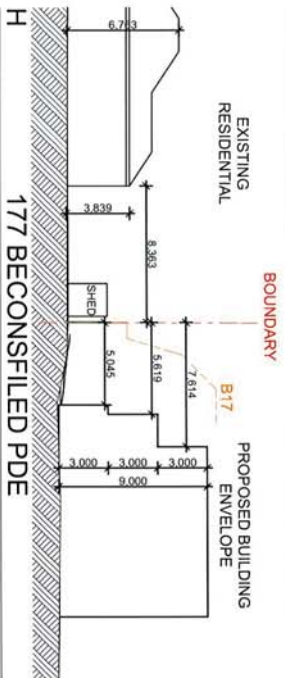
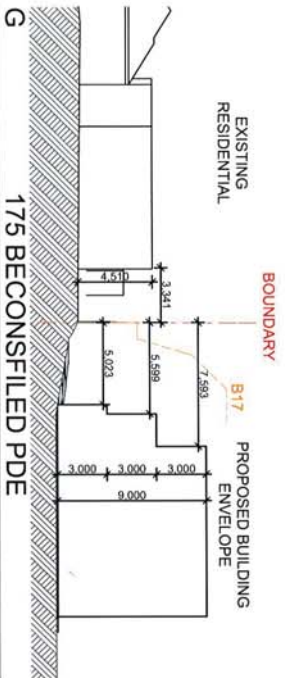
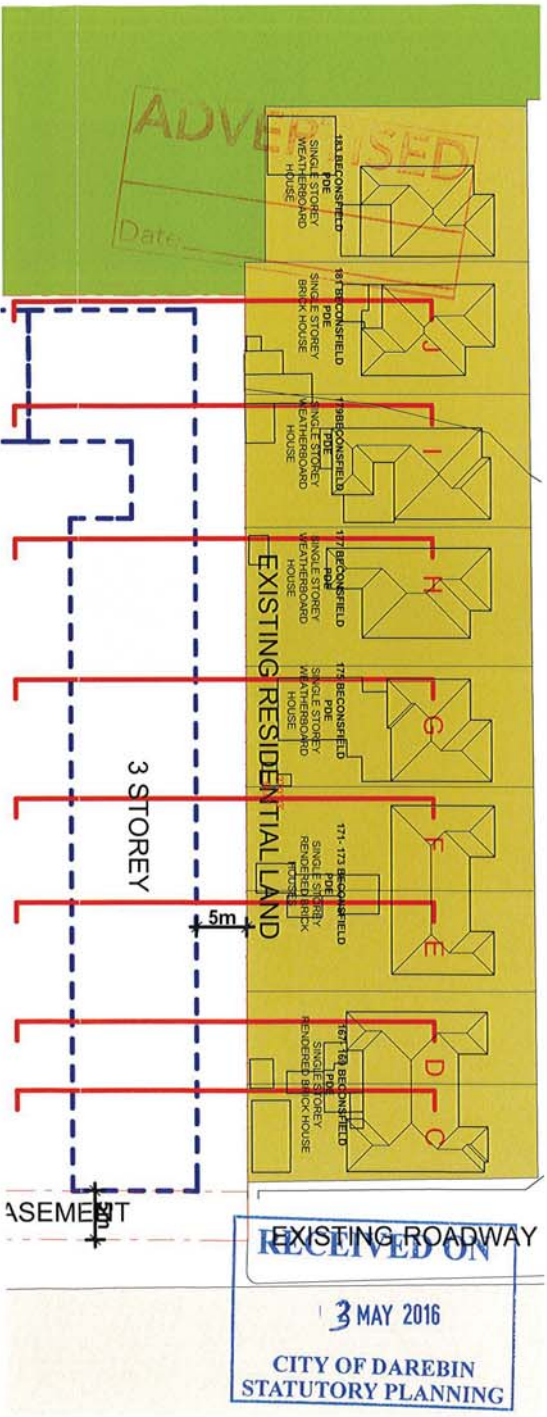
This standard does not apply to a new habitable room window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio which faces a property boundary where there is a visual barrier at least 1.8 metres high and the floor level of the habitable room, balcony, terrace, deck or patio is less than 0.8 metres above ground level at the boundary.



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Client: THE FIRST STONE
 Project Name: MASTERPLAN 06
 198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE

Drawing No: SECTIONAL DIAGRAM TO EXISTING RESIDENTIAL
 Scale: 1:300, 1:500 @ A1 Scale: 19.04.2016
 Prepared By: [blank]
 Checked By: [blank]
 Drawing No: SK1.12
 Title: A



Standard B17:
A new building not on or within 150 mm of a boundary should be set back from side or rear boundaries:

- At least the distance specified in the schedule to the zone, or
- If no distance is specified in the schedule to the zone, 1 metre, plus 0.3 metres for every metre of height over 3.6 metres up to 6.9 metres, plus 1 metre for every metre of height over 6.9 metres.

Sunblinds, verandahs, porches, eaves, fascias, gutters, masonry chimneys, flues, pipes, domestic fuel or water tanks, and heating or cooling equipment or other services may encroach not more than 0.5 metres into the setbacks of this standard.

Landings having an area of not more than 2 square metres and less than 1 metre high, stairways, ramps, pergolas, shade sails and carports may encroach into the setbacks of this standard.

Any upper level windows and balconies facing the properties to the north will comply with Standard B22-Overlooking:-

Standard B22:
A habitable room window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio should be located and designed to avoid direct views into the secluded private open space and habitable room windows of an existing dwelling within a horizontal distance of 9 metres (measured at ground level) of the window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio. Views should be measured within a 45 degree angle from the plane of the window or perimeter of the balcony, terrace, deck or patio, and from a height of 1.7 metres above floor level.

A habitable room window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio with a direct view into a habitable room window of existing dwelling within a horizontal distance of 9 metres (measured at ground level) of the window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio should be either:

- Offset a minimum of 1.5 metres from the edge of one window to the edge of the other, or
- Have sill heights of at least 1.7 metres above floor level, or
- Have obscure glazing in any part of the window below 1.7 metres above floor level, or
- Have permanently fixed external screens to at least 1.7 metres above floor level and be no more than 25 per cent transparent.

This standard does not apply to a new habitable room window, balcony, terrace, deck or patio which faces a property boundary where there is a visual barrier at least 1.8 metres high and the floor level of the habitable room, balcony, terrace, deck or patio is less than 0.8 metres above ground level at the boundary.



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Client: THE FIRST STONE
Project Name: MASTERPLAN 06
198 BEAVERS ROAD NORTHCOTE

Drawing Title: SECTIONAL DIAGRAM TO EXISTING RESIDENTIAL
Scale: 1:300, 1:500 @ A3 Size 19.04.2016
Project No: 12.019
Drawing No: SK1_13
Rev: A

6.9 PROPOSED ROAD DISCONTINUANCE ADJOINING 2 GREENOCK STREET AND 8 TO 10 BANFF STREET, RESERVOIR

Author: Manager Strategic Asset Management

Reviewed By: Acting Director Future City and Assets

Report Background

This report advises Council on the outcome of the statutory procedures relating to the proposed discontinuance and sale of the right-of-way/road adjoining 2 Greenock Street and 8 to 10 Banff Street, Reservoir (Road), and recommends that the Road be discontinued and sold by private treaty in accordance with Council policy and transfer any land not sold to itself.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 18 April 2016, Council resolved:

‘That Council:

- (1) *Commence the statutory procedures under section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 1989 (“the Act”) to discontinue the road at the adjoining 2 Greenock Street and 8 to 10 Banff Street, Reservoir. Shown cross-hatched on Appendix A.*
- (2) *Give public notice under Sections 207A and 82A and 223 of the Act of the proposed discontinuance in the appropriate newspapers and on Council’s website and such notice state that if discontinued, Council proposes to sell the land from the road to the adjoining property owners by private treaty and transfer to itself any land from the road not sold to the adjoining property owners.’*

Previous Briefing(s)

22 August 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal: Excellent Service
Strategy: 5.4 Long term responsible financial planning
Property Asset Management Strategy – May 2015

Goal: Vibrant City and Innovative Economy
Strategy: 1.4 Strategic Land Use and Sustainable Transport Planning Policies.

Summary

This report provides the history and background relating to the right-of-way/road adjoining 2 Greenock Street and 8 to 10 Banff Street, Reservoir as shown cross-hatched in **Appendix A** as well as the outcome of the statutory procedures into its proposed discontinuance.

In 2003, Council resolved to discontinue and sell part of the right-of-way/road which is bound by Darebin Boulevard, Argyle Street, Greenock Street and Banff Street in Reservoir (ROW). However, the section of the right-of-way/road adjoining 2 Greenock Street and 8 to 10 Banff Street, Reservoir (Road) was not included for discontinuance at that time.

In 2014, Council received an application from an adjoining property owner requesting the potential discontinuance and sale of the Road. Initial investigations identified that the Road is occupied by the adjoining property owner at 2 Greenock Street, Reservoir and although it is not listed in Council's Register of Public Roads, it is a road on title.

All adjoining property owners were notified of the proposal with a majority indicating their support for the discontinuance. At that time (2014) the owner of 8 Banff Street advised that they would object to the proposal indicating a preference for the Road to be reopened. This property is a corner allotment with two street frontages providing access and egress and has no current use of the Road.

Internal and external referrals to Council departments and statutory authorities have also raised no objection but have indicated the need to have easements saved over the Road, if discontinued.

At its meeting of 18 April 2016, Council resolved to commence the statutory procedures and give public notice of the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

Public notice of the proposal was given in the Preston and Northcote Leader newspapers on 17 and 18 May 2016 respectively. Adjoining property owners were notified in writing and notification was provided on Council's website. The public notice period ended on Friday 17 June 2016 with no submissions received.

This report recommends that following the completion of the statutory procedures relating to the proposed discontinuance and sale of the right-of-way/road adjoining 2 Greenock Street and 8 to 10 Banff Street, Reservoir (Road) and having received no submissions, that the Road be discontinued and sold by private treaty in accordance with Council policy and transfer any land not sold to itself.

Recommendation

That Council having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the road adjoining 2 Greenock Street and 8 to 10 Banff Street, Reservoir, shown hatched on **Appendix A** to this report, and having received no submissions in respect of this proposal under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

- (1) Discontinues the road in accordance with section 206 and schedule 10, Clause 3 to the *Local Government Act 1989*;
- (2) Directs that a notice be published in the Victoria Government Gazette;
- (3) Directs that the land from the road be sold by private treaty to the owners of the adjoining properties in accordance with Council policy and signed "in-principle" agreements;
- (4) Directs that the discontinuance and sale will not affect any right, power or interest held by Yarra Valley Water and Darebin City Council, in the road in connection with any sewers, drains or pipes, under the control of those Authorities in or near the road;
- (5) Signs and seals all documents relating to the sale of any land from the discontinued road to the owners of the adjoining properties; and
- (6) Delegates power to the Chief Executive Officer perform all other actions to enable any land from the Road not sold to the adjoining property owners to be transferred to Council.

Introduction

In 2014, Council received an application from an adjoining property owner requesting the discontinuance and sale of the right-of-way/road shown cross-hatched on the plan in **Appendix A** and on the aerial photo **Appendix B**.

In 2003, the section of right-of-way/road at the rear of 18 to 40 Darebin Boulevard and rear 12 to 26 Banff Street, Reservoir was discontinued and sold. The section under investigation adjoining 2 Greenock Street and rear 8 and 10 Banff Street, Reservoir (Road) was not included in the original discontinuance and remains a 'road' on title.

The Road is not listed on Council's Register of Public Roads, is not constructed and has not been used for access for many years. The Road is currently occupied by adjoining owners and they appear to have occupied part of the Road and been using the other part to park vehicles since 1996.

Once the initial investigations confirmed the feasibility of the proposed discontinuance, Macquarie Lawyers were commissioned to undertake the statutory procedures to facilitate the possible discontinuance and sale of the 3.05m wide section of right-of-way.

Issues and Discussion

Statutory Procedures

At its meeting of 18 April 2016, Council directed that the statutory procedures for the proposed discontinuance and sale of the 3.05m wide section of Road adjoining 2 Greenock Street and 8 to 10 Banff Street, Reservoir, be commenced.

Public notice of the proposal was given in the Preston and Northcote Leader newspapers on 17 and 18 May 2016 respectively. Notification was also given on Council's website. Owners and occupiers of the adjoining properties were notified in writing and were advised that written submissions would be considered by Council as per the provisions of section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Internal departments and the Service Authorities were consulted regarding the proposal and whilst no objections were received, both Yarra Valley Water and Council engineers' have advised that easements will need to be saved over the land to provide for existing underground assets within the Road, if discontinued. Yarra Valley Water has a sewer within part of the Road and Council has a drain in the Road.

No submissions were received from the public or adjoining property owners.

Land allocation

All of the immediate adjoining owners had been consulted regarding the proposal. The owner of 8 Banff Street expressed no interest in purchasing land from the Road, if discontinued, indicating a preference for the Road to be reopened. The discontinuance and sale of the Road would not restrict access to the rear of the property at 8 Banff Street.

The owners of 2 Greenock Street and 10 Banff Street, Reservoir, have agreed to purchase the land from the Road, if discontinued and have entered into 'in principle' agreements. The dimensions and proposed allocation/division of the Road are shown hatched in the Road Discontinuance Plan in **Appendix C** and the Title Plan provided in **Appendix D**.

If all owners adhere to the signed 'in principle' agreements, there will be no remaining land that would need to be transferred to Council.

Options for Consideration

Option 1 – Do Nothing (Recommended)

Council could resolve to take no action or may make no resolution on the matter. This option would mean that the Road would continue to vest in Council and would continue to be occupied by the adjoining property owners.

Council may be perceived as knowingly encouraging and enabling property owners to continue to occupy other roads or rights-of-way within Darebin to the detriment of the community (whether financially or as a benefiting right). Additionally Council may lose future rights to the Road if adjoining property owners are able to accrue possessory rights.

Council may, at some time in the future, resolve to commence the discontinuance process.

Option 2 - Discontinuance Process (Recommended)

Council could proceed with the discontinuance and sale of land from the Road, in accordance with the signed 'in-principle' purchase agreements. This would be consistent with the statutory procedures that were completed with no submissions received. Further it would formalise the occupation of the Road by adjoining property owners.

This option would not prevent access to rear of the property at 8 Banff Street.

Financial and Resource Implications

At the commencement of the negotiations, Council's City Valuer placed a rate per square metre on the land of \$308/m² (including GST) for 10 Banff Street and \$511.50/m² for 2 Greenock Street. This rate took into account the ROW's relationship to the purchaser and the fact that the land would be encumbered with easements in favour of Council and Yarra Valley Water.

Given the area of 112m², the market value for the land at that time was assessed at \$45,892 including GST. Costs associated with the statutory procedures and sale of the Road would be recovered from the purchaser/s. Any costs associated with Council transferring any unsold land to itself would be managed within existing annual budget allocations (if required).

Risk Management

Risks associated with each option are covered under the analysis of each option.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

There are no economic development impacts associated with this report.

Environmental Sustainability

There are no environmental sustainability impacts associated with this report.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Consultation with the immediate adjoining owners has been undertaken. The statutory procedures extended this consultation to the whole of the community by giving public notice of the proposal and providing the opportunity to make formal submissions to Council regarding the proposal.

Other

This report has been prepared having regard to Council's Sale of Minor Council Property Assets Policy.

Future Actions

- Arrange for a notice to be published in the Victoria Government Gazette.
- Arrange for the land to be sold and transferred to the owners of the adjoining properties by private treaty in accordance with Council Policy.
- Arrange for the balance of any land not sold, to be transferred into Council's ownership (if required).

Consultation and Advocacy

- Council departments
- Macquarie Local Government Lawyers
- Owners of adjoining properties
- Statutory authorities

Related Documents

- Site plan (**Appendix A**)
- 2016 Aerial photography of 2 Greenock Street and 8 to 10 Banff Street, Reservoir (**Appendix B**)
- Road Discontinuance Plan (**Appendix C**)
- Title plan – TP955714T (**Appendix D**)
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- Sale of Minor Council Property Assets Policy, Darebin City Council, 2015
- Council Minutes – 18 April 2016

Disclosure of Interest

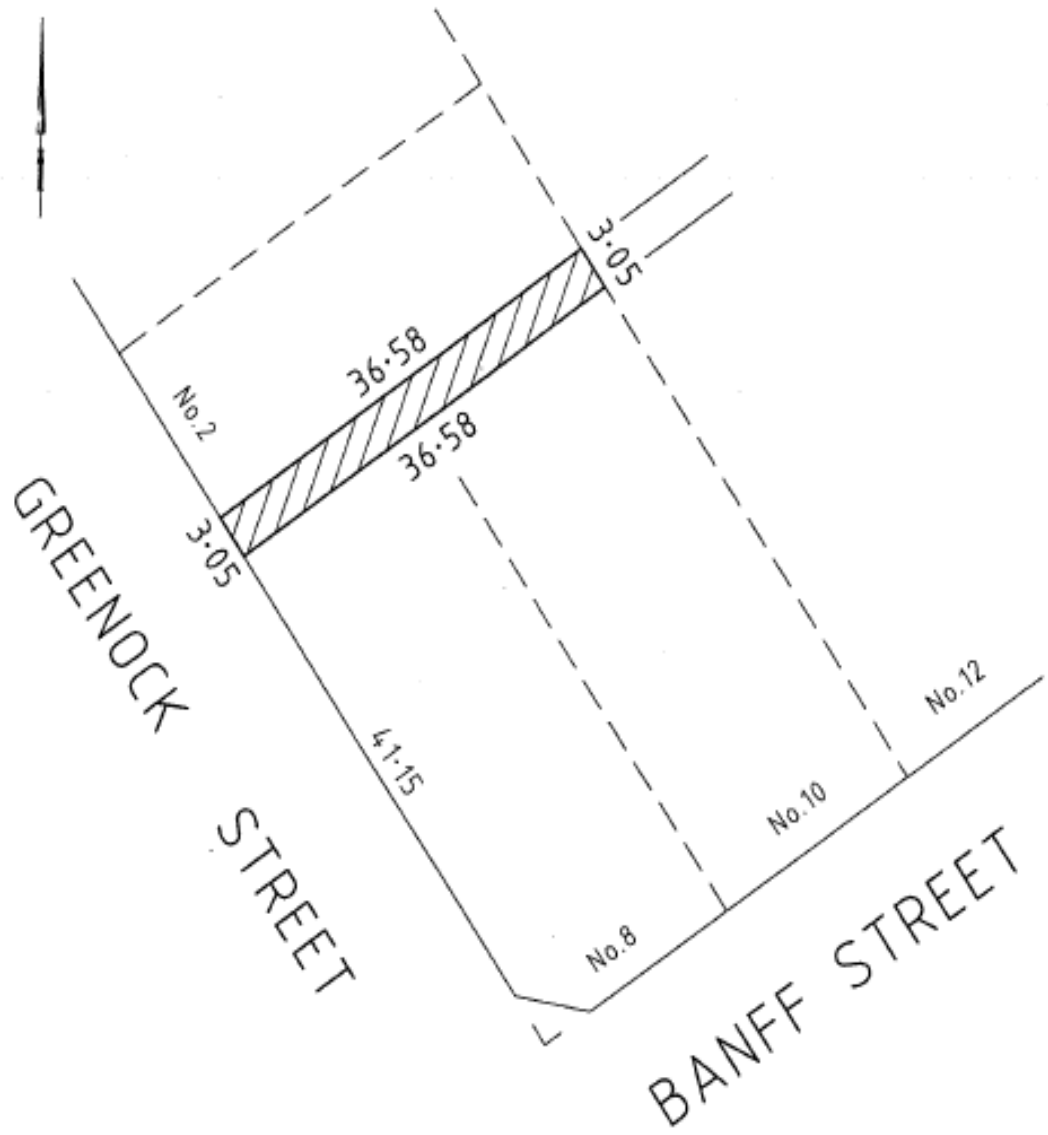
Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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





Appendix C



Appendix D

TITLE PLAN		EDITION 1	TP955714T	
LOCATION OF LAND PARISH KEELBUNDODRA CROWN PORTION 14 (PART) LAST PLAN REFERENCE LP10498 DEPTH LIMITATION DOES NOT APPLY TITLE REFERENCE VOL 5622 FDL 243 MGA CO-ORDINATES E 325 710 ZONE 55 (APPROX CENTRE OF LAND IN PLAN) N 5 025 160		WARNING THIS PLAN REPRESENTS AN EXPECTED DIVISION OF LAND. ANY ONE LOT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CREATED. CHECK THE LDT/PLAN INDEX FOR CURRENT INFORMATION. NOTATIONS THIS PLAN IS NOT BASED ON SURVEY		
EASEMENT INFORMATION				
LEGEND E- ENCUMBERING EASEMENT OR CONDITION IN CROWN GRANT IN THE NATURE OF AN EASEMENT OR OTHER ENCUMBRANCE A- APPURTENANT EASEMENT R- ENCUMBERING EASEMENT (ROAD)				
EASEMENT REFERENCE	PURPOSE	WIDTH (METRES)	ORIGIN	LAND BENEFITED/IN FAVOUR OF
E-1	AS PROVIDED FOR IN SEC 207C LGA 1989	3.05	SEC 207C LGA 1989	YARRA VALLEY WATER LTD
E-1	AS PROVIDED FOR IN SEC 207C LGA 1989	3.05	SEC 207C LGA 1989	CITY OF DAREBIN
SCALE 1:400			LICENSED SURVEYOR DAVID JOHN MONAHAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE / /	FILE NO : LGD DEALING CODE : LGA
SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE A3 BARKER MONAHAN <small>A.C.N. 885 354 805 SURVEYORS, DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTANTS 581 GILBERT ROAD, PRESTON 3072 P.O. BOX 2546 REGENT WEST 3072 TELEPHONE 9478 6133 FAX 9470 5189 EMAIL info@barkermonahan.com.au</small>		REF 11243B COMPUTER FILE 12638TP01.DWG	VERSION 01 DATE 31/07/2015	

6.10 PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE OF ROAD AT REAR OF 15-25A BRUCE STREET AND 10-20 HERBERT STREET, PRESTON

Author: Manager Strategic Asset Management

Reviewed By: Acting Director Future City and Assets

Report Background

This report is to advise Council of the outcome of statutory procedures relating to the proposed discontinuance of the Road rear at the rear of 15-25A Bruce Street, 10-20 Herbert Street, and side of 20 Herbert Street Preston.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 21 March 2016, Council resolved:

'That Council:

- (1) Record its objection to the occupation of the section of road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston.*
- (2) Declare the section of road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston to reasonably required for public use and that the road be reopened to public traffic.*
- (3) Officers take action within their existing delegated authorities to effect Council's resolution that the section of road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston be reopened to public traffic.'*

At its meeting held on 16 May 2016, Council resolved:

'That Council:

- (1) Having received further information following the decision made at its ordinary meeting of Council held on 21 March 2016 regarding the use of the road beside 20 Herbert Street, Preston, withdraws its objection and directs that the recently cancelled Notice to Comply sent to the occupier of 20 Herbert Street is not to be reissued unless directed by Council.*
- (2) Commence the statutory process to discontinue and sell to the adjoining owners in accordance with Council's Sale of Minor Council Property Assets Policy, the whole of the road at the rear of 15 - 25 Bruce Street and 10 - 20 Herbert Street and beside 20 Herbert Street, Preston (Road).*
- (3) Will decide whether to discontinue part or the entire Road after considering any written submissions received in relation to the proposal and after hearing from any submitters who have elected to speak to their submissions.'*

Previous Briefing(s)

Councillor Briefing – 22 February 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal: Excellent Service
Strategy: 5.4 Long term responsible financial planning
Property Asset Management Strategy – May 2015

Goal: Vibrant City and Innovative Economy
Strategy: 1.4 Strategic Land Use and Sustainable Transport Planning Policies.

Summary

Public notice of the proposal was given in the Preston and Northcote Leader newspapers on 14 and 15 June 2016 respectively. Notification was also provided on Council's website. The notice period ended on 14 July 2016.

Two submissions were received regarding the proposal and the submitters requested to be heard in support of their submission. On 1 August 2016, the Hearing of Submissions Committee heard from the owners of 25A Bruce Street, Preston. The owner of 20 Herbert Street did not receive the registered letter advising him of the upcoming hearing and thus was not present at the hearing.

After completing the statutory procedures and having considered the submissions received in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, this report recommends that Council discontinue and sell to adjoining property owners the section of the Road located at the rear of 15-25 Bruce Street and the rear of 10-20 Herbert Street, Preston, declare the section of road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston to be a public highway and reopening it to public traffic, and take title to any unsold land.

Recommendation

That:

Council having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the road at the rear of 15 – 25A Bruce Street and 10-20 Herbert Street, Preston (Road), shown hatched on **Appendix A** to this report, and having considered submissions received in respect of the proposal under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

- (1) Discontinues the road at the rear 15-25 Bruce Street and the rear 10-20 Herbert Street, Preston shown hatched on the plan in Appendix A in accordance with section 206 and schedule 10 clause 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989*;
- (2) Declare the section of road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston shown hatched on the plan in Appendix A, being reasonably required for public use, a public highway in accordance with section 204(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* and that the road be reopened to public traffic;
- (3) Directs that a notice be published in the Victoria Government Gazette in regards to:
 - a. the discontinuance of the rear 15-25 Bruce Street and the rear 10-20 Herbert Street, Preston; and
 - b. the public highway declaration for the section of road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston.
- (4) Directs that the land from the road at the rear 15-25 Bruce Street and the rear 10-20 Herbert Street, Preston be sold by private treaty to the owners of the adjoining properties in accordance with Council policy;
- (5) The Road is to be sold subject to the right, power or interest held by Yarra Valley Water Corporation in the road in connection with any sewers, drains or pipes under the control of that authority in or near the road;
- (6) Signs and seals all documents relating to the sale of any land from the discontinued road to the owners of the adjoining properties;
- (7) Delegates power to the Chief Executive to do all other acts to enable any land not sold to the adjoining property owners to be transferred to Council;
- (8) Officers take action within their existing delegated authorities to effect Council's resolution that the section of road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston be reopened to public traffic;
- (9) Officers notify, in writing, every person who lodged a submission of Council's decision and the reasons for the decision.

Introduction

Since 2005, Council has received several requests from adjoining property owners regarding their interest in purchasing the land from the right-of-way/road between 15-25A Bruce Street and rear 10-20 Herbert Street, Preston and adjoining the western of 20 Herbert Street, Preston (Road), shown on site plan (see **Appendix A**) and the aerial photo (see **Appendix B**). Despite numerous attempts to proceed to the next stage of the process, Council has met with an impasse with some property owners wanting the Road reopened and others supporting its discontinuance, yet expressing minimal interest in purchasing the land from the Road.

In February 2012, Local Laws identified that the owner of 25A Bruce Street had been transgressing over rail land in order to access their rear garage as shown in **Appendix C**. Initial investigations identified that the Road exists on title for the benefit of all adjoining properties. The title confirms the Road should be providing access to the rear of 25A Bruce St, Preston. The Road is occupied and fenced within the boundary of 20 Herbert Street, Preston (**See Appendix D**). This occupation of the right-of-way was permitted by the former City of Preston under a temporary closure agreement dating back to 1982.

Metro Trains were contacted to determine if they would consider the sale of rail land at the western side of 25A Bruce Street. This would allow 25A to access their garage. Metro Trains advised that the rail land was not available. Officers worked with both the owners of 25A Bruce and 20 Herbert to facilitate a suitable outcome that would appease both parties. However, none of the alternatives proposed were found to be acceptable to both parties.

The property owners at 25A Bruce Street have no open, legal vehicle access to the rear of their property and continue to use the rail land as passage to their property. The only point of legal access continues to be enclosed within the boundaries of adjoining property owners, including the part adjoining 20 Herbert Street, Preston.

Council received a report at its meeting of 21 March 2016 which sought to commence the statutory consultation process associated with proposed road discontinuance. Following consideration of the report, Council resolved to declare the road a public highway and to reopen the Road for vehicle access, without undertaking a consultative process. Complaints were received from occupying property owners after Notices to Comply were issued which instructed them to vacate the occupied land.

At its Ordinary meeting on 16 May 2016 Council considered an item of urgent business and resolved to 'undo' part of its previous resolution (in relation to cessation of occupation and eviction of the occupiers) and to commence a statutory process to investigate discontinuance and sale of the Road to the adjoining owners. This process, as originally proposed in the report to Council of 21 March 2016, would allow those property owners affected by the proposal an opportunity to make a submission prior to taking any formal action (to discontinue, sell or open the road).

A letter and a copy of the public notice were provided to all thirteen property owners who own land adjoining the Road. Two written submissions were received and both submitters elected to be heard in support of their submission.

Issues and Discussion

Submissions

Two submissions were received from adjoining property owners.

Submission One – Mr and Mrs Georgiadis

- Submission received on 14 July 2016.
- They are seeking to have the Road reopened.

Submission Two – Mr Tsagaratos

- Submission received on 22 July 2016.
- He is seeking to have the Road discontinued and may purchase land from the road if discontinued.

A copy of the submissions was circulated separately to Councillors for their information as part of the Hearing of Submissions on 1 August 2016.

Hearing of Submissions

On 1 August 2016, the Hearing of Submissions Committee heard from the representative of the owners of 25A Bruce Street in support of their submission. A précis of the hearing is as follows:

- The representative reasserted points contained in their submission, in that they:
 - Are seeking to have the Road reopened
 - Require access from the Road as it is their only legal point of access to the rear of their property.
 - Are continuing to illegally use rail land to access the rear of their property.
 - Would like Council to reinstate the original resolution of 21 March 2016.
 - Have no objection to the section of road at the rear 15-25 Bruce Street and rear 10-20 Herbert Street, Preston being discontinued.

The owner of 20 Herbert Street, who put forward a late submission, did not receive the registered letter advising him of the upcoming hearing and thus was not present at the hearing. This letter was delivered to his nominated address however the registered mail was not collected from the post office. In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Council is required to take into consideration submissions received in respect to the matter specified in the public notice.

Easements

Internal departments and the Service Authorities were consulted regarding the proposal and one objection was received. Yarra Valley Water Corporation (YVW) has a sewer and sewer vent in the road and objected to the proposed discontinuance on the basis that the vent has special maintenance requirements and that they require unrestricted 7 day, 24 hour access. Whilst YVW's access requirement is acknowledged, this access has not been available since the early 1980's.

Council engineers have indicated that whilst they do not currently have any assets located within the Road, if discontinued an easement would need to be created over any land sold to cater for installation of drainage assets in the future.

Easements in favour of YVW and Council will be saved over the land from the Road to provide for sewerage and drainage requirements, if discontinued.

Options for Consideration**Option 1 - Do Nothing**

Council could resolve to take no action or may make no resolution on the matter. This option would mean that the Road would continue to vest in Council and would continue to be occupied by the adjoining property owners. Council may, at some time in the future, resolve to commence the discontinuance process.

Council may be perceived as knowingly encouraging and enabling property owners to continue to occupy other roads or rights-of-way within Darebin to the detriment of the community (whether financially or as a benefiting right). Additionally, Council may lose future rights to the Road if adjoining property owners are able to accrue possessory rights.

Option 2 - Discontinuance Process – Discontinue all the Road

Council could proceed with the proposed discontinuance and sale of the Road; discontinuing the section of road at the rear of 10-20 Herbert Street and the rear of 15-25 Bruce Street as well as the section adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston.

Whilst this option would be consistent with the statutory procedures that were completed, it would not accord with Council's Sale of Minor Council Property Assets Policy (Council's Policy). Council's Policy provides for the sale of minor Council property assets that are no longer reasonably required for the purpose it was originally set aside for or any other strategic purpose.¹

If Council was to proceed with the discontinuance of the entire Road, including the section of road adjoining 20 Herbert Street, it could remove any legal rights of abuttal the owners of 25A Bruce Street, Preston currently have. It may also restrict any future access and egress to the garage at the rear of their property.

Option 4 – Discontinuance Process – Discontinue Part of the Road and Reopen Part of the Road (Recommended)

Council could proceed with the discontinuance and sale of land from part of the road at the rear of 10-20 Herbert Street and rear 15-25 Bruce Street, Preston and reopen the section of road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston for public traffic, declaring it a public highway (see **Appendix E**).

This would be consistent with the statutory procedures that were completed and would accord with Council policy. The assessment of the road adjacent to 20 Herbert Street, Preston indicates that it is reasonably required for the purpose it was originally set aside, being a public road.

This option would also provide for future sales to other adjoining property owners whilst protecting Council's interest in any unsold parcels of land from the section of Road proposed for discontinuance and sale. Nonetheless, by taking title to the land Council would be required to comply with further statutory procedures when a future sale is established. In addition, the reopening of the road would restore access and egress to the rear of the owner's property at 25A Bruce Street, Preston.

Option 4 – Defer the Matter

Council could resolve to defer the matter until a decision surrounding the future of the Bell Street railway level crossing removal project has been made. This option would mean the status quo would remain, the Road would continue to vest in Council and adjoining property owners would continue to be occupy the land from the Road.

It would also mean that the owners of 25A Bruce Street would not be able to use the section of Road adjoining 20 Herbert Street to gain access to the rear of their property and they may continue their current practice of using the rail land for such.

¹ Sale of Minor Council Property Assets Policy Page 4 Section 7.2

Financial and Resource Implications

The City Valuer has estimated the market valuation of the Road to have an encumbered value of \$462m² (including GST) per square metre as at 11 August 2016. Costs associated with the statutory procedures and sale of the Road would be recovered from the purchaser/s. Any costs associated with Council transferring any unsold land to itself would be managed within existing annual budget allocations.

Risk Management

Outline of risks associated with various options are contained within the individual option analyses.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

There are no factors in this report which impact upon economic development.

Environmental Sustainability

There are no factors in this report which impact upon environmental sustainability.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Consultation with the immediate adjoining owners has been undertaken. The statutory procedures extended this consultation to the whole of the community by giving public notice of the proposal and providing the opportunity to make formal submissions to Council regarding the proposal.

Other

This report has been prepared having regard to Council's Sale of Minor Council Property Assets Policy.

Future Actions

- Arrange for a notice to be published in the Victoria Government Gazette.
- Arrange for the land to be sold and transferred to the owners of the adjoining properties by private treaty in accordance with Council policy.
- Arrange for the balance of any land not sold, to be transferred into Council's ownership.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Council departments
- Macquarie Local Government Lawyers
- Owners of adjoining properties
- Statutory authorities

Related Documents

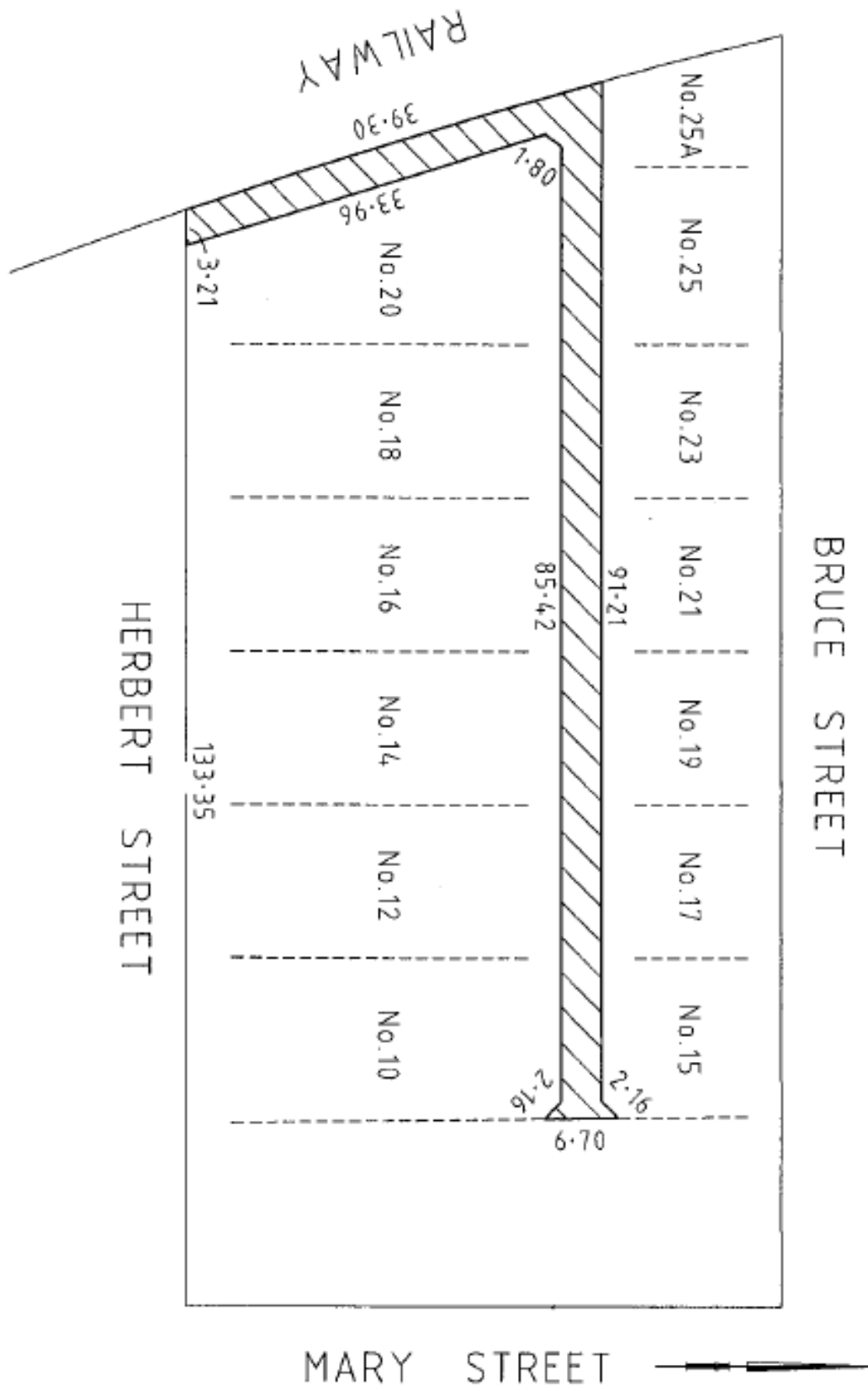
- Site plan (**Appendix A**)
- 2016 Aerial photography (**Appendix B**)
- Path used for access – railway land (**Appendix C**)
- Occupied Right-of-Way (**Appendix D**)
- Recommend proposed discontinuance and re-opening of road (**Appendix E**)
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- *Sale of Minor Council Property Assets Policy, Darebin City Council, 2015*
- Council Minutes – 16 May 2016
- Hearing of Submissions Committee Minutes – 1 August 2016

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

APPENDIX A

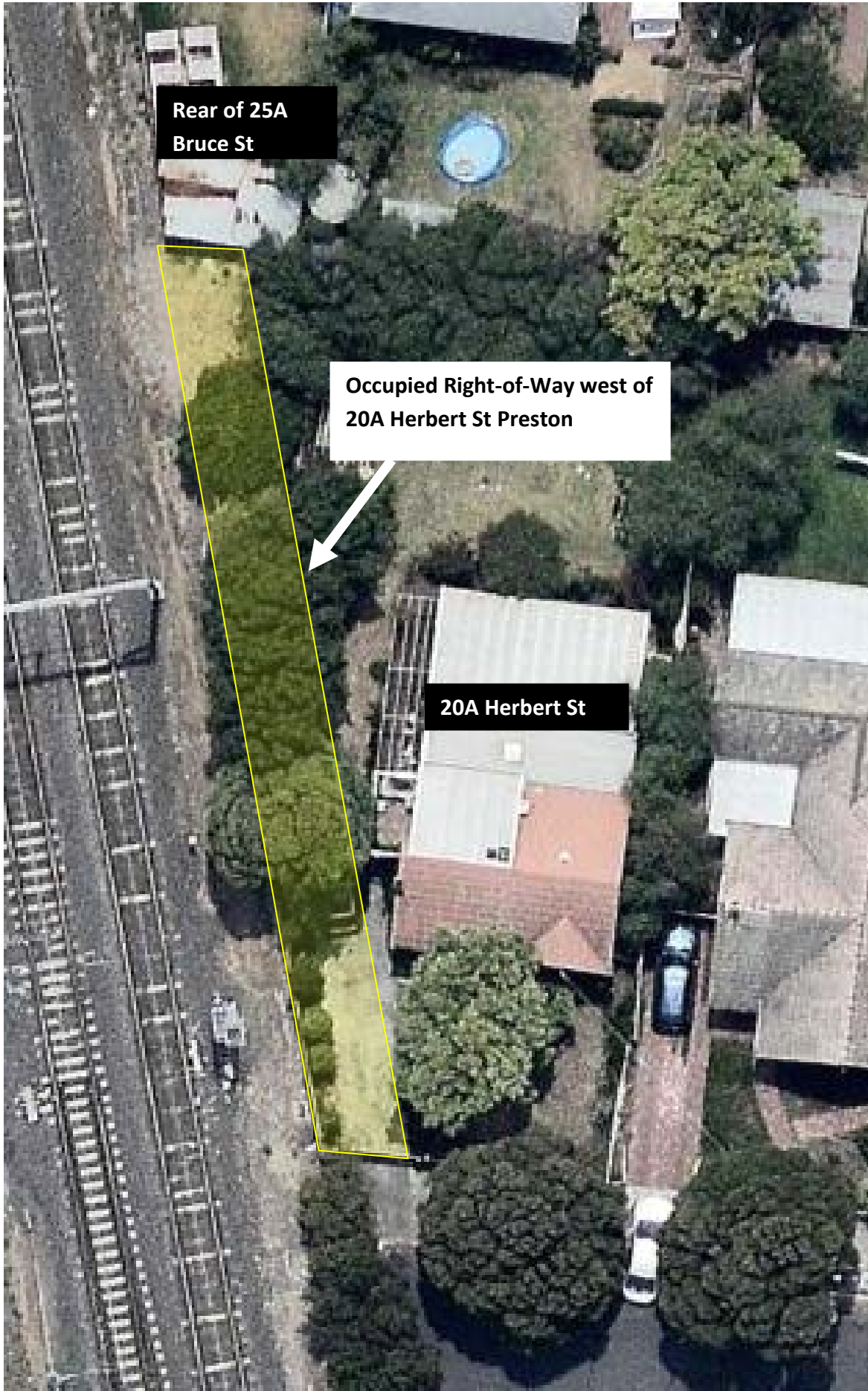


APPENDIX B

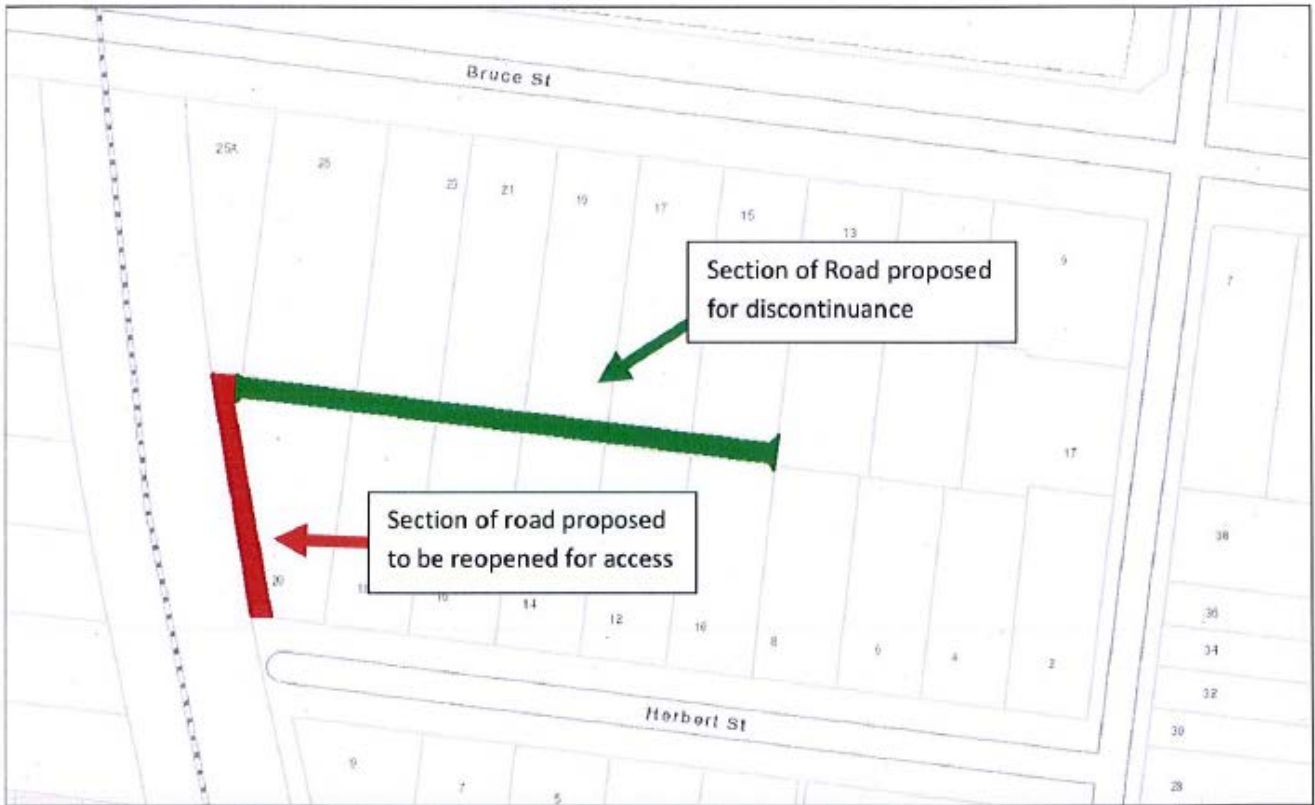


APPENDIX C





APPENDIX E



<p>Co-ordinates of Plot Corners</p> <p>NW 323761,5820900</p> <p>SW 323763,5820772</p> <p>MGA Zone 55</p>	<p>Data Source: Vicmap Property</p> <p>0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50m</p> <p>Scale of Metres (1:800)</p> <p>MGA Zone 55</p> <p>Melways - 30 F1 Vicroads - 79 B5</p> <p>Created: 4:15 PM on Nov 25, 2015</p>	<p>Co-ordinates of Plot Corners</p> <p>NE 323973,5820905</p> <p>SE 323975,5820777</p> <p>MGA Zone 55</p>
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WARNING: No warranty is given as to the accuracy or completeness of this map. Dimensions are approximate. For property dimensions, undertake a Title search.

6.11 PROGRESS REPORT ON COUNCIL'S STRATEGIES

Author: Coordinator Council Plan and Performance

Reviewed By: Director Civic Governance and Performance

Report Background

This report outlines 37 of Council's most significant endorsed strategies whose outcomes and actions have not already been reported to Council for its attention within the last six months of the date of this report.

The attached reports provide Council with a concise picture of strategy achievements, challenges and forecasts that can be gleaned at a glance.

Previous Council Resolution

At the Council Meeting dated 6 November 2013, Council resolved:

'That Council notes the progress made on the listed strategies as attached as Appendix A to this report and have these strategies published on Council's website.'

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal 6 - Open and Accountable Democracy

Summary

This report outlines 37 of Council's most significant endorsed strategies whose outcomes and actions have not already been reported to Council for its attention within the last six months of the date of this report.

The attached reports provide Council with a concise picture of strategy achievements, challenges and forecasts that can be gleaned at a glance.

Recommendation

THAT Council notes the progress made on the strategies listed in **Appendix A** attached to this report.

Introduction

Council has a comprehensive framework of specific policies and strategies. To avoid duplication, not all strategies are included in this report. Some co-ordinators will report or have reported to Council separately throughout the year because greater detail has been required. Co-ordinators may also provide further reports to Council on issues relating to their strategies for information or decision-making at various other times over the year.

This report relates to the following strategies:

1. Aboriginal Action Plan 2012-2015
2. Active Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021
3. Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015
4. Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
5. Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan 2009-2015
6. Community Climate Change Action Plan 2009-2020
7. Community Engagement Framework 2012-2017
8. Community Safety Strategy 2012-2016
9. Corporate Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2020
10. Cycling Strategy 2013-2018
11. Digital Strategy 2013-2018
12. Disability Action and Inclusion Plan 2015-2019
13. Early Years Strategy 2011-2021
14. Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2017
15. Food Security Policy 2010-2014
16. Graffiti Management Strategy 2014-2018
17. Green Business Attraction Strategy 2012-2017
18. Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
19. Heatwave Strategy 2013-2017
20. Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015
21. Leisure Strategy 2010-2020 and Action Plan 2015-2020
22. Libraries Strategy 2014-2019
23. Multicultural Action Plan 2012-2017
24. Natural Heritage Strategy 2015-2025
25. Open Space Strategy 2007-2017
26. Playspace Strategy 2010-2020
27. Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2013-2015
28. Responding to Housing Stress - A Local Action Plan 2013-2017
29. Road Management Plan 2013-2017
30. Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015
31. Transport Strategy 2007-2027
32. Urban Food Production Strategy 2014-2018
33. Urban Forest Strategy 2013-2028
34. Waste and Litter Strategy 2015-2025
35. Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin Water Strategy 2015-2025
36. Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015
37. Youth Engagement Strategy 2012-2017

Issues and Discussion

In the 2015/2016 financial year, Council adopted a number of new strategies that are also included in this year's reporting cycle.

All endorsed strategies, grouped by Council Goals as reported in the Council Plan, are as follows:

Vibrant City and Innovative Economy

- Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
- Digital Strategy 2013-2018
- Green Business Attraction Strategy 2012-2017
- Road Management Plan 2013-2017
- Transport Strategy 2007-2027

Healthy and Connected Community

- Aboriginal Action Plan 2012-2015
- Active Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021
- Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015
- Disability Action and Inclusion Plan 2015-2019
- Early Years Strategy 2011-2021
- Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2017
- Food Security Policy 2010-2014
- Graffiti Management Strategy 2014-2018
- Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Heatwave Strategy 2013-2017
- Leisure Strategy 2010-2020 and Action Plan 2015-2020
- Libraries Strategy 2014-2019
- Multicultural Action Plan 2012-2017
- Playspace Strategy 2010-2020
- Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2013-2015
- Responding to Housing Stress - A Local Action Plan 2013-2017
- Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015
- Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015
- Youth Engagement Strategy 2012-2017

Sustainable and Resilient Neighbourhoods

- Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan 2009-2015
- Community Climate Change Action Plan 2009-2020
- Corporate Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2020
- Cycling Strategy 2013-2018
- Natural Heritage Strategy 2015-2025
- Open Space Strategy 2007-2017
- Urban Food Production Strategy 2014-2018
- Urban Forest Strategy 2013-2028
- Waste and Litter Strategy 2015-2025
- Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin Water Strategy 2015-2025

Open and Accountable Democracy

- Community Engagement Framework 2012-2017
- Community Safety Strategy 2012-2016
- Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015

Options for Consideration

See each individual report for details.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications from this report. All activities and actions are conducted within current budgets.

Risk Management

There are no risks related to this report.

Policy Implications**Economic Development**

Each strategy report provides information relating to economic development.

Environmental Sustainability

Each strategy report provides information relating to environmental sustainability.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Each strategy report provides information relating to human rights, equity and inclusion.

Other

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

Future Actions

It is proposed that the next Annual Progress Report on Council's Strategies be presented to Council in October 2017.

Consultation and Advocacy

Please see each individual report for the staff consulted. Each report was compiled by the relevant responsible officer, department manager and director.

Related Documents

- Thirty-seven progress reports on endorsed strategies and action plans (**Appendix A**)

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of 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 Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

1. ABORIGINAL ACTION PLAN 2015-2016

AUTHOR: Aboriginal Contact Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan (2012-2017) formalises Council's long-standing commitment and relationship with the Darebin Aboriginal community, extending on Council's Statement of Commitment to its Aboriginal community first adopted in 1988. Underpinned by equity and inclusion principles, the plan comprises over a range of actions focusing on three key areas:

- Development of organisational culture that is respectful and values Aboriginal culture;
- Development of culturally relevant, respectful, responsive and therefore accessible services; and
- Promotion of intercultural relationships which reflect and harness Aboriginal cultural heritage and prevent Racism.

The Plan respects the principles and philosophies of community control and self-determination, valuing Aboriginal people's right to full and equal participation in community life.

Strategy Started On:

2012 and launched in March 2013

Strategy Ends On:

December 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

December 2016. This Strategy has been extended to 2017 along with other Equity and Diversity Action Plans in order to align with the Council Plan and Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Plan has progressed well, with some significant milestones achieved, in addition to ongoing development and engagement across a range of programs and activities, with highlights included below.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
To design and deliver services and programs which are culturally relevant, appropriate and responsive to Darebin's Aboriginal communities	<p>Renaming of Batman Park Community Conversations</p> <p>Work with the Darebin Advisory Committee (DAAC)</p> <p>Aboriginal Competency Capabilities</p>	<p>Council engaged the Darebin community with series of community conversation for the Renaming of Batman Park in Northcote in partnership with Aboriginal Traditional owners - Wurundjeri Lands Council.</p> <p>DAAC has met 4 times in during the 2015/2016 period with an active and engaged committee for this period.</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural awareness training delivered to MCH Nurses team including information on inclusive service promotion, delivery and evaluation to Aboriginal families in Darebin.</p>
To encourage and support an organisational culture that respects, values and harnesses Aboriginal culture as an advantage	Development of the Darebin Aboriginal Employment Strategy	Initial draft of Aboriginal Employment Strategy produced. Final document completed and implemented in October 2016.
To encourage and support an organisational culture that respects, values and harnesses Aboriginal culture as an advantage	<p>Proposed relocation for SEIMA 3KND Aboriginal Radio Station and Darebin Council</p> <p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Exploring potential partnerships between Council and key Aboriginal organisation seeking to relocate into a Council property.</p> <p>Wurundjeri Peace Poles launched at the Darebin Intercultural Centre.</p> <p>Northern Council meetings conducted to explore collaborations and partnerships around working relationship with Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Council.</p>

To work with Darebin's communities to harness the Aboriginal cultural heritage and diversity, promote intercultural relations and combat racism	Engagement, community leadership and participation	Participation in a range of NAIDOC activities as well as sponsorship of Victorian NAIDOC Ball and radio 3KND Koorie Idol for young people.
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Challenges

Implementation of the plan continues to require synchronicity around timing and priorities, as well as collaboration across Council units. Many of the programs also require long term commitment supported by true community collaboration and implementation can be impacted by competing timelines and new and emerging issues and priorities faced by community.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There are no environmental implications from this report.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Aboriginal Action Plan is underpinned by Darebin's Equity and Inclusion Policy (2014–15). The strategy was subjected to an early EIPAT process during its development which resulted in a number of actions around the groups identified at risk of exclusion.

Economic Development

One aim of the DAAP is to support Aboriginal residents to participate fully and equally in work prospects. The plan identifies opportunities for economic development and potential job creation in the municipality. The new Darebin Aboriginal Employment Strategy will advance this work.

Other

The DAAP aligns with the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-15 and contributes to Council's commitment to Aboriginal residents expressed in the Council Plan 2013-17 (Diversity Statement and KPI 2.9).

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2014/2015 \$8000 was directly allocated for the implementation of the plan.

CONCLUSION

The Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan is a working document with many actions progressed in 2015/2016, with key highlights being the renaming of Batman Park Community Conversations and the commencement of developing the Aboriginal Employment Strategy.

New areas have emerged including work around the education portfolio, which has focused on the potential development of a Darebin Aboriginal curriculum and the development of programs which support schools to celebrate Aboriginal history and culture.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implementation of ongoing actions and review of Action Plan
- Implementation of the Council's Aboriginal Employment Strategy
- Develop ongoing relationships with Wurundjeri Tribe, Land Compensation and Heritage Council

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan 2012-2017
 - Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015
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1. ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING STRATEGY 2011–2021

AUTHOR: Coordinator Community Participation & Development

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

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

Strategy Started On:

29 November 2010

Strategy Ends On:

30 July 2021

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

Strategy to be reviewed by June 2021

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy underpins and guides service delivery, social support and projects that are initiated through the Aged and Disability Department. With the Department’s new service model in place and the establishment of the newly formed community development arm in operation, an updated action plan is now in place with input from officers across Council. The action plan serves to gauge work and projects across Council that incorporates planning to address an increasing ageing population within the City of Darebin. It will also serve to identify opportunities to address gaps.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Council role: Provider of services and facilities	1. Plan for renewal upgrade of facilities across a 15 year council capital works program including Yanada House and Senior Citizen Centres.	Integrated community facilities feasibility study undertaken focusing on Yanada House situated at Dennis Street Northcote.

	2. HACC Diversity Plan	Ongoing work supporting diverse communities to access Aged, Disability and other council services.
Council role: Planner and coordinator	Build capacity of advisory committees such as the Active and Healthy Ageing Board and the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee to feed into council strategies, events and projects.	<p>Consultation with the Active and Healthy Ageing Board and Darebin Disability Advisory Committee seeking input into aged and disability reforms.</p> <p>Active participation of the Active and Healthy Ageing Board to host their own event "Darebin Seniors Expo" as part of the 2015 Seniors Festival – aimed to raise the profile of the Board within the community.</p>
Council role: Partnership builder	Continue to build on partnerships that support planning and advocacy of Darebin residents.	Submissions made in partnership, when needed, to enhance Council's advocacy particularly with regard to housing, transport building and economic development.
Council role: Advocate and Facilitator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build capacity within Aged and Disability to strengthen engagement with community. 2. Support older adult groups in Darebin to prepare for changes in administrative requirements by Consumer Affairs Victoria. 3. Explore social support options that can support ongoing connection for older people with increased support needs to remain connected in community. 	<p>Appointment of Disability Access Planner to support the work and rollout of the Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan which recognises the need for advocacy of older people with a disability particularly with regard to the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.</p> <p>Ongoing partnership development with Consumer Affairs Victoria with a view to obtaining commitment for translated materials for incorporated groups to understand their governance responsibilities.</p> <p>Gauge with seniors clubs prevalence of members requiring greater levels of support and how this impact on clubs.</p>

Challenges

The recent review of the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy Action Plan provides opportunity to reconnect with services more broadly across council with the intention of establishing ongoing work that is needed to ensure the needs of older people in the community are considered and planned for throughout Council's business. With policy changes at both local, state and the commonwealth there is a need to ensure council staff are kept up to date of these changes to ensure the strategies contained in the Active and Healthy Ageing strategy remain living documents and that planning for older people continues to be central to the way we deliver services and supports to people in the community.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Darebin Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy advocates for the community to be welcoming of older people through the provision of services, programs and the built environment that considers the needs of older people. The Strategy aligns with the Human Rights Action Plan and the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) which looks at how the diverse needs of people are considered in planning of services.

The five principles underpinning the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy include older people having a (1) valued role; (2) their rights upheld; (3) opportunities for participation; (4) ease of access and (5) responsive services.

Economic Development

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The support of activities associated with and in support of the Strategy has been achieved within the Aged and Disability operational budget.

CONCLUSION

The Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy continues to be the primary tool that is used to engage with community and service providers about the importance of active ageing and its links to keeping people connected and healthy. It will continue to serve this function; however is in need of a review to ensure it sufficiently captures the work, including community engagement we will need to do to respond to aged and disability reforms.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

The Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy was endorsed by Council in November 2010. The Strategy was launched with community in March 2011. It is anticipated with implementation of the Aged Care Reforms and the National Disability Insurance Scheme to take effect from 1 July 2016, there will be a need to refresh and review the Strategy which will build in community consultation.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011–2021
 - Council Plan 2013–2017
 - Human Rights Action Plan 2012–2015
 - Equity and Inclusion Plan 2012-2015
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1. DAREBIN ANTI-RACISM STRATEGY 2015-2016

AUTHOR: Multicultural Affairs Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Anti-Racism Strategy 2012–2015 aims to provide a strategic platform to raise awareness about the impact of racial discrimination and to stand up against racism. It includes actions to foster social inclusion and to work towards a racism-free Darebin. This Strategy is implemented through the Human Rights, Aboriginal and Multicultural Action Plans and is aligned to the Darebin Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015.

Under the Local Government Act, Public Health and Wellbeing Act and Equal Opportunity Act, Council as a public authority has a duty to reduce and respond to incidents of discrimination both within the workforce and at the community level.

Council is also required to report against our progress and compliance to the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission through the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

Strategy Started On:

2012

Strategy Ends On:

2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

2017

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy is guided by the National Anti-Racism Strategy and responds to the findings of the Darebin Racism Inquiry conducted by Council during 2011-2012 across three key areas; Council, Services and Community. During 2015-2016 this Strategy has implemented a number of successful initiatives to raise community capacity to respond to racial discrimination in a safe and constructive manner. This report describes key commitments and outcomes achieved during the period.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

STRATEGIC AREA	ACTION	OUTCOMES
COUNCIL		
Employment	Work towards a workforce that reflects Darebin's diverse communities.	Professional Development Plan on Aboriginal Cultural Awareness, Cultural Diversity, Multilingual Communications, Human Rights and Anti-Racism incorporated into the delivery of the Diversity Capabilities Framework.
Training	Design and deliver diversity awareness training.	Training sessions were delivered effectively as part of the Diversity Capabilities Framework. This included sessions linking to all E&D portfolios.
Leadership and partnerships	Implement the Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy in coordination with internal and external stakeholders that sees an integrated, strategic approach across Council and community in delivery of actions.	<p>Racial discrimination has a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of Darebin residents. It is socially divisive and a threat to building a cohesive and peaceful community. Darebin City Council is committed to strengthen social partnerships to combat racial discrimination through policies and actions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Say NO To Racism Training to staff and community members. • Darebin Council is an active participant on the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission Report Racism Project and Anti-Hate Campaign. • Darebin Council actively supports the rights of refugees and Asylum Seekers. • Darebin Council supports the Darebin Emergency Relief Network. • Darebin Council participates in the North East Refugee Settlement Issues Network (NERSIN). • The implementation of the AR Strategy is based on fostering community collaboration, advocacy and strategic partnerships. • Our Council has subscribed and supports the State Government 'Embrace Diversity Campaign'. <p>This work is implemented in an integrated way across Council departments and based on an understanding of the intersections between different types of discrimination and racial discrimination.</p>

Communications and marketing	Ensure that Councillor speeches and all communication material promote diversity, inclusion and Council's anti-racism stance.	Council publications regularly included a statement re-affirming Council's commitment to building a diverse and inclusive city.
Communications and advocacy	Engage with media to promote anti-racism messages.	A Darebin Says No To Racism banner is displayed at various Council buildings, anti-racism messages in Mayor's speeches, ward newsletters, Council website, social media and bulletins to all staff.
Data collection and Research	Foster partnerships with universities.	Darebin Council is a signatory of the Coalition of Cities Against Racism in the Asia Pacific. A mapping report of actions delivered by Council departments against the Coalition's ten commitment points is prepared every year.
SERVICES		
Resource distribution and interculturalism	Promote the funding of projects that foster diversity and inclusion through the Community Grants Program.	Applications were received and assessed by the Equity and Diversity Team. Officers in Equity and Diversity continued to support uptake of EIPAT across Council to strengthen inclusion and equity outcomes in planning and service delivery.
COMMUNITY		
Community capacity-building and partnerships.	Explore the potential to develop a public education campaign that reflects the Racism: It Stops With Me campaign.	Say NO To Racism Training was delivered to staff and the community in partnership with the Darebin Intercultural Centre and other external stakeholders. A Service Agreement was signed with Polykala to ensure sustainability of training delivery and further development of this resource. Several presentations were conducted at various settings including Local Government, State Government and VLGMIN (Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network). The SNTR Training Package attracted community and government interest with the South Australian Government entering a Licence Agreement with the Darebin Council for the delivery of this training to public service sector staff and communities through the Department of Communities and Social Cohesion. A similar interest has also been explored with the Victorian Government. The Darebin Anti-Racism Committee offered a useful space for information sharing on national and local campaigns and continued to be an important strategic network.

Community celebration and awareness-raising	Coordinate activities around annual dates to promote anti-racism messages across Darebin, celebrate the contribution made by Aboriginal and CALD communities.	Successful organisation of key strategic events to promote inclusion and diversity. Each Equity and Diversity portfolio successfully delivered a number of events on key cultural and religious dates to showcase diversity and to promote Council's commitment to human rights and to fight racism.
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Challenges

The implementation of the Anti-racism Strategy needed to consider the multiple and complex impacts of racism on the health and wellbeing of communities, in particular those who are more disadvantaged.

The international and local context was and it will continue to be very fluid in terms of social dynamics. The emergence and strengthening of right wing and conservative racist groups poses an ongoing challenge at the municipal level. This touches on key objectives of the strategy around building community harmony through education, active engagement with the community and the promotion of interculturalism.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The outcomes of implementing the Policy may have a positive environmental impact for Darebin residents. People who are disadvantaged and excluded often do not have the same opportunity to practise sustainable living, including access to sustainable housing, sustainable housing practices/resources and fresh food. A more inclusive Darebin would also ideally include improvements in sustainable living opportunities for everyone.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Strategy directly addresses social inclusion and diversity considerations and responds to the Human Rights Charter and Council's goals and commitments. Through the EIPAT tool and the Community Engagement Framework, equity and diversity considerations continue to be integrated in our planning to meet the needs of all of our community.

Economic Development

Racism affects the health and wellbeing of resident and often results in consequent loss of economic productivity and participation in community building by individuals and communities affected.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Actions during this period have been implemented within the allocated budget.

CONCLUSION

A number of actions were successfully delivered across strategic areas. Key to this success was the integrated planning and delivery of Equity and Diversity commitments across the organisation and across Equity and Diversity and Health and Wellbeing portfolios. The implementation of the Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy has enabled Council to build strong partnerships with the Darebin community and with local stakeholders. Outcomes have been aided by collaboration with the interfaith, intercultural and Aboriginal communities.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

Anti-Racism Strategy review: The AR Strategy will be reviewed during 2017 to align it with other Equity and Diversity strategies and the Council Plan. Consideration will be given in this process to how this strategy can be better integrated into the core business of Council to support healthy and inclusive communities. This includes exploring longer term partnership/investment with other levels of government. There will also be benefits in raising the profile around the multiple and complex impacts of racism on the health and wellbeing of communities, in particular those who are more disadvantaged.

Welcoming Cities project: We will explore how the Welcoming Cities initiative has links to our anti-racism work. This program recognises that cities and municipalities that proactively foster an environment of belonging and participation for receiving communities, as well as new and emerging communities, increase their social cohesion and economic capability and resilience.

Health and Wellbeing: We will aim to strengthen Health and Wellbeing considerations into the strategy and strengthen positive messaging around inclusion. We will look at building on existing work and programs and building our evidence base.

Community Capacity building: Council will continue to coordinate and monitored Say No To Racism bystander training for community members, staff and service providers through partnerships with Polykala, our internal Diversity Capabilities Framework and other stakeholders.

Promotion of Anti-Racism work: Council will continue to use its communication channels to provide information about specific projects and actions to address racial discrimination.

Victorian Interfaith Network Conference: This conference will bring together faith and cultural leaders around the central theme of Faith and Social Inclusion. Presentations and discussions on this theme will highlight the importance of tackling discrimination and the significance of partnerships to build harmonious and included communities through constructive dialogue and education.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015
-

**1. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY
2012-2015**

AUTHOR: Manager, Economic Development and Civic Compliance

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director, Corporate Services

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012–2015 outlines a framework and clarifies Council’s role in providing economic development opportunities, creating the right conditions and environment for business success and increasing local employment.

The focus is on five key strategic directions:

- Marketing
- Employment and Skills
- Business and Industry Development
- Business Support
- Environmental Sustainability

Strategy Started On:

The Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012–2015 was adopted by Council in March 2012.

Strategy Ends On:

The Strategy ended in 2015.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The Strategy expired in December 2015. From January 2016, Council has continued to deliver ongoing actions from the Strategy. A review of the Strategy is currently underway and will be presented to Council. The Strategy is viewed as a flexible document that allows Council to undertake actions that reflect changes in economic conditions and meet the needs of business.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Council achieved significant outcomes in the final year of the Strategy. A progress report was presented at the Business Leaders Lunch held in June 2016 which outlined the key outcomes during in the past year from each strategic objective.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy objective	Key Outcomes
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed Darebin's first ever Tourism Strategy.• Activated 26 pop up creative businesses and created over 100 jobs through the Active Spaces in Darebin program.• Produced the 'Business Connection', a newsletter for local businesses.• Completed Council's first digital 'shop local' campaign #DarebinXmas.
Employment and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosted the 2015 Northern Indigenous Employment forum.• Partnered with Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network to stage 36 events with 1,486 attendees to improve outcomes for young job seekers.• Partnered to deliver and launch 'The Future Workforce: Melbourne's North' report addressing employment and skills in the Melbourne's North.• Continued to deliver the Darebin Jobs Link, an online portal for local employers and job seekers with 1,750 members.
Business and industry development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivered a 'hands on' export program with eight Food and Beverage manufacturing businesses.• Developed first Digital Business Program 'Darebin Pitch IT' with 18 participants.• Hosted five Industry forums.• Provided free public WiFi in the shopping centres of Fairfield, Northcote, Preston and Reservoir.
Business support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted over 1,250 business visitations.• Provided mentoring to over 200 businesses.• Hosted 43 events held with over 2,177 attendees.• Facilitated the permit approval process for over 30 new and existing businesses.
Environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 123 businesses have participated in the Light\$mart program with 9,613 lights being changed.• 103 are identified as Green Businesses.• Held the Darebin Sustainable Living Festival with 25 business stalls and over 300 attendees.• Commenced the Sustainable Leaders in Manufacturing (SLIM) program.

Challenges

A review of the Strategy is currently underway and will be presented to Council. The Strategy is required to be a flexible document that allows Council to undertake actions that reflect changes in economic conditions and meet the needs of business.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability is one of the five key strategic directions of the Strategy. The actions under this objectives outline the ways Council worked to assist businesses to reduce their energy costs and lower their carbon footprint, resource use and waste production. Undertaking these actions has supported businesses to increase their efficiency.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Strategy recognises Darebin's community as highly diverse and where cultural diversity is one of Darebin's comparative advantages. This is reflected in the business environment by the cultural backgrounds of business owners, the types of businesses operating and their employees. The objectives and actions throughout the Strategy underpin the importance of harnessing this cultural diversity and improving the economic and employment opportunities for all Darebin residents.

Economic Development

The delivery of the Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015 has produced better outcomes for the Darebin business community.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The major financial and resource implications of the Strategy have been the budgetary demands of managing the delivery of the objectives and actions as outlined in the Strategy.

CONCLUSION

The Business Development and Employment Strategy is one of Council's key strategic documents. In the final year of the Strategy, Council has achieved significant outcomes. The first goal within the Council Plan 2013-2017 refers to 'A Vibrant City and Innovative Economy'. The actions within this goal have aligned with the objectives within the Strategy; in particular, business investment and local employment growth, training and skills and marketing. A revised strategy will be presented to Council in late 2016 which will aim to continue to meet the needs of Darebin's business community.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of 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, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to undertake ongoing actions from the Strategy
- Complete review of the Business Development and Employment Strategy
- Present Strategy review to Council

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Tourism Strategy 2016 - 2021
 - Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
 - Digital Strategy 2013-2018
 - Green Business Attraction Strategy 2012–2017
 - Council Plan 2013-2017
-

1. CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEAK OIL ADAPTATION PLAN 2009-2015

AUTHOR: Coordinator Environmental Strategy

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Operations and Environment

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan was adopted in November 2009 and aims for Council to mitigate risks and adapt to the impacts within Council operations and our community support services.

Strategy Started On:

November 2009

Strategy Ends On:

2015

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

A major review of the Plan is currently underway and will be completed in 2016/17.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

A number of well-established Council strategies and programs are integral to addressing the impacts of climate change and peak oil, particularly around conserving water, reducing dependence on private car transport, promoting food security and combatting the urban heat island effect. These programs include: the Climate Change Action Plan, Community Climate Change Action Plan, Sustainable Water Strategy, Darebin Transport Strategy and associated Green Travel programs, Urban Food Production Strategy, Food Security Policy Heatwave Strategy, GreenStreets Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy. These are identified within the actions as continuing and ongoing work.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Adaptation to heat waves	The Solar \$aver program has made solar power more accessible to low income residents. This has resulted in pensioner participants being better	Post installation survey showed: 55% of Solar \$aver study participants are more likely to use their homes cooling system during heatwaves following the installation of solar PV.

	able to affordably manage heat stress because they can afford to use air-conditioning and fans.	In 2014 292 pensioner households had solar installed and in 2016, a further 200 households, including 34 low income households from a rental housing association will reduce their energy costs and risk of heat stress.
Adaptation to heat waves	The Darebin Heatwave Strategy and Action Plan continued to implement information and work with service providers to ensure vulnerable community members are considered. These actions are reported in a separate report.	<p>Brochures are available in various languages at customer service centres and events, such as Citizenship Ceremonies over summer.</p> <p>Work was undertaken with the Interfaith Officer to promote the Heatwave message to residents from CALD background.</p> <p>Client welfare checks conducted by Aged Care workers, as well as cooling collars, fans, shades, water bottles distributed to clients during heatwaves.</p> <p>Information and flyers for clients and staff provided at HACC roster sessions.</p>
Adaptation planning – emergency management	<p>The Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan is included in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.</p> <p>Work has continued on the Flood Management Plan and Flood Emergency Plan.</p>	<p>The IRVA study identified Darebin having one of the highest numbers of dwellings at risk from a flood in the region.</p> <p>There are higher proportions of the Darebin population that may need increased assistance to cope with flooding events. This will require future planning and adaptation work.</p>
Adaptation planning – food security and food production.	The Urban Food Production Strategy (UFPS) and the Food Security Policy include actions to support communities to access fresh food, build capacity around food growing and reduce food miles. These plans are reported separately	<p>Darebin Food bank partnership with SecondBite continues to provide fruit and vegetables to agencies and residents each week through the Preston Salvation Army.</p> <p>In December 2015 the holiday season Fresh Food Program provided 1,429kg of fresh vegetables and fruit to residents.</p> <p>UFPS outcomes included the development of 3 new community gardens, support of the Fruit Squad to collect and distribute over 2,000kg of produce to disadvantaged homes and the ongoing success of the backyard Harvest festival in engaging our community in food growing.</p>

<p>Adaptation planning – sustainable business</p>	<p>The implementation of the Green Business Attraction Strategy seeks to support and promote sustainable business within Darebin. This plan is reported separately.</p>	<p>19 businesses had their lights retrofitted through the Light\$mart program in 2015/16. A total of 123 businesses have now retrofitted their lights through Light\$mart.</p> <p>36 businesses were issued with certificates and “We are Greening our Business” stickers. 102 businesses are now displaying ‘We are Greening our Business’ stickers and 80 businesses have ‘We are Greening our Business’ certificates.</p>
<p>Adaptation planning – sustainable transport</p>	<p>The Darebin Transport Strategy and associated Green Travel Plans continue to be implemented, supporting and advocating sustainable travel solutions for our community. This plan is reported separately.</p>	<p>Council delivered approximately 1.2 million dollars in programs and projects specifically to promote and improve walking, cycling and safe travel facilities and outcomes, and to improve sustainability related to our roads and paths.</p>
<p>Adaption planning – urban planning</p>	<p>Improving Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) of built form</p>	<p>Through the year Council developed and consulted on the Environmentally Sustainable Development Local Planning Policy which will improve environmental development outcomes. Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) assessment tools are used to assess and guide planning decisions, and Council advocates for better state-wide ESD planning and building outcomes.</p>
<p>Adaptation planning – urban heat island effect</p>	<p>The Urban Forest Strategy aims to increase tree coverage on public lands to at least 25% over 15 years. This plan is reported separately.</p> <p>Increased tree cover reduces the urban heat island effect, improving micro-climate and providing shade and shelter.</p>	<p>Over 3,000 trees given to residents at various Council community activities and other community events for planting on private property.</p> <p>The number of street trees planted as part of the infill planting program was a net gain of over 900 street trees.</p>
<p>Peak oil adaptation</p>	<p>Council has adopted the Oil Depletion protocol to reduce fuel consumption by 3% (per year). The purchase of more efficient fleet vehicles helps Council achieve this goal.</p>	<p>This year has seen a 1% increase in fuel consumption from the previous year. The 3 previous years have seen a 3%, 3% and 7% reduction in fuel usage. Further investigation to identify the source of the additional consumption is being undertaken to identify opportunities to reduce fuel consumption.</p>

Challenges

The earth continues to warm at a concerning rate. 2015 was the hottest year on record. Heat records are broken in Australia three times as frequently as cold records. Heat waves are projected to become more severe, with impacts on vulnerable communities.

Council has limited sphere of control in the areas which have most capacity to reduce emissions eg electricity production from fossil fuels, vehicle emission standards and housing energy efficiency standards (both new and existing). Darebin continues to influence and provide leadership in energy efficiency and renewable area but is constrained by the lack of control.

During the strategy review, the input from both residential and business community in shaping Climate change and Peak Oil Adaptation actions will be welcomed. The community input will provide to direction for Council to continue leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a warmer world.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Implementation of the Adaptation Plan will assist Darebin to adapt to the impacts of climate change and peak oil.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Adaptation Plan identifies social impacts and vulnerable groups. Communication plans developed as part of the plan's implementation consider CALD communities.

Economic Development

Through the green business programs discussed above, Council is supporting businesses to reduce their greenhouse emissions and reduce energy costs. Council programs like the Solar \$aver program can develop markets and employment for the Australian solar industry

Other

The Council Plan aims for Council to lead and work with the community and partners to achieve a rapid transition to an environmentally sustainable city, and undertake long-term planning to ensure the city can address the impacts of climate change and peak oil.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

A major review of the Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan is being undertaken and progress on implementation has continued. The Solar \$aver initiative to assist low income households and renters manage heat wave stress continues to be a success story for Council and the households involved.

The majority of the actions have occurred through complementary strategies and programs including: the climate change action plans; Heatwave Strategy, Watershed Water Strategy; Urban Food Production Strategy, Food Security Policy, Darebin Transport Strategy, GreenStreets Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Review of the Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan.
- Regional Adaptation planning through the NAGA..

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan
 - Heatwave Strategy and Action Plan
 - Community Climate Change Action Plan
 - Corporate Climate Change Action Plan
 - Transport Strategy
 - Watershed Water Strategy
 - Food Security Policy
 - Urban Food Production Strategy
 - Urban Forest Strategy
-

1. COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2009-2020

AUTHOR: Manager, Environment & Natural Resources

REVIEWED BY: Director, Asset & Business Services

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The key objective of the Community Climate Change Action Plan is to support the Darebin community to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

Strategy Started On:

June 2009

Strategy Ends On:

2020

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

A major review of the Plan was commenced in 2015/16 and will be completed 2016/17.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Introduction and Background

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

- more energy efficient homes, assisting with lower energy costs
- climate change and energy efficiency information available in community languages
- energy and cost savings for Darebin businesses.

The Solar \$saver program has continued to be a key focus for the year with the program extended to new participants.

Despite these significant local achievements, community emissions (including commercial, industrial and residential electricity and gas, transport and waste emissions) remain in the order of 1,700,000 tonnes. Council continues advocacy on the larger scale issues that need to transform at a state, federal and international level to effect more significant change.

Community consultation for the review of the climate change action plans is expected to be complete in December 2016 with a report to Council in early 2017.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
Targeted Programs		
Assist low income households to increase energy efficiency, improve comfort and weatherproofing of homes and reduce energy costs.	Solar \$aver Program	<p>Darebin Council continued to make solar power more accessible to low income residents through the Solar \$aver program. Another 200 households, including 34 from a rental housing co-operative will participate in the 2015-16 program.</p> <p>The program has been extended to include low income households, social housing, and not-for-profits. Most households are saving more money than repayments over the first 10 years and will benefit from full savings of around \$400 per year when repayments finish.</p>
Continue to support residents to improve their energy efficiency and emission reduction efforts/ Business support programs	Solar Bulk Buy	<p>Approximately 50 households have expressed interest in the solar bulk buy program and have had their homes assessed for a solar PV system.</p> <p>Council have also engaged with 20 businesses to install larger solar PV systems and expects a number of these to be installed in 2016.</p>
Continue to support residents to improve their energy efficiency and emission reduction efforts	Communicating Energy Use project – (NAGA project) Provides Darebin community energy use profile and sets a home energy target	<p>The Municipal Energy Calculation tool has been updated with 2013 data. Residential electricity use decreased by 3.3% since 2009, while natural gas decreased marginally by 0.7%. Overall, Darebin's per household GHG emissions decreased by 3.1% since 2009. Per dwelling energy and greenhouse reductions were observed in the south of the municipality, which were counteracted by increases in the northern suburbs.</p>
	Information forums	<p>As part of the Darebin Sustainable Homes and Communities program an Energy retrofit workshop was held in November 2015 and energy efficiency advice was provided at the Darebin Sustainable Living Expo in April 2016.</p>

<p>Business support programs</p>	<p>Green Business Attraction Strategy, Light\$mart and 'Greening our Business' programs</p>	<p>Key highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council continues to facilitate the Darebin Green Business Network with two networking events and the Sustainable Living Expo was again held in April with 22 businesses and organisations participating. . • 102 Darebin businesses proudly display “We are Greening our Business” stickers and 80 of these also have ‘We are Greening our Business’ certificates. • 19 businesses have retrofitted their lights through the Light\$mart Program during 2015/2016. A total of 123 businesses have now retrofitted their lights through Light\$mart equating to 2,169 tonnes of greenhouse gases are being saved (585 cars off the road). • The SLIM, Sustainable Leaders in Manufacturing Program has expanded to work with an additional 15 businesses taking the total to 18 manufacturers and has resulted in: 15 of the participating businesses upgrading their lights to LEDs through the Light\$mart program and three of these businesses installing or committing to install solar panels on their rooftops, two will be through the Darebin Solar Bulk Buy program. • Seven Darebin businesses have participated in the Northern GreenLight Programs and the fridge timer program continued, resulting in 100 more timers being installed onto fridges with non-perishable drinks this financial year.
<p>Advocacy</p>	<p>Submissions to Government and industry</p>	<p>Darebin has advocated for increased solar feed in tariffs and changes to planning policy to improve climate change outcomes. Through Darebin’s membership of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) group – Council have also supported advocacy and submissions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair price for local renewable energy generation • Changes to the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target scheme • Victorian Renewable Energy Roadmap • Electricity Network Tariff reform • Community energy • Victorian Climate Change Act

Strengthen community networks and mobilisation on climate change	Forums and information	Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darebin held a well-attended climate forum in June with 3 industry specialists and created a video podcast of key issues. • The Community Leaders in Sustainability Course aims to build and facilitate environmental leadership in our community with community projects as outcomes. • The Sustainability Expo held in April expanded to provide community organisations networking opportunities. • Council hosts a number of leaders forums on climate related topics.
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Challenges

Climate change is a global issue that requires international cooperation and action to reduce emissions. The UN Paris COP 21 in December reached international agreement to take action to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. The earth continues to warm at a concerning rate. 2015 was the hottest year on record. The Australian Government's Direct Action Plan and associated Emissions Reduction Fund have not resulted in tangible opportunities for local government based community projects. The Victorian Government is developing a climate change framework for late 2016; has recently committed to Victorian renewable energy generation targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025 and is considering the solar Feed-in-tariff review findings.

Council has limited sphere of control in the areas which have most capacity to reduce emissions eg electricity production from fossil fuels, vehicle emission standards and housing energy efficiency standards (both new and existing). Darebin continues to influence and provide leadership in energy efficiency and renewable area but is constrained to achieve large community reductions.

Whilst there have been small declines in greenhouse emissions per household in Darebin this is estimated to have been offset by increasing household numbers as well as increasing commercial and industry emissions. Darebin's community emissions were calculated to be in the order of 1,700,000 tonnes in 2015.

During the climate change strategy review, the input from both residential and business community in shaping community climate change actions will be welcomed. The community input will provide to direction for Council to continue leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Another challenge that directly related to the Solar \$aver program was the effect of lower solar feed in tariffs and a higher Australian dollar made the financial proposition of the program less favourable compared to 2014-15. This was recognised as resulting in more effort required to recruit program participants.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The aim of the Action Plan is to assist the Darebin community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan has specifically targeted low socio-economic households for a number of initiatives, including the significant Solar \$aver Program.

Economic Development

Through the green business programs discussed above, Council is supporting businesses to reduce their greenhouse emissions and reduce energy costs. Council programs like the Solar \$aver program can develop markets and employment for the Australian solar industry.

Other

Darebin's Council plan includes an objective of sustainable and resilient neighbourhoods as part of achieving rapid transition to an environmentally sustainable city.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Action Plan and program continues to be delivered within the existing operating budget. The program has been enhanced through collaboration with regional projects being undertaken by the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA).

CONCLUSION

The Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan continues to deliver good results for the Darebin community. People from low socio-economic and diverse backgrounds have benefited from the Solar \$aver and other energy efficiency work. The energy efficiency forums are increasing energy saving know-how in the community. Despite this large scale emission reductions have been difficult to achieve as Federal and State policies have not driven industry and Australia wide reform required to meet zero emissions. Council continues to advocate on these issues and the Victorian State Government has announced a zero net emissions target for 2050. The action plan is currently being reviewed with a report to Council in 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, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Preparation of the revised Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan over 2016/2017

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Community Climate Change Action Plan
 - Climate Change Action Plan
 - Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan
 - Transport Strategy
 - Municipal Strategic Statement
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1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2012-2017

AUTHOR: Coordinator Equity & Diversity

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Community Engagement Framework aims to provide a clear and consistent basis for a whole-of-Council commitment, understanding and practice in community engagement in all its approaches. The Framework aligns strategically with the Equity and Inclusion Policy (EIP) and has its elements reproduced in the EIPAT. The Framework is distinct from the previous Darebin policies on Community Engagement due to its three approaches to engagement: Consultation - Deliberation - Collaboration.

Strategy Started On:

August 2012

Strategy Ends On:

August 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

June 2017

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Community Engagement Framework is underpinned by three key approaches;

- Consultation,
- Deliberation and
- Collaboration.

Each approach offers Council, communities and other stakeholders different relationships, roles, levels of influence, and decision-making capacity in the engagement process. This framework recognises that each approach has its merits and limitations and that each approach may or may not be appropriate depending on the nature and complexity of a matter or decision. In this new framework, consultation is Darebin Council's minimum approach to engagement, and Council is committed to using more deliberative and collaborative approaches when working through complex matters and issues facing communities.

Since its inception, the implementation of the framework has been supported by the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) to provide practical guidance for staff to better engage with the city's 'hard to reach' communities (12 communities have been identified as being disproportionately disadvantaged).

The organisation's performance continues to be very strong around community consultation. For example in 2015 /2016, 100% of the 129 Council reports demonstrated evidence of community input.

This achievement reflects a robust organisational culture that acknowledges and actively invests in developing community input.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
Consultation	That every Council decision is informed by consultation with affected	100% of all Council decisions (129 Council reports) for 2015/2016 have been informed through consultation with stakeholders (internal and external).
Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Travel Strategy Review 2010 – 2015 • Proposed dog off lead area in Johnson Park Northcote • Fairfield village Action plan • Draft Bill Lawry and Oldis Gardens Master plan 		
Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Deliberation	To create deliberative structures where Council requires an ongoing and deeper engagement with stakeholders due to the complexity and sensitivity of an issue facing Council and the community.	Informed dialogue with communities achieved through a number of processes Review and improve meeting procedures for all Council Advisory Committees. Formal engagement plans submitted as part of the EIPAT process. These engagement plans were additional to the general plans implemented for those projects. Annual social, cultural and community events providing an opportunity for ongoing informal conversations and engagement
Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi Sports Stadium • Property Maintenance Service for Pensioners. • Northland community safety and crime prevention project • Leisure Services Action Plan 2015 - 2020 		
Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
Collaboration	To create shared and equal decision making processes and structures between Council and communities across mutually defined areas of responsibility and action.	Informed dialogue and partnership in decision making through collaborative practices occurred where applicable (see below)
Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC) Community Monument • Renaming Batman Park 		

Challenges

As identified in the previous year, the main challenge for the organisation is to maintain its current effort and increase formal and informal support for Council staff to expand their 'engagement palette' beyond the basic consultation and deliberation levels. While there is wide awareness of Council's framework and of innovative engagement methods, there is a mismatch between this awareness and the application of the more complex engagement methods.

The emerging challenge for Council will be an increasing pressure to maintain its tailored Darebin engagement approach with the emerging pressure to adopt universal consultation methodologies. For example, the recent introduction of Rate Capping provisions also prescribes that Council's use IP2 consultation framework. Further the greater use of on line engagement may also influence the use of more universal engagement platforms

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There are no direct Implications with regards to this action plan.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Community Engagement Framework is underpinned by a human rights approach throughout and serves to advance Council commitment to equity and inclusion by ensuring appropriate, effective, timely and valued participation in Council business by community across a range of settings and processes.

Economic Development

While there are no direct implications with regards to this action plan, there is a clear link between effective engagement and economic gains. Poor engagement comes at a cost – for Council, for community, for business and a range other stakeholders.

Other

The importance of community engagement is recognised in the 2013-17 Council Plan.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2014/15 \$8000 was allocated for the educational activities and engagement methodologies. In turn each Department would spend a significant amount of money each year on engagement activities and effective community engagement occurs when organisations invest in tools and capacity. Ongoing resourcing and development will ensure the Framework remains relevant and agile.

CONCLUSION

There is an almost universal application of basic consultation methods by the organisation. The annual community survey indicates a high level of satisfaction with Council's consultation performance. The level of awareness and application through the EIPAT has continued for the 2014/2015 year with tailored approach seeing greater across Council collaboration and support. Work continues around unifying community engagement planning in the EIPAT to support improved practice and formal data gathering.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Review the Darebin Community Engagement Framework 2013 -2017 in light of new and emerging models and approaches.
- Review the Darebin Equity and Inclusion Strategy
- Develop a Community Engagement Toolkit to assist staff to better tailor their engagement.
- Integrate Human rights, Community wellbeing and Equity and Inclusion principles into future community engagement models.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Community Engagement Framework 2012–2017
-

1. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2012-2016

AUTHOR: Community Safety Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

The Darebin Community Safety Strategy 2012–2016 seeks to enhance perceptions of safety, reduce crime and build a respectful community. The strategy provides a broad four-year framework that encompasses all of Council’s activities that relate to community safety across the built, social and economic environments. The Strategy has three key priority areas which involve a range of actions and priority communities.

Strategy Started On:

August 2012

Strategy Ends On:

June 2016. The current strategy has been extended to align the next document with the Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The strategy has continued to provide a basis for a number of proactive initiatives aimed at increasing perceptions of safety and reducing crime in priority communities. Council’s approach to building community safety has been assisted by a variety of agencies, community groups, and the Community Safety Reference Group. While there are some activities which are whole of community, much of the strategy is focused on areas with greater crime and lower perceptions of safety. The future Community Safety Strategy will align with the cycle of the next Council and Health and Wellbeing Plans.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Build Strong and Safe Communities through Inclusion and Participation	Implement annual safety month events and develop a new activity as part of community safety month	Three events were held; the Great Edwardes Lake Park Walk as part of Week Without Violence, a neighbourhood dispute resolution forum with Department of Justice and a community event at Walker Street Housing estate.
	Continue to implement the Darebin Residential Street Parties program and promote the program to isolated residents.	A total of 20 street parties supported with public liability insurance and road closure.

	Hold the Darebin Community Awards	Program reviewed and Neighbourhood Award incorporated into Community Support Program to reduce duplication and improve efficiencies.
Implement programs to address anti-social behaviour and promote respect	Implement youth focused community safety programs	Ongoing and expanded youth outreach and engagement programs through the Yute crew program, as well as the strengthening of referral pathways to support services.
Maintain and manage the amenity of our community	Promote the Community Initiated Safety Audit Program as a community based response to safety issues	Three safety audits completed with Victoria Police both proactively and in response to community safety concerns, including the development of a specific public toilet safety audit assessment as part of the new Darebin Public Toilet Strategy to ensure safe design and management.
	Implement the Darebin Graffiti Management Action Plan to reduce the appearance of graffiti in the municipality	4 street art pieces completed this financial year that have increased amenity and reduced the reoccurrence of illegal graffiti.
Design and provide safe public spaces	Seek funding for CCTV in high priority locations in the City of Darebin as identified by Victoria Police	<p>6 CCTV cameras have been installed in the public space along the Darebin Creek in east Preston, a partnership between Council, Northland Shopping Centre and Victoria Police.</p> <p>Evaluation of the Reservoir laneway upgrade and CCTV project illustrated an increase in perceptions of safety at the location, from 3.37/5 in April 2013 to 4.3/5 in April 2016, and a reduction in the rate of crime in the precinct by 13%.</p> <p>Delivered the Department of Justice funded Land of Plenty project to improve perceptions of safety and amenity in the Oakhill Village on Plenty Road through murals, graffiti removal and activation of vacant shops.</p>

<p>Work in Partnership to increase community education and reduce the opportunity for crime, injury and violence</p>	<p>Coordinate responses with key stakeholders to new and existing issues in Darebin.</p>	<p>57 children and parents from a public housing estate participated in a beach safety program facilitated by Life Saving Victoria in Port Melbourne</p> <p>NPAG continues to operate, with the program's success highlighted in the Local Government publication Civic Magazine. Community events included 2 family movie nights attended by over 300 people and the East Preston Darebin Creek Festival.</p> <p>Four Community Safety Reference Group meetings held with strong representation from the emergency service sector and other partners.</p> <p>Coordinated response provided to over 20 resident concerns regarding community safety and crime in partnership with Victoria Police and internal Council departments.</p>
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Challenges

An ongoing challenge is to prevent crime and involvement in crime before it occur, which requires long term behavioural and social change programs that address the social determinants that influence crime and safety. Such initiatives require long term commitment from a variety of stakeholders, and an understanding and acceptance that long term investment is required.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Amenity and perceptions of safety 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 by supporting the implementation of the Waste and Litter Strategy 2015-25. Effective graffiti management as described in the strategy aims to enhance the amenity of an area and increase perceptions of safety which helps to reduce the overall environmental impact of graffiti.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

When individuals feel unsafe in their environment it can decrease their participation in community and negatively impact their sense of wellbeing. The application of the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool identified the particular groups that are at greater risk of actual or perceived safety in the community. In addition to perceptions of safety and the experience of crime, the EIPAT also identifies groups within the community at greater risk of participating in crime and antisocial behaviour and subsequently the aim is to address the social determinants which create these risk factors.

Economic Development

Crime and low perceptions of safety can have a negative impact on businesses, patronage and economic development. Two key projects addressing this have been the Northland Precinct Action Group and graffiti removal/prevention work in activity centre; and the Land of Plenty graffiti prevention and removal project along Plenty Road Preston.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015/2016 \$10K was provided for the implementation of the strategy and an additional \$10K for the Northland Precinct Program. This was further supported by a \$25K budget for graffiti prevention initiatives and a \$25K grant for the Land of Plenty project.

CONCLUSION

In 2015/16 the strategy continued to provide the framework for a variety of projects to be initiated and continue to be developed across the spectrum of crime prevention. All of this work is done in close partnership with a range of internal and external stakeholders, which highlights the need for an integrated and holistic approach to community safety and crime prevention across Council.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continued implementation of actions within the bridging year Action Plan 2016 – 2017.
- Developed of a new action plan, under the broader framework of the Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Community Safety Strategy 2012–2016
 - Northland Precinct Action Group Plan 2015-2016
-

1. CORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2007-2020

AUTHOR: Manager Environment and Natural Resources

REVIEWED BY: Director Assets and Business Services

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The key objective of the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan is to provide leadership in greenhouse gas mitigation by achieving a target of carbon neutrality (zero net carbon dioxide emissions) for Council's operations by 2020.

Strategy Started On:

June 2007

Strategy Ends On:

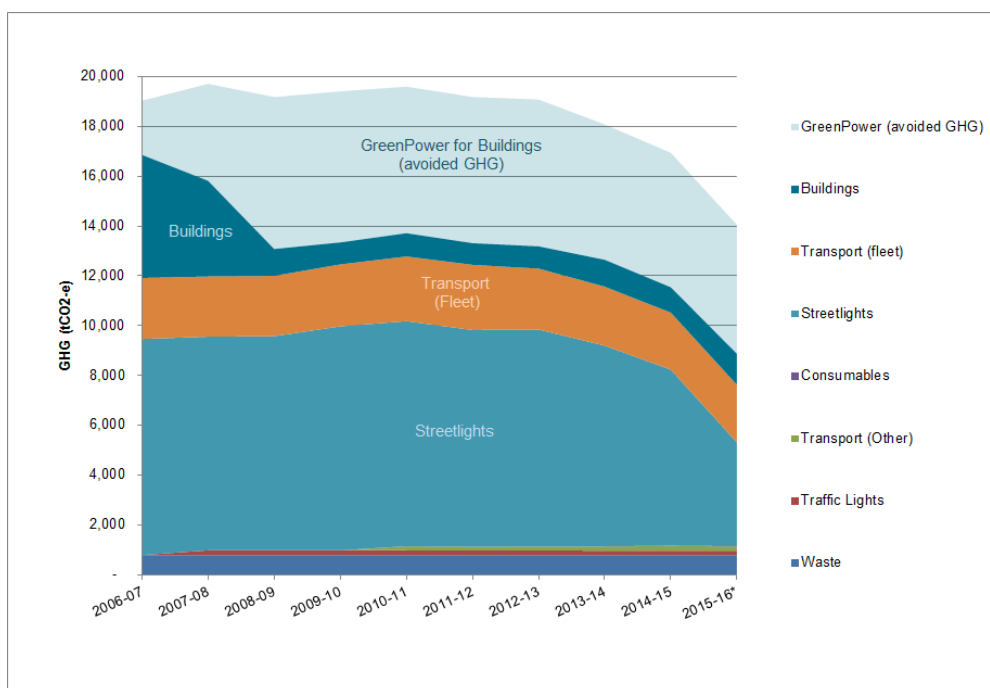
2020

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

A major review of the Plan is currently in progress and will be completed in 2016/17.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary



*GHG emissions for 2015-16 are provisional. A small amount of utility data had not been billed at time of reporting and has been estimated

Significant progress has been made towards achieving carbon neutrality with corporate greenhouse gas emissions reducing by nearly 2,700 tonnes (23%) due primarily to the successful installation of 9,675 energy efficient streetlights and 150kW of solar PV since 2014-15. Further savings will be seen next year when the full savings from the street light project are realised.

The action plan is currently being reviewed with a report to Council in 2017.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Carbon Neutrality	Energy Efficient Street Light program completed in 2016. The change of 9,675 lights across three electricity distributors was a significant project which is delivering both financial and greenhouse gas savings.	Over 3 years 2,890 streetlights were changed to fluorescent T5s, 6,550 were changed to LEDs and 235 streetlights removed. This major project will result in 3,800 tonnes of greenhouse savings/year, reducing streetlight electricity consumption by 52% and annual savings of ~ \$580,000 per year in operational costs. The project will pay back Council's contribution in 5 years
Carbon Neutrality	Energy Efficiency Capital Works Program for Council buildings	Implemented energy efficiency upgrades at: Reservoir Leisure Centre, Bundoora Homestead, Preston Library and Reservoir Depot. These measures are estimated to reduce ~120 tonnes greenhouse savings /year, and avoided operational costs ~\$20,000/yr. Projects have an average payback 7 years.
Carbon Neutrality	Further in-house development of greenhouse data monitoring to improve accuracy and efficiency	More accurate data for budgeting for GreenPower and significant savings from needing external service as used by many other councils.
Leadership in greenhouse gas mitigation	Advocacy and demonstrating leadership at industry forums	Ongoing advocacy and presentations to industry forums such as the Energy Efficiency & Sustainability in Local Government Conference and Melbourne Behaviour Change Network strengthened Darebin's reputation as a leader in carbon mitigation projects and positive stakeholder engagement.

Challenges

Council's purchase of GreenPower offsets electricity but does not offset gas, which can be more efficient and less greenhouse intensive. Council will review options for offsetting once the full scope of its reporting is finalised in 2016 and there is greater clarity about relevant government policy and reporting frameworks.

Historically there has been a strong nexus between service provision/activity and levels of greenhouse gas emissions. An ongoing challenge is to continue expanding service provision and related activities while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This challenge includes increases in greenhouse gas emissions from smaller facilities where the business case for energy efficiency measures is not as strong.

Council is working closely with stakeholders to encourage collaboration to optimise energy efficient outcomes especially where there is significant opportunity to embrace environmentally sensitive design (ESD) input into projects. Input through the Project Management Office will improve project management processes and also ESD outcomes.

Reliability issues of the Northcote Aquatic Centre cogeneration system, which is expected to save around 1,000 tonnes of emissions per year, have resulted in underperformance of the system. Council is working with the supplier to bring the system to full operational capacity and efficiency as soon as possible. This is not currently accounted for in Darebin's emissions as it is a Scope 3 emission (as the site is operated by YMCA) but may be accounted for in the future dependent on the strategy review outcomes.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The aim of the plan is to reduce Council's net corporate greenhouse gas emissions to zero thereby demonstrating leadership in greenhouse gas mitigation.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no equity and inclusion implications that are directly attributable to the implementation of the Corporate Climate Change Plan, although where cost reductions are achieved through energy efficiency outcomes, this may maintain lower service charges for disadvantaged community members.

Economic Development

Local business is a consideration in the appointment of all energy efficiency works tenders.

Other

Darebin's Council plan includes an objective of sustainable and resilient neighbourhoods as part of achieving rapid transition to an environmentally sustainable city.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The program continues to be delivered within the existing budget. It is estimated that Council will have a net avoided cost of over \$10 million over 20 years by introducing energy efficient streetlights.

The suite of energy efficiency works have a payback periods ranging from 6–10 years and it is estimated that across the lifetime of a project for every \$1 spent from the energy efficiency program, \$1.38 of energy costs are expected to be saved. Rising energy costs and improved technologies will further improve investment opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The Darebin City Council Corporate Climate Change Action Plan continues to deliver projects that control and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council's operations. Significant progress has been made towards achieving carbon neutrality with corporate greenhouse gas emissions through the street light emissions reductions, with the energy efficient buildings program continuing to deliver savings. The action plan is currently being reviewed with a report to Council in 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, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Review of the Darebin Corporate Climate Change Action Plan and report to Council in 2017

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan
 - Community Climate Change Action Plan
 - Corporate Climate Change Action Plan
-

1. CYCLING STRATEGY 2013-2018

AUTHOR: Senior Coordinator, Transport Management

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director, Assets & Business

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The *Darebin Cycling Strategy* (DCS) is our five year plan to create a culture of cycling by making riding in Darebin enjoyable, relaxing and safe, and Darebin a place where using a bicycle is the best travel option for short and medium trips that can't be made on foot. The strategy guides Council's infrastructure, marketing and education, advocacy and leadership actions.

Strategy Started On:

The DCS was adopted in December 2012.

Strategy Ends On:

The DCS will finish in 2018.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The DCS is due to be reviewed in 2017/18

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The DCS has four key objectives; the actions undertaken in 2015/16 to address these are discussed below. The Strategy is supported and guided by the Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Foster a culture of cycling where the bicycle is the first choice for trips between 2 and 7km	71 bike hoops installed across Darebin. Installed cycle stands near businesses in High St and Fairfield, and at Victoria Rd bus stop. Coordinated PTV installing hoops at Dennis Station, 3 bike stands installed outside Reservoir Childcare centre. 16 development cycle parking contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The St Georges Road bike counter recorded approximately 520,000 riders using the St Georges Rd shared path in 2015/2016 4% more than the previous year. • Surveys show an average annual increase in cycling of 1.5% on key routes in Darebin from March 2015 to March 2016 • Raised the profile of cycling through community projects in Darebin.

	<p>Installed a new bike repair station on St Georges Road.</p> <p>Promoted live website for St Georges Rd Bike Counter to external stakeholders</p> <p>23 local workplaces ran Ride to Work Day breakfasts.</p> <p>Ran 19 bike education courses for adults including five <i>Back on the Bike</i> sessions, two <i>Urban Cycling Confidence</i> courses, six <i>Basic Bike Maintenance Courses</i>, one <i>Women on Wheels</i> session and two <i>Riding Skills for Parents Course</i>, and three <i>Commuting 101</i>.</p> <p>Gave away a bike fleet to one school to support their delivery of <i>Bike Ed</i> to students.</p> <p>Ran bike education courses, worked with the community members to generate ideas for a <i>Sharing Roads and Paths Behaviour Change Campaign</i></p> <p>Ran Darebin Music Feast Magical Mystery Tour bike ride</p> <p>Participating in the <i>Bike on Buses</i> 12 month trial coordinated by BusVic and PTV</p>	
<p>Create a cohesive 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</p>	<p>Implemented improvements to key bicycle routes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an additional 238m of new shared path increasing the total length of shared path within Darebin to over 30km. • Speeds have been lowered on 4 main streets in Darebin from 60 km/h to 50 km/h, as well as to 40 km/h in a Northcote residential neighbourhood to improve safety for pedestrians, bike riders and vehicle occupants. • Reviewed the safety and amenity of the Darebin Creek Trail to inform future improvements 	<p>These works increase the number of route options for less experienced bike riders who don't feel confident riding on busy roads.</p> <p>Encourage bike riding among people of all ages</p> <p>Improves accessibility by bike to local services reducing short distance driving trips.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructed three new refuges to allow bike riders to cross main roads safely on popular bike routes, and a contra flow bike lane on Tyler Street to allow bike riders to ride west between High Street and Plenty Road in Preston. • Installed way finding for the new Great Western shimmy back street bike route between Northcote and Reservoir. • Supported Melbourne Water to develop a master plan for the reinstatement of the St Georges Road median shared path and trees following replacement of the water main. 	
<p>Express a long-term commitment to building a culture of cycling and engage key partners and stakeholders in prioritising investment in cycling</p>	<p>Worked with members of Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee including representatives of Melbourne Polytechnic, La Trobe University and the Darebin Bicycle User Group, for high quality outcomes for bike riders.</p> <p>Participated in a cross Council Bicycle Network, Victorian Sustainable Transport Interest Group, and worked with VicRoads and DEDJR to share best practice and develop better models for encouraging and supporting cycling in the community.</p> <p>Participated in consultations by DEDJR on the Victorian Cycling Strategy. Participated in consultation with VicRoads on the Strategic Cycling Corridors for Melbourne.</p>	<p>Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Police and the Darebin Bicycle User Group engaged in relevant projects.</p> <p>Projects across Council borders more consistent, shared our best practice examples and learned from others.</p>
	<p>Worked with Yarra Trams, Melbourne Water, VicRoads, VicTrack and community stakeholders to improve safety and amenity in key locations, especially the St Georges Road M40 water</p>	

	main replacement median reinstatement master planning process.	
	Advocated to State Agencies for improvements for bike parking at railway stations, the upgrade of the St Georges Road shared path, and sought TAC funding for a number of cycling safety projects in Darebin.	Stakeholders engaged in plans to improve St Georges Road shared path, and bicycle safety in other locations
Continue to improve the safety of cycling	Ran <i>Be Bright at Night</i> campaign to encourage riders to use bike lights when dark.	Improves safety for all types of road users at night, by improving the visibility of bike riders
	Five teachers have completed the <i>Bike Ed</i> training course (Croxtton, Preston North East, Preston West and Bell Primary schools).	Improves confidence and safety of young bicycle riders by enhancing riding skills.
	<i>Sharing Roads and Paths</i> program and evaluation completed. Over 200 walkers and riders participated in four community workshops in November. They suggested behaviours that should be displayed when using a shared path. The top 5 have been translated into path signs on the St Georges Road path.	Improve safety on shared paths and managing potential pedestrian-cyclist conflict

Challenges

- Melbourne Water is about to initiate a 12 month works program scheduled to replace water mains between the reservoirs and Regent Street (adjacent to Robinsons Road), and within St Georges Road (between Oakover Road and Arthurton Road), known as the M40 project. Large sections of the cycling route will be closed throughout the year. Council has worked with Melbourne Water to ensure that a temporary path will be provided within the median for the duration of the works. As this path is the busiest in Darebin and improvement to the path is one the top priorities for the Darebin community, Council has been working with Melbourne Water to provide a good outcome upon completion as a priority.
- Securing support for improvements for bike riders at locations managed by VicRoads, VicTrack, Melbourne Water and other service authorities can be difficult to achieve. Longer timelines have been allowed for delivery where external authorities are involved. In some cases works have been given a lower priority where the complexity is likely to create a significant barrier to delivery.

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- Lack of support to install bicycles lanes at intersections particularly on those roads managed by VicRoads. This lack of support translates into discontinuous bicycle lanes that “disappear” 20 to 30 meters from the intersection to later reappear 20-30 meters after the intersection. This situation leaves people on bikes for more than 70 meters fully exposed to vehicles traffic. Council continually advocates to VicRoads to support complete bike lanes at key intersections and implements complete bike lanes on key local bicycle routes as possible.
 - With the State Government establishing a \$100m Safer Cyclist and Pedestrian Fund, Council will need to align projects to funding guidelines to best facilitate our success in attracting external funding from this program.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

With its emphasis on sustainable travel, the DCS has environmental sustainability at its core as Council has recognised the link between sustainable transport, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, accessibility, equity and local living. The implementation and monitoring of the Strategy will enable Council to track progress towards its goals and inform the community of this progress.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The DCS was reviewed through the lens of EIPAT, and action areas identified that will support equity and inclusion for the whole Darebin community.

The ability for Darebin’s residents to access jobs, schools, community services and shops is an essential element of ‘social inclusion’: the degree to which people are able to participate in community life. However, a significant number of Darebin’s residents have limited transport options: the north of the municipality is least well-served in terms of public transport, and it is also the one where car ownership is lowest.

The DCS seeks to enhance safety and amenity for bike riders, and to make it easier and more attractive for all residents to use a bike. Many of the DCS actions discussed within this report are aimed at ensuring that Council is working towards an improved, fair and equitable transport system. For example, the provision of good quality alternatives to the car will ensure everyone, regardless of whether they have access to a car, has the ability to access jobs, services and social opportunities.

Economic Development

Both the capital works and bike education programs undertaken to meet objectives of the DCS have contributed to improving access to employment for our community, and to additional job opportunities within Darebin.

Installation of bike parking in activity centres broadens the range of options for customers and visitors who wish to visit these areas by sustainable transport modes.

Working directly with businesses to run ride to work day events has assisted them to develop a healthy and productive culture within their organisations.

Other

Most actions discussed in this report also contribute to key objectives in the Council Plan 2013 -2017; Darebin Transport Strategy and Darebin Safe Travel Strategy. More broadly, they also address wider Council strategies such as the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and Community Safety Strategy.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Cycling programs have been delivered via Council funding for cycling and as part of general Transport Management business. The approach to program delivery adheres to the broader Darebin Transport Strategy principles.

CONCLUSION

Delivery of the Cycling Strategy has supported an increase in the take-up of cycling across the Municipality. Ongoing improvement to the network is crucial to increase people's confidence in cycling and Council are on track to deliver those elements of the Cycling Strategy action plan within Council control. Council also continues to leverage off other infrastructure projects, and seek external funding, to improve cyclist safety and access on an ongoing basis.

In addition to physical works, Council has been delivering the behaviour, engagement and marketing programs including cycle training, promotion of the new Shimmy routes; Ride 2 Work Day and bike education in schools.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to deliver DCS actions.
- Continue to support the Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- Continue to engage with community on cycling improvements and education.
- Evaluate the successes and areas for improvement of the DCS.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Cycling Strategy 2013-2018
 - Cycling Strategy Technical Report
 - St Georges Road Shared Path Safety Audit 2013
 - Darebin Creek Trail Review Evaluation 2016
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1. DIGITAL STRATEGY 2013-2018

AUTHOR: Manager, Economic Development and Civic Compliance

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director, Corporate Services

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Digital Strategy was developed to guide and prepare Council and the community to maximise the economic, social and community benefits of participation in the digital economy. The Strategy recognises that the digital economy holds opportunity for Council to deliver more effective and efficient services to its community and capture and foster new industries within the Municipality.

Strategy Started On:

The Digital Strategy was adopted in February 2013.

Strategy Ends On:

The Digital Strategy will end in February 2018.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

Strategy directions and priorities are reviewed and reported upon annually. The Strategy is viewed as a flexible document that allows Council to undertake actions that reflect changes in economic and government conditions and meet the needs of the community.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Digital Strategy will be implemented through the following key themes:

- identifying Darebin's competitive advantages to encourage, foster and develop a vibrant local digital economy
- undertaking actions to manage digital inclusion
- highlighting Darebin's key focus areas
- identifying opportunities for regional collaboration and shared learnings, and
- undertaking projects that promote digital innovation.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Achievements to date are outlined below:

Strategy objective	Key Outcomes
<p>Projects Highlighted by the Digital Strategy</p>	<p>Service Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the first Digital Business Program ‘Darebin Pitch IT’, a start-up program for digital entrepreneurs in the Darebin community that offered investment (\$10,000), working space, industry workshops, services and networking opportunities. • Business Development also delivered the following events for businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging customers on social media • Digital marketing • Leadership in the digital age • Search engine optimisation. • Darebin Libraries delivered workshops to the community which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online shopping • iPad for beginners • Computer basics • Staying connected through technology • Introduction to the internet • E-book for beginners. • Reservoir Neighbourhood House continued to deliver the Digital Enterprise Program, for young people with disabilities. The program aims to build IT skills of the young people and reduce isolation. • The Neighbourhood House Network provided computer, internet and social media skills programs to residents. <p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched Darebin Library application in April 2016. • Introduced fire hazard prevention online system to streamline the recording process. • Commenced integration of Pathway and Objective so that documents are easily accessible in Council’s Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). • Upgraded Traffic Enforcement staff to android devices to assist live updates. • Introduced the use of body worn cameras for Local Laws and Traffic Enforcement officers. • Trialled the use of a camera car to assist with traffic enforcement. <p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne Innovation Centre as part of the Digital Enterprise Program, delivered ten group training sessions to 184 businesses on a range of topics including:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get found in Google with SEO • DIY: Build a website for your small business • Boost your business with social media • Get savvy with online marketing • Implement digital tools and mobile technology.
Continue rollout of WiFi in shopping strips.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued free WiFi in the major shopping strips in Preston, Reservoir, Northcote and Fairfield shopping strips.
Advocacy for early NBN rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocated to the NBN Co for the early rollout of NBN to Darebin suburbs. This advocacy is ongoing. • Facilitated interim high speed internet solutions with current internet providers for businesses.

Challenges

As the digital environment continues to evolve at a rapid pace, our community is faced with many challenges including understanding the potential and capacity of new technology. Council will continue to implement strategies and deliver solutions to assist with the adoption and harnessing of digital innovation in advancing Darebin's digital economy.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Digital Strategy highlights the key components to promote digital inclusion and underpins the importance of ensuring access for all to the digital economy.

Economic Development

The Digital Strategy guides and prepares Council and the community to maximise the economic, social and community benefits of participation in the digital economy.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

It is expected that Darebin will lead projects from the Digital Strategy that will attract federal and state funding. Projects and programs will be listed as part of the New Initiatives and Capital Works budget processes for approval.

CONCLUSION

The Digital Strategy continues to allow Council to deliver innovative digital projects across the organisation and at a regional level. These included:

- The introduction of mobile computing for officers which has led to greater efficiencies and increased productivity.
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- The continuation of WiFi in High Street Northcote, Westgarth, Reservoir Fairfield and Preston shopping strips has enhanced residents, shoppers and local business' access to the Internet.
 - Provided a range of training and information sessions which has improved the digital education of Darebin residents and local businesses.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of 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, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to deliver actions from the Darebin Digital Strategy
- Seek federal and state funding to deliver key projects from the Strategy

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Digital Strategy 2013–2018
 - Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012–2015
 - Council Plan 2013–2017
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1. DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2015–2019

AUTHOR: Coordinator Community Participation & Development

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2015–2019 was launched on 3 December 2015 – International Day for People with a Disability. The development of this Plan reinforces Council's commitment to ensure services, processes and facilities meet the needs of people with a disability. It also helps raise the voice of this community in Darebin through a commitment to six goals which include: (1) Liveable housing and safe public places; (2) Accessible transport and freedom of movement; (3) The right to education, employment and pathways to health and wellbeing; (4) An amplified voice in public affairs and decision making; (5) The right to a creative and dynamic city with quality services and (6) Freedom from discrimination into the future.

Strategy Started On:

1 July 2015

Strategy Ends On:

December 2019

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

June 2019

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan 2015 – 2019 provides an avenue for ongoing dialogue about the barriers that reduce inclusion of people with disability in their community. Darebin Council continues to implement a significant number of ongoing policies and programs that ensure Council's compliance with relevant disability legislation. These policies include the Disability Policy 2009 and the Disability Access Capital Works Program.

For the 2015 – 2016 year the primary focus has been on supporting Council to make its decision regarding its role under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The focus has also been on building the capacity of the community, particularly participants of the scheme to access information about the NDIS and preparation in the lead up to the implementation on 1 July 2016.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Public Transport	Advocate for better networked and accessible public transport services in Darebin and across the wider network in accordance with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.	Enhanced public transport services and facilities in Darebin.
Governance	Build upon existing mechanisms which serve to increase participation of people with a disability in Council decision making processes Empower and support people with a disability to engage with Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) meetings have had a strong focus on creating better access for all DDAC members who attend meetings.• Increased participation and interaction with council by members of the community with additional needs.
Quality Services	Provide disability awareness training to all new staff, refresher training to all existing staff and training tailored to meet the needs of specific teams or service area.	Staff report greater confidence to engage and support people with a disability in the workplace and the community.
Advocacy	Build capacity of the community with regard to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.	Delivery of workshops for parents / carers of children with a disability focusing on information provision and planning workshops designed to prepare people with a disability to consider their needs and aspirations.

Challenges

Darebin is rapidly gentrifying and will see significant population growth and change and economic diversity in the coming years. This will result in significant challenges for the portfolio in the future particularly regarding demand for housing and the provision of affordable, accessible places, facilities and services across the municipality. In particular there is a critical shortage of accessible, affordable and appropriate housing in Darebin. Realisation of Council's vision for an accessible and inclusive city will require concentration of effort to manage gentrification and improve the accessibility of public space.

Another key challenge relates to attitudinal barriers to access in the areas of education, training and employment. The past years have seen a decline in people with a disability in Darebin participating in the paid labour force. This trend is attributable to a variety of factors which include inaccessible workplaces and employment practices. Improving the accessibility of Darebin Council as an employer, and working with businesses more broadly in Darebin to reduce barriers to education, training and employment will be a key challenge for the future of the portfolio. In addition, Council might seek to expand opportunities for people in Darebin to participate in alternative economies such as sharing economies and collaborative

economies which are proven to reduce disadvantage and poverty, and maximise urban sustainability and efficiencies.

With the implementation of the NDIS, these issues present as significant challenges to both Council and the Community as a whole.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Access and Inclusion is chiefly concerned with social equity and supporting people with a disability to realise their rights and needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Key projects and programs of the portfolio aim to enhance sustainable living by advocating for an efficient and networked public transport system; accessible and green public space; an increase in affordable housing stock that incorporates passive environmental design; good governance; food security planning; and opportunities for pathways to participation in non-money based economies as an alternative to paid employment. Alternative economies include collaborative, sharing economies and others that seek to reduce environmental consumption and maximise urban efficiencies.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Access and Inclusion Plan is underpinned by the Equity and Inclusion Policy and a Human Rights based framework. In particular, it recognises the following rights of people with a disability under the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*:

- Recognition and equality before the law
- Protection from inhumane or degrading treatment
- Freedom of expression
- Taking part in public life

Economic Development

The Access and Inclusion portfolio seeks to enhance economic development through improving the accessibility of precincts, activity centres and streetscapes, and by enhancing pathways to education, training and employment for people with a disability. The portfolio also seeks to build the capacity of local businesses to be more accessible and inclusive in order to expand their pool of potential clients and customers.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Darebin's Disability Access Capital Works Program will continue to be implemented as it has in previous years. Approximately \$120,000 was been allocated to the Disability Access Capital Works Program in the 2015-2016.

CONCLUSION

With the implementation of the NDIS, many of the issues outlined earlier will present as significant challenges to both Council and the Community as a whole. Significant work has already been undertaken with council staff to ensure understanding of the NDIS, its implication and interface with Council is well considered. This will continue to form part of ongoing work for the Aged and Disability Department.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

The new Disability Action and Inclusion Plan 2015–2019 is almost at completion. It will pave the way to continue Council's efforts to improve access and inclusion of residents who have disabilities who live and work in Darebin. With the rollout of the NDIS commencing within Darebin on 1 July 2016, it is anticipated that there will be a need to inform community the rollout of both the aged care reforms and the NDIS. The DAIP 2015–2019 will also heavily focus on improved supports, resources and tools for Council staff responsible for supporting students on work placements within Council.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021
 - Council Plan 2013-2017
 - Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015
 - Equity and Inclusion Plan 2012-2015
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1. EARLY YEARS STRATEGY 2011-2021

AUTHOR: Manager Children, Families and Community

REVIEWED BY: Director Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

Darebin's Early Years Strategy is composed of three documents: Darebin Early Years Strategy, Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan and Darebin Early Years Plan. The Early Years Strategy aims to: identify early years needs of Darebin's children; define the role of Council in meeting these identified needs; and form the structure for an early years infrastructure plan and a municipal early years services plan that articulate Council's strategic directions for responding to the identified needs.

Strategy Started On:

October 2011

Strategy Ends On:

October 2021

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan is reviewed for currency of data every three years. The last review was in November 2014.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Through the year the Strategy continued to provide the basis for planning and operations within the Children, Families and Community Department. The Strategy has been instrumental in providing the framework for continuing review and enhancement of programs within the scope of this Strategy to ensure inclusive, accessible and responsive programs for the changing needs of Darebin's families and children. The Strategy acknowledges and drives facilitated partnerships and alliances between internal and external service providers and funding bodies to provide services which are coordinated, accessible and equitable.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Services and Programs Family and child centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.	Council will continue the provision of inclusive and integrated family and children services.	Maternal and Child Health Program enrolled 2,056 new births, delivered 16,604 Key Ages and Stages assessments and

	<p>We will provide services for those with diverse needs and actively remove barriers to access services for those who face the greatest disadvantage.</p> <p>Council will work to attract a strong local mix of services to meet the needs of all families and children. We will actively work with all providers to enhance the quality of services.</p> <p>Community based services will be supported by the provision and maintenance of facilities. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan outlines the direction towards early years hubs, multipurpose community facilities and local.</p>	<p>307 first time parent groups.</p> <p>A comprehensive mail out to families not up to date with immunisations according to ACIR Medicare undertaken to improve immunisation rates in the community. ACIR data Immunisation coverage rates 91.90% for 12-15 months age group, 92.88% for 24-27 months and 92.96% for 60-63 months.</p> <p>Parent Portal for online applications developed for Centralised Waiting List.</p> <p>Co-location of Maternal and Child Health with other early years services at Thornbury Family Centre and Yappera.</p> <p>Toy Library Plus, Pop In Playgroup, Play in the Park and Drop In Play Sessions offered in various locations linked families with other Council Early Years' Services to support families.</p> <p>Support to community based playgroups in establishment and promoting to families.</p> <p>Supported Playgroups (6 groups facilitated each term with 8 participants).</p> <p>Circle of Security and Rhythm and Rhyme groups offered for vulnerable families.</p>
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		<p>Children's Services Resource program provided monthly support visits to over 50 early years services. Program audited to improve the quality of resources, functions and accessibility.</p> <p>10 Workshops for Committees of Management of community managed services.</p> <p>Council owned Early Years facilities audited to ensure a high quality environment.</p>
<p>Context and Influence Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.</p>	<p>We will create opportunities to enhance the wellbeing of families and children through community participation.</p> <p>Council's planning of the natural and built form of the city will consider how families and children participate in community activity and spaces.</p> <p>We will work to further understand the diversity of family and children needs and advocate on behalf of our community.</p> <p>We will increase community understanding of the importance and opportunities of the early years.</p> <p>Council will work to strengthen the capacity of the early year's workforce through the provision of local training opportunities and advocate on behalf of services.</p>	<p>Developments at Raleigh Street Children's Centre (renovation), Northcote Family Centre and Thornbury Early Years Centre (renovation) to offer a broader range of services and programs for families.</p> <p>Information sessions provided included: Sleep and Settling, Baby Food in the First Year, Child Injury Prevention, Turning into your Baby, Baby Massage, Sibling without rivalry, Strong Homes, Mindfulness for Parents, "Navigating Child Care in Darebin", "Back to Basics Parenting" and "Transition to Primary School", Kinder Twilight.</p> <p>Community events for children and families to increase understanding of services included the Kite Festival, Children's Day (5000+ attended), National Playgroup Week,</p>

		<p>Kinder Twilight Open Days, Children's Week and National Aboriginal Children's Day.</p> <p>Supported early years professionals with training and advice through quarterly meetings: Educational Leadership Network, Darebin Early Years to Primary School Network, School Aged Care Network.</p> <p>Early Years workforce strengthened through project with Melbourne University in mentoring educators.</p>
<p>Collaborative Partnerships Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children.</p>	<p>We will engage with families and children who access our services and encourage involvement in Council decision making processes.</p> <p>Council will continue to provide strong local service leadership through its coordinated family and children services team.</p> <p>We will build partnerships with government, local agencies, support groups and early years service providers to realise our common commitments to meeting the needs of families and children. Together our advocacy will be strengthened.</p> <p>We will facilitate local early years networks to enhance service integration and build collective wisdom.</p>	<p>Survey for Families with Young Children.</p> <p>Facilitation of the Transition Network for educators in early childhood and schools.</p> <p>Facilitation of the Early Years Reference Group, the Best Start Working Group, the Best Start Aboriginal Reference Group, the Child Friendly City Advisory Committee and by being a key partner in the North East Metro Child and Family Services Alliance.</p> <p>Partner representation on Northern Early Years Planners Meetings, Northern Maternal and Child Health Coordinators Meeting, NEPCP - Aboriginal Working Group for Maternal and Child Health, North West Region Local Government Immunisation Providers, Enhanced Maternal and</p>

		<p>Child Health Northern Network, Playgroups in the North Network, North East Primary Care Partnerships Maternal and Child Health Aboriginal Health, Father Inclusive Practice Network, Northern Region Managers Group.</p> <p>Annual calendar for Committees operating early years services.</p> <p>Early Start Kinder Project Group established with representation from DET and the Koori Support Officer.</p> <p>Participation in Early Years professional's networks – Community Child Care Coordinators, Darebin Long Day Care network, Early Years Educators Network, School Aged Care Network, Kindergarten Cluster Managers Network, Northern Metropolitan Centralised Waiting List Network, Pre School Field Officer Network, Early Childhood Network (Melbourne University Master of Teaching program), Playgroups in the North, Community Child Care Outside School Hours Care Network, North Western Region Best Start facilitator network.</p>
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Challenges

There is an ongoing challenge in partnering internal and external programs which complement and value add as well as forging new partnership models for community benefit. Several building projects progressed partnership models during 2015/2016 year by providing a variety of services (both internal and external) to be co-located and enhance service delivery to families by being coordinated and streamlined.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

A key component of each major building project is environmental sustainability, and the use of local and sustainable products are incorporated in each project from the planning stage to the construction stage.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Darebin Early Years Strategy was developed to direct Council activities for families of young children in the municipality. The community of parents and carers of young children in Darebin reflect the general community and the diversity of the municipality. The Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) was not available during the development of this Strategy however any new programs or reviews of services give due consideration to equity and accessibility for all groups identified using EIPAT.

Economic Development

Early Years infrastructure building projects provide opportunities for job creation within Darebin.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Strategy adheres to the allocated budget. New building projects source capital funds from Federal and State Governments.

CONCLUSION

The Early Years Strategy continues to provide the platform to shape and direct programs to enhance the wellbeing of the child, the family and the community. The Strategy has led to service reviews to ensure alignment with Council's vision and create ongoing community partnerships. These partnerships between programs (internal and external), funding bodies and external service providers have enhanced outcomes for children and families. The development of new purposeful and contemporary infrastructure (Hubs) assists in the integration of service delivery for community accessibility.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to review programs for enhancement and currency.
- Further develop partnerships to enhance access and equitable programs at hubs.
- Continue to advocate for families with funding opportunities from DET.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Early Years Strategy
 - Early Years Plan
 - Early Years Infrastructure
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1. EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICY 2012-2017

AUTHOR: Coordinator, Equity and Diversity

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015 guides Council in the design and implementation of programs, services and policies to more effectively address barriers to inclusion experienced by Darebin's citizens. The intention is to provide a more just and effective basis for Council decisions, policies, services, partnerships, and initiatives with and within the communities of Darebin. The Policy provides significant opportunities for Council at all levels and for Darebin communities to collaborate towards achieving the following goals:

- to build an organisation within Council that is inclusive and reflective of Darebin's diverse communities
- to build services and programs that are inclusive, responsive, accessible and equitable
- to contribute to building inclusive and empowered Darebin communities.

The Goals of the Equity and Inclusion Policy are implemented by a suite of action plans cascading from the Policy.

Strategy Started On:

December 2011

Strategy Ends On:

June 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

December 2016. The policy has been extended until 2017 to align with the Council Plan and Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Significant work has been undertaken to support the roll out of the policy across Council during this period, including strengthening of Human Rights, Health and Wellbeing considerations within the planning process. The development of tools and educational material has been imperative in its success to ensure that all staff have a sound understanding of the policy and as it relates to their respective work. A key feature facilitating this process is the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) with over 129 strategies and policies being assessed using EIPAT for this period. The principles underpinning the Policy are: Social justice, Human rights, Accountability, Participation, Empowerment and Diversity.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Building an equitable and inclusive organisation	All Council policies consider and integrate principles of rights-based equity and inclusion	<p>Administration and use of the EIPAT continued to have dual focus; to support and educate staff about equity and inclusion principles and to ensure these were considered in all strategies and policies that required a Council decision.</p> <p>All work units with a strategic focus were presented a power-point on the background and process.</p> <p>A one stop shop approach was trialed that saw greater integration of human rights and health and wellbeing considerations into assessment as part of the Equity and Inclusion Audit and Planning process across departments as well as alignment with EPMO.</p> <p>Continued roll out of Diversity Training as part of the <i>Diversity Capabilities Framework</i> endorsed by EMT in February 2015 will see building of organisational diversity competencies to support equity and diversity inclusion both as organisation and through our services and programs.</p>
Building equitable and inclusive services and programs	All Council services and programs consider and integrate principles of rights-based equity and inclusion	<p>Inclusion of a KPI in the Council Plan requires that all Council Reports were monitored for EIPAT compliance.</p> <p>All Projects listed in the forward Council planner were checked for compliance and entered in the tool.</p>
Building inclusive and empowered Darebin community	People and communities most affected by exclusion are increasingly able to enjoy and take part in community life and social, economic, civic and cultural opportunities	Delivered through the suite of Action Plans cascading from the Policy, including Aboriginal Action Plan, Multicultural Action Plan, Human Rights Action Plan, Women's Equity Strategy and Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan.

Challenges

Ongoing and sustained work is required to ensure uptake of the EIPAT from the early stages of planning and in the systematic consideration of needs across the whole organisation. In 2015/16 there was a continued focus on compliance with the KPI requirements as all projects that require Council consideration are required to be assessed through the tool. A great number of reports were evaluated with the tool, while only 11% required an EIPAT group consideration. This year saw consolidation of process for projects that do not require a full EIPAT, including the exclusion of projects that:

- are only considered by Council as a lead up to an upcoming project or as a follow up on a completed project.
- have a high level strategy with complimentary plans (for example the Asset Management Plan where the actions are addressed in the community infrastructure plan, disability access plan etc.) These projects are assessed individually at a 'plan level'.
- where the project is an administrative or specialist issue where it is clear from the outset that it has no direct impacts on the EIPAT target groups.

This approach led to a greater focus on embedding the tool in the organisational processes and make sure staff continue to familiarise themselves with the use and application of the tool.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The outcomes of implementing the Policy may have a positive environmental impact for Darebin residents. People who are disadvantaged and excluded often do not have the same opportunity to practise sustainable living, including access to sustainable housing, sustainable housing practices/resources and fresh food. A more inclusive Darebin would also ideally include improvements in sustainable living opportunities for everyone.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Policy directly addresses social inclusion and diversity considerations and responds to the human rights charter and Council's goals and commitments. The Policy identifies a large number of existing Council policies and plans that are relevant to this work and is responsive and consistent with a number of Darebin's service plans which have access and equity and services/programs targeted to specific and/or specialist groups in the community.

Economic Development

Disadvantaged groups may find it difficult to rent houses, procure jobs, and participate fully in society. This is economic marginalization or exclusion. Despite these difficulties disadvantaged groups enrich our community, contribute economically and socially to society and must be recognised as part of the economy with equal rights to participate.

Other

The EIPAT contributes to Council's commitment to our diverse residents expressed in the Council Plan 2013-17 (Diversity Statement and KPI 2.9).

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Training, promotion, rollout and events associated with the EIP policy and EIPAT implementation along with the annual maintenance and license fees have been achieved within the allocated budget.

CONCLUSION

The Equity and Inclusion Policy continues to provide Council with a clear direction to embed equity and inclusion principles and goals across all of Council business. The Policy assists in building the capacity of Council's equity and inclusion practice and provides greater accountability and reporting against Council's goals and plans. The benefits of equity and inclusion for the Darebin community are in line with Council's goals and in particular with a healthy and connected community *'to build a safe, inclusive and equitable community where all feels socially well connected, respected and valued.'*

The policy will be reviewed to ensure strategic alignment with the Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing 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, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Review of policy by December 2016

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Equity and Inclusion Policy
 - Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (Web)
 - Council Plan 2013-2017
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1. FOOD SECURITY POLICY 2010-2014

AUTHOR: Community Development Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Food Security Policy provides a framework to guide local level action to improve food security. The Strategy aims to increase food security in the municipality by addressing the underlying factors across the built, social, economic and natural environments that influence access to healthy and sustainable food.

Strategy Started On:

29 November 2010

Strategy Ends On:

29 November 2014

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

Review of the Food Security Policy commenced in November 2014, with the new document submitted to Council for endorsement in September 2016.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Activity has continued across five key action areas, informed by advice from the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Reference Group and the Darebin Emergency Relief Network. Concurrently the development of a new Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan has occurred with extensive community consultations and a survey to over 200 Darebin households.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
1. Advocacy for food security leadership and resources	Lobby for financial and staff resources to support the implementation of local food security activity	Council is providing funding to DIVRS to employ a horticulturist. This position is a resource to Eric Street Public Housing Garden, East Reservoir Community Garden and DIVRS.

<p>2. Planning a sustainable and accessible urban environment</p>	<p>Improve sustainability of food supplies at the local level by encouraging urban food production (i.e. incorporating communal food growing areas in new developments, private backyard gardens, and food growing in public spaces including Council owned land, crown land, neighbourhood houses and housing estates.</p>	<p>2 Sustainable Food Leaders forums held.</p> <p>Ongoing support has been provided to community initiatives which strengthen local food growing, distribution and access fresh food, including the Fruit Squad and the Lentil as Anything Urban Food Garden. Council partnered with the Pavilion School to build the Sylvester Grove Community Garden on the grounds of the school. More than 30 local residents have registered their interest to participate in the management and / or community gardening activities and events.</p> <p>The 2015 Budget Citizens Jury allocated to community gardens supported the establishment of 2 community gardens at housing estates in Preston. The gardens will provide opportunities for social connections for the residents, many of whom experience chronic health issues and / or a disability. The gardens are due for completion in September 2016.</p>
<p>3. Leading by example</p>	<p>Support food security programs and initiatives through the Community Grants Program</p>	<p>Five organisations were funded \$7,050 and two schools were funded \$3,200 to provide food relief and nutrition education programs. Four food growing sites were funded \$9,500.</p> <p>Five local agencies were funded to run 6 events over the Christmas/New Year's period that engaged close to 700 residents who experience food insecurity and social isolation.</p>

<p>4. Community development around healthy and sustainable food</p>	<p>Establish initiatives such as Community Kitchen Programs that increase Darebin resident's food literacy around food purchasing, preparation, and nutritious food choices and promote opportunities for social inclusion</p> <p>Investigate the development of a food rescue program to redistribute quality food to people in need that would otherwise go to landfill.</p>	<p>Supported the East Reservoir Community Advocacy and Action group to coordinate Food Sharing event in October 2016.</p> <p>Darebin Food bank partnership with SecondBite continues to provide fruit and vegetables to agencies and residents each week through the Preston Salvation Army. In the past 12 months the Preston Market retailers donated 26,509kg and Northland Shopping Centre retailers 218kg.</p> <p>In December 2015 the holiday season Fresh Food Program provided 1429kg of fresh vegetables and fruit to residents.</p> <p>Darebin Community Canteen, a free meals program was launched in May 2016. A partnership between the Anglican Parish of Jika Jika, Secondbite and Council, the program is supported by 40 volunteers. On average about 35 people have attended the lunch.</p>
<p>5. Partnerships and knowledge building</p>	<p>Continue to convene the Darebin Emergency Relief Network to provide a forum for networking and support to local emergency relief providers</p>	<p>The network was instrumental in the review process of the Food Security Policy and will act as a reference group to the implementation of the Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan 2016-2020.</p>

Challenges

The demand on emergency relief continues to grow throughout our municipality and will be further compounded by changes at a State and Federal level in health and social policies. Local emergency service providers are looking to Council to show leadership and advocacy in this space.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Food security is fundamentally linked to environmental sustainability, and will continue to grow as an issue as the capacity to produce and distribute food decreases due to pressures such as water scarcity, land degradation and loss of arable land due to urban growth. Simultaneously, there will be increasing demand for food as the population grows. The Darebin

Food Security Policy strives to enhance sustainable food practices as a key strategy to enhancing food supply and access and therefore, food security.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Food insecurity is associated with poverty and disadvantage. The Food Security Policy identifies population groups who are vulnerable to food insecurity in Darebin to ensure that intervention can be targeted to those most in need with the aim of minimising the impact of food insecurity in their lives.

Economic Development

A number of local businesses actively participate in the Darebin Food Bank Network supplying unused fruit and vegetables to the bank. The new Action Plan explores how business can participate in activities and how social enterprise models can be developed to support food security.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015/16 \$5000 was provided for the implementation of the Food Security Policy. Many of the activities outlined above were funded through complementary funding sources.

CONCLUSION

Council has responded to the increased demand for emergency relief by supporting food relief programs and food growing sites in Darebin. The community engagement process for the review of the Food Security Policy has provided Council with new information about the experiences of residents and new strategies for how to improve food access and nutrition for Darebin's most disadvantaged communities.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implementation of a new Food Security & Nutrition Action Plan

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Food Security Policy 2010-2014
 - Urban Food Production Strategy
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1. **GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014-2018**

AUTHOR: **Coordinator, Community Wellbeing**

REVIEWED BY: **Director, Community Development**

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The 2014-2018 Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy outlines Council's strategic approach to manage graffiti across the municipality within the framework articulated by the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007. While it is not possible to completely eliminate graffiti, the strategy aims to build on and enhance Council's capacity to reduce the prevalence of graffiti and the negative impact it has on our community. The strategy has been developed based on community consultation, the experience of graffiti in Darebin and best practice principles to prevent and manage graffiti across four key areas; eradication, engagement, education and enforcement.

Strategy Started On:

20 October 2014

Strategy Ends On:

30 June 2018

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

Review to commence January 2018

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The five Strategy objectives are implemented through an annual action plan that is designed to be responsive to the changing graffiti trends in our municipality, while remaining consistent with our understanding of best practise in graffiti management.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Key achievements under the five objectives are outlined below.

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Objective 1: Maintain public amenity through the rapid removal of graffiti on Council assets	1.1 Ensure that graffiti on Council assets including public art is removed within 7 working days of notification.	In 2015/16 26,520m ² of graffiti was removed across the municipality, an increase from the previous year.

		The 2015/16 2 nd Quarter Community Survey identified that agreement with the statement that “I / we are satisfied with Council’s efforts in managing the issue of graffiti” increased by 3.5% on the 2nd quarter 2014-15.
Objective 2: Support the community to rapidly remove graffiti from private property	<p>2.1 Continue to implement and expand on the graffiti removal subsidy program for private property owners (residents and businesses) through the provision of free graffiti removal kits, vouchers for contractors and paint.</p> <p>2.5 Monitor Priority 2 graffiti hotspots and deliver one annual graffiti clean-up at these sites.</p>	<p>563 requests processed in the 2015/2016 financial year for the graffiti removal subsidy program for private property owners. This is a slight increase from the previous year.</p> <p>10 targeted graffiti clean-ups in Priority 2 hotspots areas, including 6 major and 4 minor retail activity centres, removing graffiti from private and Council property.</p> <p>Delivered the Land Of Plenty project funded by Department of Justice in the Oakhill Village of Plenty Road. 722m2 of graffiti was removed from 29 properties and one new business was supported by Council’s <i>Active Spaces</i> program to open in this precinct.</p>
Objective 3: Encourage and facilitate street art to prevent graffiti and enhance the street scape	<p>3.1 Continue to implement and expand on the subsidised street art program for private property owners to access street art on heavily tagged walls.</p> <p>3.2 Identify heavily graffitied Council assets for street art projects.</p>	4 street art projects have been implemented across the city on assets prone to graffiti including 2 businesses, 1 Council pavilion and 1 childcare centre.

Objective 4: Support community education and diversion programs to prevent graffiti	4.2 Develop/facilitate graffiti education programs with young people in various settings to deter their involvement in graffiti, including primary and high school based programs.	Ongoing participation by young people in the <i>Northwall</i> site to update and refresh street art pieces and further discussion about the impact of graffiti on the community.
Objective 5: Facilitate and support the strict enforcement of the law	5.2 Work in partnership with Victoria Police to assist in monitoring graffiti trends and hot spots.	Ongoing collaboration from Victoria Police for crime hotspots that include graffiti and sharing of information regarding racially motivated offensive graffiti.

Challenges

Managing the impact of graffiti on public and private assets continues to challenge many inner Northern and regional Local Government areas. Council will continue to explore partnerships with neighbouring municipalities and other relevant authorities to create a more coordinated graffiti management approach.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

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

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Graffiti Management is strongly linked to the Darebin Community Safety Strategy 2012–2016, Priority Area Number Two: Place: Design and maintain our city to reduce crime, and enhance public safety and perceptions of safety. Graffiti negatively impacts on perceptions of safety and can distort understandings regarding actual levels of safety and crime, particularly if graffiti is of an offensive nature. When individuals feel unsafe in their environment this can decrease their participation in the community and negatively impact on their sense of wellbeing

Involvement in graffiti occurs amongst people from different age groups, genders and cultural backgrounds. Although not exclusively, involvement in graffiti is often more prevalent amongst young people and more specifically young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. As a result the initiatives aimed at preventing and diverting involvement in graffiti will focus on young people, with further focus on young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Economic Development

A large volume of graffiti in Darebin is located on commercial properties. The build-up of graffiti can negatively impact perceptions of safety and amenity in retail activity centres, deterring the investment of new businesses. This Strategy includes a number of actions that involve working directly with businesses in both a removal and prevention role to reduce the impact of graffiti on retail precincts along Plenty Road and broader Darebin.

Other

Graffiti Management relates to a number of goals in the Council Plan 2013-2017 including Healthy and Connected Community, Vibrant City and Innovative Economy and Sustainable and Resilient Neighbourhoods.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015/2016 the Graffiti Management Budget was \$352,158. This includes salaries and on-costs, materials, plant hire and contractors. An additional \$25K was available to support street art programs to prevent graffiti. Council also received \$25K through the Department of Justice Graffiti Removal and Prevention Grants to implement the *Land of Plenty* project.

CONCLUSION

In 2015/2016 a number of outcomes were progressed across the areas of removal, education and prevention, with the Department of Justice funded *Land of Plenty* project providing an opportunity to combine all of these approaches concurrently in a place-based project. The prevalence of graffiti and the community need for support with removal and prevention continues to remain high, which is an issue shared across the region. In 2016/2017 Council will seek to explore opportunities to work in partnership with neighbouring municipalities to prevent and respond to graffiti.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Ongoing implementation of the Strategy and annual actions.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Graffiti Management Strategy 2014-2018
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1. GREEN BUSINESS ATTRACTION STRATEGY 2012-2017

AUTHOR: Manager, Economic Development and Civic Compliance

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director, Corporate Services

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Green Business Attraction Strategy outlines a framework that will enhance Council's ability to attract businesses and employment growth in the green business and sustainability sector by providing a supportive environment and structure.

The Strategy includes concentrating Council's actions in four key strategic directions:

- Business support
- Promotion and facilitation
- Land use planning
- Partnerships

Strategy Started On:

The Green Business Attraction Strategy was adopted by Council in September 2012.

Strategy Ends On:

The Strategy ends in 2017.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The Strategy directions and priorities will be reviewed and reported annually.

PROGRESS REPORT

Each action within the Strategy was assigned a timeframe for commencement.

Including:

- short term 0 - 18 months
- medium term 1 - 3 years
- long term 3 - 5 years

Sixteen short term, nine medium and two long term actions were completed or are ongoing.

In 2015/16 there has been a strong focus on the engagement of green businesses and working with local manufacturers through the Sustainable Leaders in Manufacturing (SLIM) program. These activities are playing a key role in supporting the green business sector within Darebin and providing a targeted approach to business development and attraction.

Key achievements from 1 July 2015 to June 2016 are outlined below:

Strategic objective	Outcomes
Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held two networking events for the Green Business Network, with a total of 26 attendees. Events were hosted by local businesses Charles Sandford Woodturning and Joinery and Clifton Street Childrens' Centre showcasing their environmental leadership. • Held two industry forums one at Grinders Coffee and Northcote High School. • 19 businesses had their lights retrofitted through the Light\$mart program in 2015/16. A total of 123 businesses have now retrofitted their lights through Light\$mart. • Light\$mart is being replicated by Hume, Hobsons Bay and Moreland Councils. • The SLIM (Sustainable Leaders in Manufacturing) program has expanded to work with an additional 15 businesses in the following sectors: wood manufacturers, coffee roasters, food and beverage businesses. In total the program is now working with 18 manufacturers. • Promoted Business Solar Saver program promotion with 63 businesses and organisations submitting applications. • Continued the Fridge Timer Program with Environmental Health officers, resulting in 100 more timers being installed onto fridges with non-perishable drinks.
Promotion and Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 businesses were issued with certificates and "We are Greening our Business" stickers. 102 businesses are now displaying 'We are Greening our Business' stickers and 80 businesses have 'We are Greening our Business' certificates. • Held the third Sustainable Living Festival on 2 March 2016. This event had over 300 attendees and showcased 25 local business and organisations. • 13 additional businesses identified as green businesses on the business directory, with now a total of 109 businesses listed under the Green Business category. • An additional three case studies have been developed and promoted to the Darebin Community through Sustainability News. • Continued to promote and facilitate the uptake of Council's Business Recycling Service and Solar Bulk Buy. • Developed a Tourism Strategy which includes actions which compliment actions within this Strategy; such as: working with real estate agents and landlords to attract new businesses (which includes green businesses) and continuing to promote Darebin's unique local urban food offering.
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended three NAGA (Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action) business working group meetings. • A regional GreenLight programs was delivered (in partnership with Moreland and Hume) with seven Darebin businesses involved. The GreenLight Program continued a recycling initiative to assist coffee roasting and wood turning businesses to recycle their husks and wood shavings at no cost; and helped facilitate the uptake for commercial recycling of paper and cardboard.

Challenges

There are many Darebin businesses that are reducing their environmental impact, operating costs and resource consumption that do not always see the value in promoting their green operations.

Finding suitable low cost accommodation for new green and sustainable businesses to locate in Darebin remains a challenge.

The highly successful coffee husk and wood shavings reuse program for community benefit has had to conclude in May 2016, due to the lack of a resource within Bundoora Park. This program was set up under the SLIM - Sustainable Leaders in Manufacturing program as a way to divert organic waste generated by local manufacturers from landfill and make it available to Darebin residents, schools and community to collect from Bundoora Park for use in their gardens. The coffee husks and wood shavings are now being collected by a commercial provider.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The goal of this Strategy is to increase the number of green businesses operating in Darebin.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Darebin has a culturally diverse community and it will be important to support and promote programs and initiatives that assist the employment needs of various groups within the community.

Economic Development

Outcomes of this Strategy also assist the delivery of the Council's Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015 which advocates for better outcomes for the Darebin business community.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Projects and programs (medium – long term) will be listed as part of the New Initiatives and Capital Works budget processes for approval. Additional hours may be required by the Sustainable Business Officer to deliver the medium and long term actions.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Green Business Attraction Strategy has achieved significant results to date in particular within the objectives of Facilitation and Promotion, Partnerships and Business Support. These strategic directions allow for Council to set the environment to attract and increase the number of green businesses operating in Darebin.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of 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, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Goals and actions from the Strategy to be implemented to achieve outcomes.
- Evaluate and review the Strategy.
- Report to Council as required.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
 - Digital Strategy 2013-2018
 - Green Business Attraction Strategy 2012–2017
 - Council Plan 2013-2017
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1. HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2013-2017

AUTHOR: Health Promotion Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Health and Wellbeing Plan is a legislated document required under the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act* that outlines Council's strategic approach to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for all residents. The Plan aims to address the social determinants of health that contribute significantly to health outcomes and inequities that exist in our community through a whole of Council approach. While there are conditions which are not created nor easily changed by local government, Council does and can play a significant role, as a strong partner, to mitigate and transform these conditions.

Strategy Started On:

18 November 2013

Strategy Ends On:

31 July 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

Action Plan reviewed annually. Plan review will commence September 2016

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Health and Wellbeing Plan emphasises collaboration across the organisation and with our partners to achieve the objectives of the Plan. A wide variety of initiatives have been implemented across the five objectives with a small snapshot included below. The annual action plan review in October ensures that strategies identified in the Health Plan are being implemented, monitored and evaluated satisfactorily.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Goal	Action	Key outcomes 2015/16
1. Strengthen opportunities for all Darebin children to develop, thrive and learn in their early years	To highlight our early years as the critical foundation for our ongoing health and wellbeing	Intergenerational activities has been incorporated in the Life Long Learning for Wellbeing program, and promoted at various events including the Darebin Children's Day and Kite Festival.

2. Enable and support lifelong learning, education and employment opportunities and outcomes for all	To support improved wellbeing outcomes for Darebin students	Five teachers at three schools were trained in Bike Education. Currently there are six schools running Bike Education programs
	To facilitate improved access and opportunities for learning and employment pathway for all	<p>Council supported a total of 130 placements – 8 have been students with a disability, and 82 have been students from either secondary schools or tertiary institutions within Darebin. 15 volunteers ranging in age were also supported.</p> <p>Received part funding to recruit a 12 Graduate Health Promotion officer as part of the Aboriginal Population Health Recruit program.</p>
3. To promote freedom from discrimination and violence as basis for emotion and social wellbeing	To strengthen the emotional and social resilience of young people.	55 people completed a two day Youth Mental Health First Aid training course. All of the participants provided positive feedbacks.
	To strengthen community capacity and connectedness based on respect for self and for each other	Council strengthened social connectedness to combat racial discrimination through a range of policies and actions. A key achievement has been the building of community capacity through delivery and promotion of the Say No to Racism training package.
		Provided funding to continue the Under 50's Men's Shed program at Darebin Community Health.
		Over 125 students participated in five schools tours of the Darebin Spiritual Healing trail, a partnership coordinated by Council, Darebin Parklands, Parklands and Trevor Gallagher, Aboriginal cultural educator.
4. Build healthy, safe, accessible and sustainable spaces and neighbourhoods for people to live well, play and connect	To design and develop safe, accessible public open space that ensures and enables community connections and physical activity.	<p>Increasing physical activities in a variety of passive and active forms were part of the design process for the locations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Nations Park, Greswell Grange Estate, Merrilands Community Centre, Ruthven Reserve, Woolhouse Reserve, Darebin parklands, Donath Dole Reserve. New youth precinct at Donath Dole Reserve and new skate facility at All Nations Park.

	Improve local access and local living through accessible, affordable and sustainable transport option for all	<p>Council has delivered programs and projects to specifically promote and improve walking, cycling and safe travel facilities and outcomes, spending approximately 1.2 million dollars.</p> <p>17 community bicycle skills training courses for over 160 people have been conducted as part of the program.</p>
	To develop housing option that are affordable, secure and appropriate for all Darebin people	Commissioned research to analyse impacts of changes to affordable and social housing and at neighbourhood level to better understand behaviours and to inform future land use planning, in collaboration with the Housing and Local Government network, Centre Link and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute.
5. Protect and promote Darebin people's physical health	To improve food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin People	<p>Undertook a canteen audit at a Darebin High School and at the Reservoir Leisure Centre, with recommendation made to improve food options.</p> <p>Delivered over 20 health literacy sessions and created the budget bites healthy eating resource in 5 community languages.</p>
	To increase regular physical activity for all	Expanded 'Get Active in Darebin' program which provides free family friendly leisure and recreation opportunities, with an increased number of programs provided in low socio-economic areas. Average attendance per Get Active in Darebin seasonal program increased from 790 in 2014-2015 to an average of 1200 during spring and summer 2015-2016; an increase of over 50 per cent

Challenges

The health and wellbeing outcomes of our community are determined by a wide range of social determinants across the social, economic, cultural, built and natural environments. In addition to the delivery of programs that support physical health, Council must ensure that health and wellbeing implications are considered in policy making across different parts of the organisation to significantly influence health outcomes. To improve this practise the Equity and Inclusion Policy and Audit Tool will be re-developed to include a health and wellbeing framework as part of this process to strengthen our ability to embed these principles across Councils programs and service delivery.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Factors in our natural environment such as provision of open spaces, access to clean air and water and natural vegetation, and protection against climate change are important in maintaining health and wellbeing. Goal 4 in the Health and Wellbeing Plan has a direct focus on environment sustainability with objectives, strategies and actions in regards to both the built and physical environment.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Health and Wellbeing Plan includes a number of strategic directions which are specifically designed to address social inclusion and diversity in the Darebin community. The development of the 2013–2017 Community Health and Wellbeing Plan was built around the EIPAT to ensure that the health needs and issues on residents at greatest risk of exclusion are accurately represented in the plan's priorities and actions

Economic Development

Meaningful participation in the economic environment is recognised as a key factor for health and wellbeing. This is supported through Goal 2 of the Plan which seeks to enable and support lifelong learning and employment opportunities.

Other

It is a great advantage that health and wellbeing outcomes are one of the six goals in Council Plan, *Goal 2 – Health and Connected Community*. This enables Council to recognise and support a social determinants approach to our community health and wellbeing.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015/2016 \$30,000 was provided for implementation of the Plan. This was facilitated by the Health Promotion Officer.

CONCLUSION

Council has been successful in delivering a wide range of actions to meet our five goals, with 35 of total 36 actions implemented or underway and almost 95% of planned budget were spent to achieve the outcomes for this reporting period. A collaborative approach has been the key in delivering all the priority actions, many of which are ongoing, which will support the establishment of good working partnerships with other agencies and within the organisation.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implementation of plan and review.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
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1. HEATWAVE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2013-2017

AUTHOR: Health Promotion Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

Following a heatwave in January and February 2009 the Victorian Government instigated heatwave planning measures through a local government platform. It is expected that every Council will have a Heatwave Plan in place and review it annually. The Darebin Heatwave Strategy 2013–2017 outlines Council's strategic response to minimise the adverse effects of extreme hot weather conditions on vulnerable residents in the Darebin community.

Strategy Started On:

March 2013

Strategy Ends On:

June 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

From January 2017

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

In 2015/2016 Council continued to work in collaboration with service providers and coordinated a local response to heatwave planning to identify and address gaps in service provision. While the 2015/2016 summer produced milder conditions without prolonged heatwaves, this process produced valuable resources to support heatwave planning for future years.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy objective	Action	Outcomes
1. To enable all services in Darebin to address issues of heatwave in a coordinated way	Convene meetings of Darebin Council Heatwave Committee to plan and review Council's response to Heatwave Alerts and information provision to the community.	Internal meetings with communication team were organised in October 2015 and emails to internal staff were sent to inform all relevant staff to inform their target group to prepare for the activities for the summer season.

2. To ensure all members of the Darebin community and particularly those at-risk know how to keep themselves safe in heatwave conditions	Implement heatwave safety campaign messages each year, ensuring information is available in all relevant local languages.	Brochures are available in various languages at customer service centres and events, such as Citizenship Ceremonies over summer. Work was undertaken with the Interfaith Officer to promote the Heatwave message to residents from CALD background.
	Incorporate a message about staying safe in a heatwave and preparing for a heatwave into Council's call waiting messages, webpage and social media outlet.	Continued to implement Council's Heatwave communication plan, including the on Darebin on-hold message, website, social media, Darebin Community Newsletter and local paper.
	Incorporate information and actions addressing safety in a heatwave utilising HACC Community Support Worker Rosters, with an aim to developing staff training session of all direct care workers to follow up with their clients.	Client welfare checks conducted by Aged Care workers, as well as cooling collars, fans, shades, water bottles distributed to clients during heatwaves. Information and flyers for clients and staff provided at HACC roster sessions. Liaison with the Darebin Neighbourhood House Network to ensure their staff have the relevant information to support their clients.
	Consult with relevant advisory committees prior and post heatwave period to review messages and campaign effectiveness.	Meeting with representatives from emergency relief agencies prior to the heatwave period to inform about the messages.

Challenges

There is no single agency that has complete responsibility for building, maintaining and protecting the health of at-risk populations in a heatwave. Council plays a key role in facilitating partnerships between other levels of government, local agencies and the broader community to increase resilience, reduce the health impacts associated with heatwaves and provide support to those most vulnerable in the community. Further to this, an ongoing challenge for all agencies is reaching isolated residents at risk of heat stress who are not engaged with any services and encouraging communities to support each other and their vulnerable neighbours.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The Heatwave Strategy is strongly linked to the Community Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which has several actions that improve community resilience to predicted weather

changes such as heatwaves. Further to this the Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan identify the development of a heatwave plan and its integration in the health and emergency management response as an immediate action. Priority three: To design and maintain our city to reduce the effects of heatwaves articulates Council's long term plans and actions to reduce the scale of change and decrease the impact of heatwaves on the built environment.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Evidence shows that heatwave conditions cause illness and death, particularly in at-risk population groups including the elderly, the very young, those taking certain prescribed medications, people with chronic illnesses, people with psychiatric illnesses, people who are homeless and people who are socially isolated, people from low-socio economic backgrounds and those who abuse alcohol and/or illicit drugs.

These at-risk population groups comprise a significant proportion of the Darebin community and are the focus of the Darebin Heatwave Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy includes a wide range of actions to ensure these groups are informed about safety in heatwave conditions and are supported in all possible ways.

Economic Development

There are significant economic impacts resulting from heat stress, these include impacts on:

- Infrastructure such as energy, water, information and communication technology and transport resulting in suspension of services
- Agricultural crops, leading to increase in prices on food products.
- Manufacturing, due to downtime on machines limiting business operations.
- Construction, due to lost labour during heatwave.

Other

The Heatwave Strategy and Action Plan support the Health and Wellbeing Plan and Goal Two of the Council Plan, *Healthy and Connected Community*.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015/2016 \$5000 was allocated for the implementation of the action plan.

CONCLUSION

In 2015/16 Council implemented a number of initiatives to support the community to cope better during heatwave periods. The responsibility for this work does not rest solely with Council, as service providers have direct contact with clients who are most vulnerable during heatwaves are better placed than Council to play an effective role. In addition to supporting our own clients and providing community education, Council will continue to play a coordinating role to bring agencies together to plan and prepare for heatwave periods, share resources, identify and address gaps and strengthen advocacy efforts.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Develop and implement comprehensive and targeted heatwave education campaign from October 2016.
- Review of campaign in April 2017.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Heatwave Strategy and Action Plan 2013 -2017
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1. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN 2012-2015

AUTHOR: Human Rights Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Human Rights Action Plan (DHRAP) cascades from the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015 (E&IP) that establishes a human-rights based approach to valuing and responding to the diverse needs of the Darebin community. The DHRAP reflects Council's recognition of human rights as universal and its affirmation of the right of all people to be treated with respect, equality and dignity. The DHRAP also reflects and supports Council's legal responsibility to act consistently with the human rights protected by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. These actions are reported on annually by Council to the State Government through the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

Strategy Started On:

July 2012.

Strategy Ends On:

June 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

From June 2016

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

In its fourth year of implementation, the embedding of human rights based thinking through the development of policies, programs and initiatives have continued. The DHRAP continues to strengthen Council's capacity to address complex and multi-dimensional factors which cause and maintain poverty and discrimination in the lives of people living, working and recreating in the City of Darebin. In the past 12 months, the HRAP has provided leverage to the work of the Aboriginal Action Plan, in particular to those initiatives which bring in the whole of the community in the spirit of reconciliation, justice and recognition.

This year has also seen the review and reshaping of the EIPAT (Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit tool) to strengthen and extend its influence in the early thinking and planning and in the review of Council policies, programs, laws and a shift towards a more informal, engaging group-based discussion about the human rights considerations at play in the context of equity, diversity, health & wellbeing and community engagement.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
<p>To ensure that Darebin Council acts in ways that are compatible with human rights in all decisions that affect Darebin communities</p>	<p>Provide tailored human rights training to specific programs to enhance their human rights practice, thinking and advocacy.</p> <p>Integrate human rights into professional development program within the Diversity Capabilities Framework (DCF).</p> <p>Carry out mandatory reporting of Council's initiatives and responsibilities to State Government.</p> <p>Provide ongoing support on use of Charter Check in decision-making</p>	<p>Four staff workshops delivered, 32 participants completed to high level of satisfaction with content and delivery. Series of human rights-related posts in Staff to Staff to raise internal awareness.</p> <p>Human Rights Officer has targeted DCF PD at teams with high community interface. Training needs analysis tools developed & utilised to plan & deliver diversity training for Children's, Families, Youth teams with strong human rights lens.</p> <p>Report to VEOHRC submitted in February 2016, including highlights of Council's work as good practice examples. Report on eight-year review of Charter includes range of references to Council's work as good practice examples.</p> <p>Review of EIPAT to strengthen human rights considerations undertaken. Anticipated that the use of Charter Check will increase as staff better understand its rationale and value.</p>
<p>To integrate human rights practice within Council's services and program developments and delivery.</p>	<p>Explore and integrate "freedom from discrimination" across Council's diverse arts and culture season, venues and events.</p>	<p>Jointly hosted with Intercultural Centre, four community screenings of human rights films followed by discussions on freedom from discrimination. Supported Darebin Libraries to present community exhibition of Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.</p>

	Build internal capacity for the ongoing application of the Community Engagement Framework across Council.	Worked closely with P&D to review and repackage DCF with view to realign DCF with P&D's priorities, particularly in relation to supporting organisational leadership on diversity.
To strengthen community capacity to implement human rights values and for advocating for dignified treatment and equal access to services for all/ To reinforce community relationships based on human rights values of freedom, respect, equality, dignity.	Coordinate Aboriginal-lead walks through the Darebin Spiritual Healing Trail & document the conversations & stories. Develop a public education program.	Ninety people attended 3 walks led by cultural educator and guide. Evaluations demonstrated the value of event to supporting reconciliation & a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture and resilience. Community services students at Melbourne Polytechnic supported to deliver human rights flash mobs at Preston Market, incorporating human rights messages and resources which students developed themselves.

Challenges

Implementation of the HRAP has required continued renegotiation of its original (2011) commitments with stakeholders, to ensure a strategic and practical fit with current conditions, while protecting the integrity of the original inspiration. The strength of the HRAP has been particularly felt in its intersections with the CEF, EIPAT and DCF. The upcoming review of the CEF, the current review and reshaping of the EIPAT and the transition of the DCF back to P&D will greatly benefit from a strong human rights 'lens'. The challenge for the next period will be drawing on the learnings of the past 4 years of the HRAP to ensure that it can be built on and strengthened in a new HRAP.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) was applied in the development of the HRAP. Human rights are one of the core principles of the Equity and Inclusion Plan, and the HRAP supports a human rights-based approach to working with diverse and disadvantaged communities across Darebin. The HRAP is aligned with the explicit support for a broadened understanding of diversity as expressed in the Darebin City Council Plan 2013-2017 Diversity Statement, supporting the achievement of KPI 2.9 and contributing to the Council goal of a healthy and connected community.

Economic Development

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015-2016 \$8000 was allocated directly for the implementation of the HRAP. Additional resources were provided via collaboration with other Council departments to support actions in the Plan.

CONCLUSION

Work on the HRAP in 2015/2016 has built on the achievements of the previous years and has further consolidated and more visibly demonstrated Darebin's human rights work, for which Council has an excellent reputation and has received public acknowledgement throughout the community and across the local and state government sectors. There is scope for this work to be strengthened through both internal and external partnerships as the community remains eager for information and capacity building in human rights and advocacy.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implementation of recurrent, ongoing and 2016 specific actions.
- Review of HRAP 2012-2015

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015
 - Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015
 - Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015
 - Darebin Diversity Capabilities Framework 2014-2020
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**1. DAREBIN LEISURE STRATEGY 2010 – 2020
DAREBIN LEISURE ACTION PLAN 2015 - 2020**

AUTHOR: Manager Leisure and Public Realm

REVIEWED BY: Director Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Leisure Strategy 2010 - 2020 and the detailed Action Plan 2015 – 2020 aim to create inclusive and welcoming environments where our diverse community can achieve physical and mental wellbeing through participation in healthy, active lives.

Strategy Started On:

Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020 was adopted on 18 October 2010
Darebin Leisure Action Plan 2015 – 2020 was adopted on 5 October 2015

Strategy Ends On:

The Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020 and Darebin Leisure Action Plan 2015 – 2020 both conclude on 31 December 2020.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

An annual review of Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020 / Darebin Leisure Action Plan 2015 – 2020 is provided to Council for consideration. Last review was noted on 4 July 2016.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020 was adopted by Council in 2010. The Leisure Strategy is supported by action plans that set out priorities and drive work to deliver increased sports and physical activity opportunities in Darebin. Following community consultation over May and June 2015 the 2015 – 2020 Darebin Leisure Action Plan was adopted by Council on 5 October 2015.

The action plan has a specific focus on increasing women and girl's participation in sport and recreation. This will be achieved through a multi-layer approach to improving programs, services and infrastructure to encourage and support female participation. The plan details that construction of additional sporting facilities for women in Darebin will be an important facilitator in achieving this aim.

The 2015–2020 Leisure Services Action Plan is a detailed document that identifies projects and tasks which will enable Council to build upon the achievements delivered through the 2010–2014 Leisure Services Action Plan; and successfully deliver the Leisure Strategy 2010-2020.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

As set out in the action plan the Leisure Services team sets out to meet a set of key success measures by 2020. Progress against these indicators in 2015-2016 is detailed below:

INDICATOR	MEASURE	2015-2016 ACHIEVEMENTS
Achieve greater equity for women and girls in sport.	15 per cent increase in female membership in organised sport by 2020 At least 30 per cent of organised sport participants are women or girls by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A multi-layer approach to increasing women's participation is underway which has resulted in significant increases in female participation across many sports including cricket, AFL and soccer. - FFV reported that women's participation in soccer in Darebin was 9.4 per cent higher than the state average in 2015. - AFL Vic reported a 46 per cent increase in youth girls' football teams in our local competition, from 25 in 2015 to 41 in 2016. - Supported the inaugural season of the Women's Cricket grade in the North Metro Cricket Association competition. This saw the establishment of two women's cricket teams in Darebin. - Council resolved to construct the Darebin Multi Sport Stadium which will result in a substantial increase in opportunities for women and girls to participate in sport and physical activity - Hosted a Darebin Women in Cricket initiative which gave away a female coaching course. - Council nominated three female administrators to take part in the first FFV 'Strengthening Female Administrators' leadership program. - Obtained funding through Cricket Victoria's 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Community Cup grants to host the Darebin women in Cricket initiative (a women's cricket program). - Created the resource '<i>Levelling the Playing Field – The Ball is in Her Court</i>'. This publication aims to support greater equity for women and girls in sport and recreation. - Worked closely with the Northern Football League to support the development and implementation of the inaugural NFL senior women's grade in 2017.
Increase junior's participation.	25 per cent increase in junior membership in organised sport by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worked closely with Darebin women's sporting club to establish a girls Auskick competition, which now has over 40 players. - Number of Darebin based youth girls AFL teams have doubled from 2015 to 2016.
Increase in the number of clubs demonstrating inclusive practices and attitudes.	50 per cent of clubs will achieve 'gold' performance subsidy status by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implemented the sporting fees and charges policy (2014) which sees more clubs demonstrating inclusive activities and promotes optimised use of Darebin sporting facilities - Greater engagement with Darebin sporting clubs saw five sports development workshops held in 2015-2016. Themes included food handling and safety (October and May); GoodSports – responsible service of alcohol (November); Disability Inclusion (December) and Sports Club Sponsorship (June). Attendances, which ranged between 20 and 70 participants, have significantly increased from events held in past years. This demonstrates improved Council engagement with clubs and community. Attendance at these events attracts a discount for clubs on their seasonal access fees. - Leisure Services implemented an online IMS platform for all four sporting allocation types – Winter/Summer seasonal, 12 month seasonal and licence agreement clubs. The performance subsidy component of the new fees and charges policy was also integrated into the IMS system. Rollout of IMS has resulted in a substantial decrease in officer administration hours.

INDICATOR	MEASURE	2015-2016 ACHIEVEMENTS
Increase the percentage of Darebin residents exercising at least three times per week	Increase participation rate to the state average by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanded 'Get Active in Darebin' program which provides free family friendly leisure and recreation opportunities, with an increased number of programs provided in low socio economic areas. - Established a walking football program, a VicHealth funded initiative targeting older adults, in partnership with Melbourne City Football Club, Darebin Community Health and Council's Community Wellbeing team. - Installed outdoor exercise stations at AH Capp Reserve, Bundoora Park and TW Andrews Reserve. This now sees a total of nine locations with outdoor exercise equipment - Provided Come & Try sessions at six outdoor exercise equipment stations during the Spring Get Active in Darebin program. - Attracted a new capital works budget to install one additional outdoor exercise station per year.
Continue to improve the functionality, flexibility and accessibility of sporting and recreational infrastructure in Darebin	Leisure Services will achieve a minimum of two pavilion redevelopments, two sports field lighting and two sports field safety fencing projects per year until 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of two sports field lighting systems at Capp and Robinson Reserves; new cricket nets at Moore Park, Ruthven and Zwar Reserves; completed pavilion redevelopments at Ruthven and Sullivan Reserves; and installed safety fencing at John Hall Reserve - Leisure Services attracted \$200,000 of external funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) for upgrade of sporting infrastructure in 2015-2016. These two projects will be undertaken in 2016-2017. - Leisure Services attracted \$346,000 in grant funding from SRV for redevelopment of three outdoor netball courts at Darebin Community Sports Stadium. - Leisure Services, in conjunction with Major Projects, submitted a grant application to the Federal National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) requesting a \$6.2 million grant for construction of a Darebin multi-sports stadium. - Opening of the Ruthven Reserve community and sporting pavilion. The first of its type, this new space caters for both community bookings and sports club activities in a co-share social area. - Initiated co-share arrangements for McDonnell sporting pavilion; with joint use of this facility by two football clubs - Redevelopment of the Northcote Aquatic and Leisure Centre is now regarded as an organisational priority to take place within five to ten years. A number of Councillor workshops and a field tour of recent aquatic and leisure facility redevelopments in other LGA's has been undertaken.
Increase the availability of free and low cost sport and physical activities.	20 per cent increase in Council funded or supported sport or physical activity programs by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 150 per cent increase for the Get Active in Darebin program in 2015-2016 budget through new initiatives process. - Average attendances per Get Active in Darebin seasonal program increased from 790 in 2014-2015 to an average of 1200 during spring and summer 2015-2016; an increase of over 50 per cent. - Increased number of weekly programs from an average of seven activities in 2014-2015 to an average of 16 during spring and summer 2015-2016. This represents an increase of 77 per cent in Council supported programs in one year. - Provided a minimum of one activity (in addition to walking groups) per seasonal program of Get Active in Darebin that is specifically aimed at older people. - Provided activities as part of 'Get Active in Darebin' at locations within target areas of East Preston and East Reservoir.

Other achievements from 2015 – 2016 include:

- Established a Darebin Leisure Facebook page and have steadily increased followers to now in excess of 350. This improves communication to stakeholders and clubs.
- Established *Behind the Goals*, a Leisure newsletter, with the first edition circulated in May 2016. This quarterly publication shares news, information and grant opportunities with Darebin clubs and sporting stakeholders.
- Undertook online consultation for the Darebin multi-sport stadium project which received in excess of 1200 responses.
- Implemented online IMS club portal for all four facility allocation types – Winter/Summer seasonal, 12 month seasonal and licence agreement. Integrated performance subsidy component onto IMS platform as well as the ability to log CAMMS maintenance requests.
- 350 per cent increase in attendance at the Leisure Services annual Sports Club Breakfast event held in December 2015.
- Council gave away \$60,000 of grants to improve sporting infrastructure in Darebin. Projects undertaken included installation of solar panels to reduce electricity bills, double glazed windows and construction of flag pole to honour indigenous heritage at a sporting reserve.
- Increased focus on joint planning with other Councils, sporting bodies and State Government has seen the following initiatives progressed:
 - Darebin Multi-Sport Stadium project planning undertaken in conjunction with Yarra and Banyule Councils, State Government, La Trobe University and State Sporting Associations
 - Northern Employment Cluster Project in conjunction with Banyule Council, State Government, Melbourne Planning Authority and La Trobe University
 - Northland Urban Renewal Project (NURP) in conjunction with Melbourne Planning Authority, La Trobe University, Banyule Council
 - Olympic Park master plan development in conjunction with Banyule Council
- Established and developed partnerships with a number of schools including Northcote High School, Thornbury High School, Reservoir High School and Fairfield Primary School. Established feasibility to construct additional netball courts at these schools under funding available from the Victorian State Government. Projects to be finalised for implementation in 2016-2017.

Continued implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan over the next four years will see further progress against the key performance indicators set out in the plan. Council will be provided with an annual implementation update throughout the life of the action plan.

Challenges

Challenges encountered during implementation over 2015-2016 included:

- Difficulty in gathering accurate data hinders the ability of Council to measure and report on participation trends across both sport and recreation. In particular Council's capacity to, and the legality of, collect information related minority groups such as CALD, low socioeconomic, ATSI etc. makes accurately reporting the diversity of participation difficult.
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- There has been a huge increase in profile and participation rates in women's sport. Whilst this is extremely positive it has highlighted that many of Council's facilities lack the ability to cater effectively for female participation; in particular for sports that were traditionally male dominated such as AFL, cricket and soccer. Significant investment is required to provide sporting environments that are supportive of female participation.
 - A tighter fiscal environment creates pressures for Council and their capacity to upgrade and provide sporting facilities that meet user needs and contemporaneous community expectations, whilst also growing sports and increasing the diversity of participation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Good practice in Environmentally Sustainability Design (ESD) is considered by officers during implementation of the strategy and action plan, particularly with regards to capital upgrades and infrastructure development.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020 and the Leisure Action Plan 2015 – 2020 have been subject to the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool to ensure diversity, human rights and equity considerations. A broad cross-range of community stakeholders and advisory groups were consulted in the drafting, development and finalisation of these documents. Consideration of inclusion and equity is undertaken for all projects whether capital, service or program based.

Economic Development

There are no factors in this report which impact upon economic development.

Other

Ongoing implementation of the Darebin Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy drives many outcomes and achievements reported upon in this paper

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's commitment to funding upgrades and improvements to sporting facilities and infrastructure in the annual capital works budget resulted in a number of significant projects being delivered in 2015/2016.

Other activities and direct support to growing and developing sport and leisure in Darebin were achieved within the operational budget.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the Leisure Strategy and Leisure Action plan is ongoing and drives the work of the Leisure Services team.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Annual implementation report is considered by Council. Next update due July 2017.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Leisure Action Plan 2015 – 2020
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1. LIBRARIES STRATEGY 2014–2019

AUTHOR: Strategy and Business Advisor, Libraries and Learning

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Libraries Strategy 2014–2019 outlines Council’s approach to developing and delivering Darebin Libraries services. Darebin Libraries mission is to inspire and enable our diverse community to learn and grow. We are a welcoming, inclusive and safe place where anyone can read, study, work, relax and share. We provide easy access to library collections, programs, services and resources that meet the needs of our community. We understand, respond to and support the lifelong learning aspirations of our community.

Strategy Started On:

16 February 2015

Strategy Ends On:

30 June 2019

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

Review to commence in 2018–19

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Libraries Strategy implementation is progressing well. The four overarching goals, which guide and focus decision making, are implemented through the action plan which is divided into six key result areas to ensure goals are achieved annually and can be measured.

Four meetings were convened with the Darebin Libraries Strategy Implementation Reference Group 2015–16 which were used to communicate and consult on a number of actions within the Strategy including development of the: CALD Framework; Genealogy and Local History Action Plan; Literacy Framework; Youth Action Plan; Technology Strategic Plan and Darebin Libraries website. Feedback from the Reference Group has been overwhelmingly positive.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Key achievements under the six key result areas are outlined below.

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
KRA 1: Welcoming places and spaces	1.1 Ensure our library branches are attractive, comfortable, vibrant,	Our focus on improving and activating youth spaces has resulted in higher visitation by

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
	welcoming and create a sense of belonging	<p>Darebin youth for a range of uses including study, technology and events</p> <p>The refurbishment of the Northcote Library refreshed the look and feel and enabled floorplan changes to support community use</p>
	1.3 Ensure our strategies, plans, policies and procedures continue to promote equity, inclusion and accessibility for all	<p>Removal of the \$1 reservation fee increased equity of access to library resources across the municipality and removed a barrier to collection use</p> <p>Extended opening hours at Fairfield and Preston Libraries has increased access for the community by four hours per week since January 2016</p>
KRA 2: Dynamic collections	2.1 Review and develop our collections, resources and programs to ensure they reflect and meet the diverse and changing needs of our community	Collections in five community languages are now available at all four branches. Branch collection sizes will be managed to meet customer demand and the demographics of each area
	2.5 Provide more digital material in English and community languages	<p>Two digital collections were recently released for customer use: ComicsPlus (with over 16,000 comics) and BMV Chinese eLibrary (magazines, newspapers and books)</p> <p>Expansion and promotion of the digital collection resulted in ebook loans increasing by 43%, eaudiobooks by 76% and emagazines by 13%</p>
KRA 3: Strengthening our community	3.3 Develop and deliver initiatives to encourage our residents and visitors to appreciate diversity, learn English and other languages, and provide learning opportunities for our community that foster inclusion and engagement, especially	Thirty-eight initiatives were successfully delivered. Highlights include: expanding the Conversation Café program to Reservoir Community and Learning Centre, hosting the Aboriginal Honour Roll launch and exhibition, sharing migrant stories during Cultural Diversity Week and delivering National Simultaneous Storytime in Woi

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
	<p>for new settlers and disadvantaged groups</p> <p>3.5 Investigate and showcase the value of our library to support learning, education, arts and culture through partnerships and programs</p>	<p>Wurrung</p> <p>Partnerships provided a number of opportunities to showcase the library to the community: Northcote and Preston Libraries hosted the Merri Creek Exhibition along with a supporting programs, four election information sessions were delivered in June with support from the AEC, staff created an exhibition to commemorate ANZAC Day and our Darebin Heritage website supported a Music Feast event with local history photographs inspiring the I Feel Like Going Back performance</p>
KRA 4: Innovation	4.1 Develop a Darebin Libraries Technology Strategy to meet and support the current and future needs of our community	<p>To support increasing use of technology in the library, we upgraded our internet links, network infrastructure and wireless access capabilities</p> <p>Over 1,600 customers have used the new Darebin Libraries app to access library information and digital resources in the first three months of release</p>
KRA 5: Working together	5.4 Partner with and promote the library to other Darebin City Council departments as a place to promote, deliver and leverage Council services	<p>Working with other Council departments has resulted in a more holistic approach to library programming including screening the <i>Gayby Baby</i> documentary followed by a discussion led by Felicity Marlowe from the Rainbow Family Alliance to support IDAHOBIT with Community Wellbeing, hosting the Aboriginal Honour Roll launch and exhibition with Equity and Diversity, working with Maternal and Child Health, Playgroups and the Toy Library to share information about library services to their customers, pop up libraries at off-site events and festivals organised by Creative Culture and with Environment and Natural Resources and the Bushlands team to support the Merri Creek Exhibition</p>

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
		<p>programming</p> <p>A number of Council initiatives have been promoted through library communication channels including the Reservoir community safety survey and PitchIT for Economic Development</p>
<p>KRA 6: Knowledgeable, creative and accountable</p>	<p>6.2 Monitor and evaluate the Darebin Libraries Strategy 2014–19 and communicate outcomes to our library customers, Council and community stakeholders</p>	<p>The Darebin Libraries Strategy Implementation Reference Group members have provided valuable feedback on initiatives and approaches to our implementation</p> <p>A bookmark design competition for children and adults was held to engage our community with the new vision for the library service and communicate the new strategy. Six bookmarks were chosen for publication and distribution through the library</p>
	<p>6.9 Actively seek feedback from our library customers eg conduct surveys and snap chats</p>	<p>The Darebin Libraries website survey received over 350 responses and 3 focus groups were held to explore views on the current website in more detail. This feedback has been incorporated into the specification for a refreshed site.</p> <p>Community consultation was included in the development of all action plans developed to support the strategy</p>

Challenges

Some designated actions were not completed during 2015–16 due to the need to balance frontline service delivery and core service workloads with the additional requirements of implementing the strategy action plan. These delays were communicated and actions were prioritised to ensure the major pieces of work were completed. Work will continue on those actions with a more considered approach to workload balance incorporated into 2016–17 planning.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The main environmental impact of the Strategy is from extending library opening hours in 2016. This will result in increased energy consumption; however, Darebin Libraries continues

to work with Council's Environment and Natural Resources Team to investigate and implement improvements to environmental sustainability across all library branches. Darebin Libraries branches have undertaken energy efficiency upgrades resulting in significant energy savings.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Darebin Libraries Strategy 2014–2019 acknowledges the rights of all to have free, accessible library services. In 2012, Darebin Libraries undertook a service review within the framework of the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool and the Strategy was developed within the guidelines and actions of this review.

A number of Strategy actions specifically target the inclusion of disadvantaged groups including 1.3 Ensure our strategies, plans, policies and procedures continue to promote equity, inclusion and accessibility for all and don't discriminate or exclude community members from membership and accessing library resources and services.

Economic Development

Darebin Libraries commitment to skills acquisition and lifelong learning is considered an important aspect of building community capacity and increases economic development opportunities.

Other

Darebin Libraries actively contribute to several strategy objectives outlined in the Council Plan 2013–2017, in particular Goal 2: Healthy and Connected Community and Goal 4: Thriving and Creative Culture.

Darebin Libraries is also an important contributor to the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013–2017 by strengthening opportunities for children to develop, thrive and learn in their early years; supporting equitable lifelong learning opportunities and outcomes; and providing safe and accessible places for people to life well, play and connect.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The initiatives contained within the Strategy action plan will be achieved through current and future budget allocations. The increase in PCs and the introduction of new and emerging technologies will continue to be allocated within the Library Technology Strategy. New library furniture and long-term planning for purpose-built or expanded libraries will be referred to future Capital Works Programs. External funding will also be sought for library infrastructure building projects and other identified project initiatives.

CONCLUSION

Darebin Libraries implemented most of the actions outlined in the Strategy action plan for 2015–16 with a small number carrying forward into 2016–17. With the new Reservoir Community and Learning Centre and improvements to our other branch facilities, Darebin Libraries has seen a 7.5% increase in visitation to our physical branches and websites. The launch of a new app for library customers provides an opportunity for customers to easily access library information and digital resources anywhere and anytime using a smart device – we were the first library to release this leading technology solution in Australia. Investment

in and promotion of our collections, both physical and digital, has seen an increase in loans largely driven by increased use of our digital resources.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Ongoing implementation of the Darebin Libraries Strategy action plan.
- Communicate achievements to library customers.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Libraries Strategy 2014–2019
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1. MULTICULTURAL ACTION PLAN 2015-2017

AUTHOR: Multicultural Affairs Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Multicultural Action Plan 2012–2017 (MAP) is one of a series of plans that Darebin City Council has developed under the Equity and Inclusion Policy to strengthen Council's commitment and relationship with our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community.

Strategy Started On:

June 2012

Strategy Ends On:

June 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

December 2016. Along with the other action plans stemming from the Equity and Inclusion Policy, the MAP has been extended to align with the Council Plan and Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The MAP contains actions grouped under the three Equity and Inclusion goals, Council, Services and Program, and Community. During 2015/2016 there was an increased focus on collaboration with other portfolios and the strengthening of partnerships to deliver a number of joint actions around community safety, preventing violence against women, gender equity, working with our Aboriginal community, Human Rights, asylum seekers and the impact radicalisation and violent extremism on community harmony and inclusion.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy	Actions	Outcome
COUNCIL		
Monitor participation of culturally and linguistically diverse background staff in professional development opportunities.	Data on participation in professional development programs collected and monitored on an annual basis	<p>It is estimated that at least 50% of Darebin staff are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In reviewing a cross section of the attendance logs from programs delivered in 2015/2016 at least half of the attendees at any program are from CALD backgrounds. Council's Professional Development opportunities include corporate and leadership programs and identified expressions of interest applicable to employee's roles and responsibilities, this ensures that training provided and participation includes all CALD employees.</p> <p>The Pathways to Employment Committee meets 4 times annually to table and discuss various work placement programs for consideration. Council has continued its strong relationship with the Overseas Qualified unit at NMIT, providing 15 students with work placement opportunities and having successful outcomes for some students who have progressed into permanent paid employment positions as a direct result of their placements. We have supported approximately 9 volunteer placements at the Darebin Intercultural Centre to support programs that enhance and support our diverse community. We have also provided an 'Employability Skills' session to students from a CALD background at PRACE.</p>
Demonstrate a commitment to achieving a workforce that reflects the community.	Vacancies posted on publications that reach a broad and culturally diverse audience.	All Position Descriptions contain diversity statement. Data is collected on targeted advertising to inform P&D on outcomes related to the choice of advertising mediums.
Ensure cultural and linguistic diversity is covered in the Diversity Capabilities Framework developed for the organisation.	New Framework completed used as basis for developing diversity training.	Training provided during the period. The DCF is an important program to educate Council staff on equity and diversity issues to ensure planning and service delivery practice reflects the needs of the Darebin community.
Assist the development of a Communications Charter.	CALD issues and processes embedded into the Communications Charter.	Inclusive Communications Charter promoted across the organisation. Promoted to internal staff through Staff to Staff newsletter, Multilingual toolkit, Intranet, Darebin Website. The Charter was also promoted externally through Civic Magazine. We are one of the finalists in the LGPro Communications Awards for Inclusive Communications Charter.

Report annually to Council on the progress of the MAP implementation.	Report to Council completed each year with 70% of committed actions completed or on track.	Information updated and included in Monthly Achievements, Mid-year and Annual Reports.
SERVICES AND PROGRAMS		
Support implementation of the Anti-Racism Strategy	Ongoing actions.	Racial discrimination has a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of Darebin residents. It is socially divisive and a threat to building a cohesive and peaceful community. Darebin City Council is committed to strengthen social partnerships to combat racial discrimination through policies and actions such as the included in the Anti-Racism Strategy. This work is implemented in an integrated way across Council departments and based on an understanding of the intersections between different types of discrimination and racial discrimination. One of the key achievements of Council's anti-racism work has been the building of community capacity through delivery and promotion of the Say No to Racism training package. The South Australian Government Department of Communities and Social Cohesion has proposed a collaboration with Darebin Council to deliver this training across their public service and community. Council is finalising a License Agreement with the Minister of Communities and Social Cohesion and we may explore similar opportunities with the Victorian State Government.
Support and collaborate with the Arts and Culture Department.	Planning includes consideration of culturally diverse communities in annual events.	Annual season of events across the municipality to better engage with all communities, including events targeting specific cultural groups as part of Music Feast and the Homemade Wine, Beer and Food festival. The Ganesh Festival was successfully held in collaboration with various internal and external stakeholders.
Ensure that Councillor's speeches highlight Council's Anti-Racism stance.	Generic Diversity statement for use across Council communications developed.	All speeches contain a reference to Council's commitment to social inclusion and diversity.
Articulate Council's role in the settlement of new arrival and asylum seeker communities.	Support the social inclusion of asylum seekers in Darebin.	Community partnerships and relationships has continued to progress to strengthen local and regional responses to Federal Government announcement to settle refugees from Syria.
Support the implementation of actions articulated in the Darebin Women's Equity Strategy.	Preventing Violence Against Women toolkit for imams.	Project supported with advice regarding Muslim content and information.

COMMUNITY		
<p>Continue Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Islamic Society of Victoria and the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council and the implementation of the Darebin Interfaith Council's Action Plan.</p>	<p>Partnership Agreements implemented.</p>	<p>Relationship with the Preston Mosque has been strengthened and underpinned by the MOU with Council. Preston Mosque has supported Council's work on the Darebin Community Inclusion Plan and it volunteered to be part of any pilot program or actions proposed by Council. Commitments have been monitored and progressed as part of the Council and Preston Mosque bi-monthly meetings.</p> <p>The MOU with the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council has facilitated the implementation of strategic work of Council to address the needs of its CALD communities. The DECC Annual Report and Acquittal report for the period 2014-2015 was submitted to Council. Work has commenced on a new Service Agreement with DECC. The strengths of this relationship is expressed by the successful joint coordination of the Darebin Community Project Monument.</p> <p>Darebin Council has strengthened its relationships with its communities of faith through active engagement with its faith leaders represented on the Darebin Interfaith Council. 2015-2016 saw a growing collaboration between Darebin's faith communities, community groups and members of the aboriginal community to support Council's Equity and Inclusion commitments. This was reflected at various events and projects such as the Orlando Memorial Service, the Interfaith Tour and the coordination of the Darebin Community Monument Project.</p>
<p>Promote the funding of projects that foster intercultural dialogue.</p>	<p>Promote inclusive projects in Community Grants program.</p>	<p>Human Rights and Inclusion promoted in Community Support Program with a number of applications assessed by the E&D unit.</p>
<p>Organisation of events to promote diversity and inclusion.</p>	<p>Successfully implementing of events planned for the year in collaboration with Darebin Intercultural Centre and other community organisations.</p>	<p>Events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Interfaith Harmony Week • Two Interfaith tours to iconic places of worship • Cultural Diversity Week • Refugee Week • Australian Indonesian Muslim leaders exchange program • Presentation at Building Community Cohesion and Tackling Extremism Conference in Sydney • Orlando Remembrance Iftar solidarity function for LGBTIQ and Muslim communities

Challenges

Diversity work in general and specifically within Darebin is marked by a social, political and economic context marked by Federal and local political volatility, local economic re-adjustments, demographic changes and the increasing threat to social cohesion and harmony.

Social cohesion in particular continued to be tested in the face of growing gentrification and development impacting on homelessness, youth unemployment and disenfranchisement, the growing rates of socio-economic inequality, tensions between rival groups within the multicultural debate, asylum seeker alienation, homophobia, Indigenous disadvantage, violence against women and racism. Darebin Council continued to carry out its work with the support and a community expectation of a Council that is committed to diversity, inclusion and harmony.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The implementation of the MAP includes working strategically with others areas of Council and with the community to promote Council's inclusive policies to achieve environmental sustainability. This is achieved through information on Council's programs and services and through partnership projects.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) was applied in the development of the MAP, which also includes actions that address discrimination and exclusionary practices on the basis of cultural background across the municipality.

Economic Development

Some of the actions in the MAP are aimed at raising awareness regarding disadvantage and the benefits of a diverse workforce. This can have a positive impact on local business employment policies and procedures to enable a greater participation of employees from CALD backgrounds.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Actions delivered within allocated budget.

CONCLUSION

The Multicultural Action Plan was effectively delivered in 2015/2016 with the strengthening of partnerships. The period was characterised by an increasing collaboration with the Darebin community. The implementation of the MAP has helped build constructive and positive relationships that contributed to delivering on Council's Mission of "Working with our diverse community to build a sustainable and liveable city".

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Ongoing support with the implementation of the EIPAT tool and the Diversity Capabilities Framework
- Review of MAP as part of Equity and Diversity planning and review process
- Implementation of Multicultural Affairs Work Plan for 2016-2017
- Ongoing management and coordination of MOUs and Service Agreements with both DECC and Polykala to deliver Say No To Racism Training
- Support the organisation of the 2016 Victorian Interfaith Network's State Conference.
- Ongoing management and coordination of the Darebin Community Inclusion Plan
- Interfaith/intercultural community harmony dinners at different Council sites to counter fear many experience through uplifting opportunities that generate hope and community cohesion
- Promoting Equal and Respectful Relationships: A Muslim Leaders Guide
- Schools excursions programs for the next generation of Australians: the Schools excursions to the Islamic Museum of Australia (as per Council's NOM) and other venues that promote a culture of awareness and understanding essential for a multicultural society

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Multicultural Action Plan 2012-2017
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1. NATURAL HERITAGE STRATEGY 2015 - 2025

AUTHOR: Manager Environment and Natural Resources

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Operations and Environment

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Natural Heritage Strategy 2015-2025 identifies a range of actions to protect and enhance Darebin’s natural heritage assets over the next ten years. Darebin’s natural heritage comprises flora, fauna and geological features that are of local, regional, state and national significance and forms a precious part of the wider biodiversity of Darebin. In its dual roles as land owner and land manager, Darebin City Council is committed to working with our community to protect and enhance Darebin’s natural heritage assets for the enjoyment of current and future generations as well as for their own intrinsic value.

Strategy Started On:

October 2015

Strategy Ends On:

October 2025

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

October 2020

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

As the strategy was only adopted in October, and has not completed a full year the focus has been on consolidation and commencing actions. The Environment and Bushland Management teams have begun implementing key actions.

The Bushland Management Team continue to maintain and enhance 218 hectares of Conservation Parkland and 163 hectares of Conservation Bushland.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Theme	Action	Outcomes
Caring for Natural Heritage	Continue supporting annual ecological burns and follow up weed control at Ngarri-djarrang Grasslands	A successful ecological burn of 1.8 hectares was held March 2016 in conjunction with the Merri Creek Management Committee. Mosaic patch burns (scorching) have been completed around Sullivan remnant, Gronn remnant and Cherry Street Grassland

Strategy Theme	Action	Outcomes
Knowing About Natural Heritage	Develop a GIS layer that identifies sites of geological significance to be accessed by Council staff	A layer of data on significant geological sites has been added to the GIS system for staff
Community Engagement and Education	Consider enabling the Conservation and Wildlife data contained within Council's GIS system to be accessed by visitors to Darebin's external website	A layer of data on geological sites has been added to the GIS system on the Darebin website for use by the general community
Community Engagement and Education	Continue to support friends and natural heritage groups	Council continues to support the creek management committees and Darebin Parklands. Community grants support is also provided to friends groups. Ten community events were held/supported in conjunction with friends groups including planting, weeding and clean up as well as bird and frog surveys.
Community Engagement and Education	Develop a comprehensive community stakeholder analysis to identify concerns and interest.	A stakeholder analysis has been drafted
Community Engagement and Education	Provide regular articles in 'Sustainability News' and other relevant newsletters about natural heritage, e.g. weeding days, ecological burns, replanting days, creek health/studies, etc.	Regular articles are published. Planting and weeding days held in partnership with the Friends of Merri and Darebin Creek have been promoted regularly Sustainability News

Challenges

Resourcing of strategic work competes with significant on-ground management demands. Apart from urban development, weeds continue to be one of the major threats to natural heritage and comprehensive management is costly and involves all adjoining owners.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Darebin's natural heritage comprises flora, fauna and geological features that are of local, regional, state and even national significance. Natural heritage in Darebin forms a precious part of the wider biodiversity of Darebin. Its nurture and survival brings a range of benefits to both current and future generations. The Natural Heritage Strategy is supported by and has regard to the following strategies:

- Darebin Urban Forest Strategy
- Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin,
- Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan
- Darebin Waste and Litter Strategy 2015 - 2025
- Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan
- GreenStreets Streetscape strategy
- Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

A fundamental equity issue in the preservation of natural heritage is intergenerational equity so that current and future generations can benefit from these assets. Community wellbeing can be enhanced by access and connection with the natural environment.

Actions proposed through the strategy consider our diverse community's needs in relation to use, information and engagement around natural heritage issues. An Equity and Inclusion Assessment was conducted for the development of this Strategy.

Economic Development

Darebin's natural heritage assets not only make Darebin the place to live, but make Darebin the place to visit. Natural heritage features, such as those at Bundoora Park and Melbourne wildlife sanctuary and surrounds, are tourist destinations for local, regional and overseas visits. Protecting, enhancing and providing information about our natural heritage assets will enhance tourism.

Other

The Council Plan aims for Council to lead and work with the community and partners to achieve a rapid transition to an environmentally sustainable city. The development of the Natural Heritage Strategy was a specific Council Plan action.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council currently commits over \$1 Million annually in operating funds for the management of Darebin's natural heritage sites, with the majority of this being used to fund works undertaken by Council's Bushland Crew. Council also provides funding to Darebin Parklands, the Merri and Darebin Creek Management Committees towards their annual operating costs, contracted vegetation restoration and management programs and community education activities.

Approximately \$200,000 in capital funding is spent annually (this is an average as it varies from year to year) to develop/conservate areas of natural heritage significance. Council also collaborates with a range of stakeholders to secure grants and other resources to advance natural heritage outcomes.

The majority of actions within this strategy will be undertaken within existing Council budgets. Where additional funds are required to undertake an action, this will be considered in future Council budget considerations. Council will also seek funding from government, statutory authorities and philanthropic organisations to improve our Natural Heritage.

Valuable resourcing is also contributed by community volunteers to this area.

CONCLUSION

As the strategy was only adopted in October, and has not completed a full year the focus has been on consolidation and commencing actions. The Bushland Management team continue to maintain and enhance 218 hectares of Conservation Parkland and 163 hectares of Conservation Bushland. Community engagement is a key activity and 10 community events were supported.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to implement the Natural Heritage Strategy action plan and review progress.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Natural Heritage Strategy 2015- 2025 and appendices
 - Darebin Urban Forest Strategy
 - Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin,
 - Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan
 - Darebin Waste and Litter Strategy 2015 - 2025
 - Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan
 - GreenStreets Streetscape strategy
 - Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017 Tourism Strategy 2016 - 2021
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1. OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007–2017

AUTHOR: Manager, Leisure & Public Realm

REVIEWED BY: Director Culture, Leisure & Works

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Open Space Strategy provides a strategic framework and guidelines for the upgrade of quality public open space.

Strategy Started On:

The strategy was first adopted in July 2007.

Strategy Ends On:

The strategy is due to end in July 2017.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The strategy is due for review June 2016.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Progress toward achieving this strategy is positive with the goals, actions and guidelines underpinning planning matters, public realm upgrades and urban design improvements.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Sustainable open space outcomes	Use sustainable products. Use local suppliers. Use Environmentally Sensitive Design.	Where possible public realm improvements make use of local materials, recycled or recyclable products, reused items and sustainable options like Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Consult with the community to collaboratively design public open spaces that meet the needs of the communities that use them.	Consult with the community on every new open space design and master plan.	Extensive consultation processes undertaken for Junction Urban Master Plan implementation and Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan. Consultation with the community underpins all open space projects.
Waterways	Maintain relationships with and support Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) and Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC).	Annual financial contribution made to both MCMC and DCMC. Maintain membership on executive committee for each organisation.

Challenges

- Delivering the increasing numbers of capital works projects requiring improved project planning.
- Increasing involvement and growing expectations from residents has identified the need to increase the thoroughness of community consultations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Where possible, recycled or recyclable materials are sourced for use in playspaces. Elements that are still useful are reconditioned and retained. Trees and garden beds are used to provide habitat, offset the urban heat island and increase aesthetics.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

And EIPAT tool analysis is undertaken on all relevant projects and is tailored to suit the needs of each community.

Economic Development

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Open spaces require ongoing maintenance.

CONCLUSION

Council is successfully moving toward implementing the outcomes of the Darebin Open Space Strategy.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to implement the Darebin Open Space Strategy.
- Continue to provide funding for open space maintenance.
- Review the Open Space Strategy in 2016.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Open Space Strategy
-

1. **PLAYSPACE STRATEGY 2010-2020**

AUTHOR: Manager, Leisure & Public Realm

REVIEWED BY: Director Culture, Leisure & Works

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Playspace Strategy provides a strategic framework and hierarchy for the upgrade, renewal and replacement of Darebin's play spaces.

Strategy Started On:

The strategy was first adopted in July 2010.

Strategy Ends On:

The strategy is due to end in July 2020.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The strategy is due for review June 2019.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Progress toward achieving this strategy is positive with funding provided on an ongoing annual basis for the upgrade, renewal or replacement of 6-8 playspaces.

In 2016-2017 Financial Year new playspaces were installed in Breavington Reserve, Broomfield Reserve, Henderson Reserve, Turner Reserve, Newman Reserve and Robinson Capp Reserve. These playspaces have been designed in consultation with the community and are compliant with relevant Australian Standards.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Achieve compliance with Australian Standards	Renew or upgrade playspaces with equipment that is not in compliance with Australian Standards for Playspace Safety	In 2016-2017 Financial Year new playspaces were installed in Breavington Reserve, Broomfield Reserve, Henderson Reserve, Turner Reserve, Newman Reserve and Robinson Capp Reserve. These playspaces have been

		<p>designed in consultation with the community and are compliant with relevant Australian Standards.</p> <p>Pocket Parks Leslie, Nisbett, Mendip, Andrew Boyd, Peter's Reserves also received upgrades to their play spaces.</p> <p>All upgraded or renewed playspaces are 100% compliant with Australian Standards.</p>
<p>Consult with the community to collaboratively design playspaces that meet the needs of the communities that use them.</p>	<p>Consult with the community on every new playspace design.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood parks receive three phases of consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas generation through a letter drop, feedback period and onsite meeting with Council Staff • Draft Design – Designs generated using feedback from the first phase are presented back to the community for comment and feedback. Often, the community is asked to vote for a preference of layout, equipment or theme. This is done through a letter drop, feedback period and onsite meeting with Council Staff. • Final Design – The designs are amended using the feedback from the previous phase and sent back to the community. This phase is accompanied by a timeline for construction.

Create interesting, engaging and sustainable playspaces that cater to children of all abilities, a variety of age groups and offer a variety of play options.	Playspaces are designed to incorporate all abilities elements and are in keeping with the most up to date and best industry practice theories about play.	Playspaces are engaging and well received by the community.
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Challenges

- Procurement processes are lengthy and other aspects of the project must be rushed to fit them in properly. This is the case even with an adopted panel contract.
- Increasing involvement and growing expectations from residents has identified the need to increase the level and thoroughness of community consultations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Where possible, recycled or recyclable materials are sourced for use in playspaces. Elements that are still useful are reconditioned and retained. Trees and garden beds are used throughout play spaces to provide natural play opportunities.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

And EIPAT tool analysis is undertaken on all playspaces and consultation is tailored to suit the needs of each community.

Economic Development

Where possible, seating areas and community spaces are provided in play spaces.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Playspaces require ongoing maintenance. As each playspace is upgraded, the maintenance requirements increase.

CONCLUSION

Council is successfully moving toward implementing the outcomes of the Darebin Playspace Strategy.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to implement the Darebin Playspace Strategy.
- Continue to provide funding for playspace renewal, upgrade and replacement.
- Continue to provide funding for playspace maintenance.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Playspace Strategy
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1. PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACTION PLAN 2015-2017

AUTHOR: Preventing Violence Against Women Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2015-2017 provides a whole-of-council framework to reduce violence against women and improve gender equity. The Action Plan works across the spectrum of prevention and early intervention to support Council's commitment to addressing the underlying causes and key drivers of violence against women across a range of settings, including the Darebin workforce, our community and through Council services and programs.

Strategy Started On:

July 2015

Strategy Ends On:

October 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

October 2017. The 2015/16 action plan is the first year of a two-year bridging action plan, with the new Plan to align with the next Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan cycle.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Implementation of the 2015/16 action plan has been successful, working collaboratively across Council to embed prevention into programs and services delivered to the community. Future work in the preventing violence against women space will be impacted by the findings from the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, with recommended changes to response and prevention systems to be outlined in a new 10 year state-wide Family Violence Plan, and Gender Equality Strategy to be released in November 2016.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
To reduce and prevent violence against women in Council as a workplace	Develop and implement a workplace survey to assess staff knowledge and attitudes towards violence against women	174 staff completed the survey which assessed knowledge and attitudes towards women and violence, providing valuable insight into for further work. The survey will be completed again in 2018/19 and every four years thereafter.

	Develop an E-Learning module for the Family Violence Policy	An eLearning module has been developed and will be rolled out to all staff in August 2016. The module highlights Council's family violence policy and procedures for responding to family violence and creating a safe and respectful workplace.
	Implement Darebin Says No to Family Violence	<p>2015/16 implementation has focused on strengthening of workplace processes to support staff, including developing the eLearning module and a suite of resources for responding to staff disclosures. 15 staff participated in a preventing violence against women in the workplace workshop.</p> <p>Council's whole of workplace program was presented at two interstate conferences and a finalist in the 2015 Vic Health Awards</p> <p>Council held a business leaders lunch with Rosie Batty, focusing on the role that businesses can play in supporting victims of family violence and in creating safe and respectful workplaces. Over 150 people attended.</p>
To ensure Darebin Council services, programs and policies are gender equitable, actively encourage women's full and equal participation and are inclusive of strategies preventing violence against women and children	Continue to work across the Early Years setting to embed positive gender norms and prevention of violence against women	<p>Maternal and Child Health have included family violence as a priority in their continuous improvement plans, including a focus on improving responses to family violence within key ages and stages visits.</p> <p>Continued implementation of place-based family violence prevention in East Reservoir with a strong focus on at-risk families.</p> <p>Council presented at a state-wide MAV conference on recent work to promote positive gender norms in the early years.</p>
	Development of a Muslim specific resource for Muslim leaders, based on the Interfaith Respectful Relationships Toolkit	In partnership with Women's Health In the North, developed updated content for a Muslim faith leader's guide for preventing violence against women. The final resource will be launched in October 2016.

To work with partners and community in developing and implementing prevention of violence against women initiatives	Convene the Darebin Family Violence Network to address and respond to the local needs of women and children	6 network meetings were convened and strongly focused on the findings and implementation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and the impact at a local level.
	Advocate for the elimination of violence against women across local, state and federal government levels and in the community on key issues	Council made submissions to the Parliamentary Senate Inquiry into Domestic Violence and Gender Equality, Royal Commission into Family Violence, and the Victorian Gender Equality strategy consultation. Following the release of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, Council continues to advocate to government on behalf of local family violence issues and service providers.
	Recognition Week Without Violence, 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence & UN International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	<p>More than 150 people joined the Edwardes Lake Park Walk on 17 October to say to family violence</p> <p>Council held the annual March to the Oval on 25 November with more than 80 people, Libraries held an author talk with Phil Cleary.</p> <p>More than 250 Aboriginal women and children attended a Sister's Day Out event held in partnership with the Aboriginal Family Violence and Prevention Legal Service.</p>

Challenges

Preventing violence against women can be a challenging as it requires individuals and organisations to challenge their own attitudes and beliefs about gender. Due to the alarmingly high rates of violence against women in Australia it is also likely that women's experiences are present when we talk about this issue. However, as Council continues to challenge culture and attitudes that contribute to violence against women, there is increased support for conversations about addressing the underlying causes of this violence and implementing prevention initiatives across the organisation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

N/A

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Violence Against women has significant consequences on the health and wellbeing of women and children. It has severe and persistent effects on women's physical and mental health and carries with it an enormous cost in terms of premature death and disability.

The Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) was applied to the Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2012-2015 and identifies that women from Aboriginal backgrounds, immigrant and refugee women, and women with disabilities suffer higher rates of violence and have less access to support services. The action plan also applies a gender lens and identifies that when gender intersects with factors such as age, culture, ethnicity, ability, sexual identity and visa status, women who are marginalised by these factors may be more vulnerable to violence and experience additional barriers to seeking support.

Economic Development

Employment and financial independence are important protective factors against violence and can provide support for survivors of family violence to establish a safe life that is free from violence. Violence against women and their children cost the Australian economy \$21.7 billion in 2014/15. The next iteration of the action plan will explore how to further engage Darebin businesses to address violence against women and reduce the cost and impact to businesses.

Other

The Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan aligns with Council's commitment to gender equity and prevention of violence against women expressed in the Council Plan 2013-17 (strategy 2.16) and in the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-17 (strategy 3.1.4).

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015/16 a 1.0EFT Preventing Violence Against Women Officer Position and \$10K were allocation for the implementation of the Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan. \$30K was allocated for the delivery of place-based family violence prevention programs and the development of a Muslim faith leader resource for preventing violence against women. Council provided \$30,020 to the Darebin Community Legal Centre to deliver a family violence legal education program with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2015-16 has continued to strengthen Council's leadership and commitment to end violence against women. Council's focus on Darebin as a workplace has provided an opportunity to raise the profile of violence against women and build a respectful and non-violent environment, with Council being recognised locally and interstate for promising practise in the workplace setting.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implementation of the final year of the Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2015-2017.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2015-2017
 - Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
 - Community Safety Strategy 2012-2016
-

1. RESPONDING TO HOUSING STRESS – A LOCAL ACTION PLAN 2013 -2017

AUTHOR: Community Planner

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Responding to Housing Stress – A Local Action Plan 2013 -2017 aims to provide a broad based and agile platform for Council actions to respond simultaneously to the multiple challenges in which many of the key drivers for affordable housing are not controlled by local government. In order to maximise Council's leverage and influence to support those households in housing stress and reduce the increasing number of disadvantaged households being priced out of the City, the concept of affordability will be expanded to include the idea of 'affordable living' which takes into account; Transport costs associated with accessing employment areas, services and facilities, Household expenditure on utilities and the costs of adaptable housing as a household needs may change, such as the suitability for people ageing or people with a disability.

Strategy Started On:

November 2013

Strategy Ends On:

June 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

December 2016

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Action Plan 2013-2017 was endorsed at a time when capital investments by Federal and State Governments in affordable housing had ceased and a lack of public discourse around this issue despite its national magnitude.

In 2015 / 2016 there has been a slight shift from this position. There has been an increased public discussion around affordable housing at a federal level (albeit via the debate around 'negative gearing' and other taxation matters), a potential new funding source for affordable housing through the NDIS and some positive messages from a new Victorian State Government.

Key Outcomes for 2015 /2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Increase the level of social and affordable housing in Darebin	Increasing Social and Affordable Housing	<p>Council endorsed the 'Darebin Social and Affordable Housing program on Council owned land.</p> <p>Council identified three (3) Council owned sites as a pilot for the 'Darebin Social and Affordable Housing program on Council owned land.</p> <p>Council formally invites the State Government as a partner to develop one or more of the pilot sites.</p>
Protect and increase the level of public housing	Create a formal engagement process with the Office of Housing (DHHS) around any policy reforms and redevelopment	<p>A renewal of an invitation for an Inter- Governmental collaborative process between Council and the new State Government (via the Department of Health and Human Services) in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jointly develop Council owned sites to maximise yields and to replace local public housing stock; • anticipate, identify and activate appropriate Council regulatory mechanisms for any future State Government 'renewal sites' to facilitate timely investment in these sites with a view to increasing public housing stock • Identify mutually agreeable State owned land in Darebin for inclusionary zoning (Minimum social housing targets).
A balanced approach to homelessness	Reducing homelessness by increasing the number of registered rooming houses	<p>Two Rooming House Forums were convened in partnership with the Registered Accommodation Association of Victoria to promote 'best practice' and increase the number of safe registered rooming houses in Darebin (One forum targeted student housing in collaboration with La Trobe University).</p> <p>A centralised up to date list of all registered rooming houses in Darebin that is available to the public.</p> <p>A retention in the number of registered rooming houses - 36 in 2014 / 2015 and in 2015 /2016</p> <p>Chair of the Metropolitan Melbourne Rooming House Group.</p> <p>Maintain homeless barometer by regular meetings with the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) and the specialist homeless system.</p>

Advocacy	Ensure that the advocacy actions of the Darebin Housing Advisory Committee inform and are informed by other local government housing structures	<p>Additional submission to the Senate Committee review of Social and Affordable Housing</p> <p>Formal response to Federal Government negative gearing proposal.</p> <p>Contribution to 'Parity' (Homelessness Policy Quarterly magazine).</p> <p>Reformation and participation of Housing and Local Government Network (HALGN)</p>
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Challenges

The challenges will continue to inform the future 'roll out' of the plan:

- Gradual net loss of public housing stock
- Lack of legislative mandate and planning for affordable housing
- Under-supply of social and community housing
- Lack of private rental housing for low income households
- The increasingly limited availability of dwellings for purchase by moderate income households
- Lack of housing options for a range of specific groups in Darebin such as people with disabilities and older women
- Lack of homelessness services.

Many of these issues will require long term effort to garner the necessary structural and systemic reforms necessary.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The outcomes of implementing the Policy may have a positive environmental impact for Darebin residents. People who are disadvantaged and excluded often do not have the same opportunity to practise sustainable living, including access to sustainable housing, sustainable housing practices/resources and fresh food. A more inclusive Darebin would also ideally include improvements in sustainable living opportunities for everyone.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Policy directly addresses social inclusion and diversity considerations and responds to the human rights charter and Council's goals and commitments. The Policy gives priority to house those disadvantaged groups identified in Council's Equity and Inclusion Policy and identifies a large number of existing Council policies and plans that are relevant to this work.

Economic Development

Disadvantaged groups may find it difficult to rent houses, procure jobs, and participate fully in society. The provision of social and affordable housing provides a vital step in accessing employment and economic independence.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2014/14 \$10,000 was allocated for the implementation of the Plan and all associated actions.

CONCLUSION

In 2015/16 the Action Plan has built on Council's strong history of facilitating social housing on Council owned land and provides a strong voice for those most in need. Council's effort and clear policy message that the city is 'open for social and affordable housing' has created interest among Registered Housing Associations who are prepared to have a higher profile in the city, and a proactive approach by the Department of Human Services to jointly develop social housing on Council owned land.

With a new Victorian State Government, there is a cautious optimism that the Darebin Social and Affordable Housing Program on Council Owned Land will be realised.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

It is anticipated that a pilot site will be endorsed for the Social and Affordable Housing Program on Council owned sites ('The Program') in late 2015.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015
 - Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (Web)
 - Council Plan 2013-2017
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1. ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP) 2013-2017

AUTHOR: Manager City Works

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director, Operations and Environment

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

Council as a road authority has adopted a Road Management Plan under the Road Management Act 2004 to provide a safe and efficient road network via a coordinated approach and a legal framework for the management of public roads. This articulates the levels of service provided to maintain the integrity of Council's road assets, ensuring that these assets are safe for all road users.

Council, within the timeframe specified under the Act, must review the Road Management Plan every four years and make the revised Plan available for public submissions prior to final adoption.

Strategy Started On:

July 2013

Strategy Ends On:

June 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

Within six months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Introduction and Background

Council, in its role as a road authority, needs to comply with the requirements of the Road Management Act 2004 (RMA). The aim of this Act is to provide a safe and efficient road network via a coordinated approach and a legal framework for the management of public roads.

The Act gives road authorities the option of developing a Road Management Plan (RMP). A RMP articulates the intervention levels that will be implemented to maintain the integrity of Council's road assets, ensuring that these assets are safe for all road users and provides a policy reference to consider claims for damages from road users.

The Road Management Plan:

- Establishes a management system for the road management functions of Council which is based on policy, operational objectives and available resources;
- Establishes the relevant standards or policies in relation to the discharge of duties in the performance of those road management functions; and
- Details the management systems that Council proposes to implement in the discharge of its duty to inspect, maintain and repair those public roads for which Council is responsible.

Council adopted its initial RMP in 2004 and revised it in 2009 and most recently in 2013. Under section 54(5) of the RMA “a road authority must in accordance with the regulations conduct a review of its road management plan at prescribed intervals”. Regulation 301 of the Road Management (General) Regulations 2005 (RMR) requires that Council complete its review of the RMP within six months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

To complete the review, Regulation 302 & 303 of the RMR requires a public notice be published advising of the review of the RMP, a 28 day period for submissions from the public to the revised Plan and consideration of any submissions before Council can adopt the revised RMP.

Key Outcomes for 2015/16

Implementation of the RMP is going well with 99.8% of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set out by Council. Over the year there has been an increase in the Community Satisfaction rating on the condition of sealed local road from 69.3 in the previous year, to 70.8.

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
The criteria for the inclusion or exclusion of roads that Council is responsible for and outlines hierarchies for roads and footpaths is clearly defined	Continue to work with other authorities around Asset Description and Classification	Hierarchies are clear and universally understood.
Describe the level of intervention for asset management and defect rectification.	Maintain Asset Standards and agreed Intervention levels.	Intervention levels have been set in accordance with customer service, cost and risk requirements.
The division of operational responsibility between Vic Roads, Public Transport Providers and Council is detailed and documented.	Public Authorities maintain frequent and clear lines of communication.	Public Authorities cooperate and work collaboratively on public land.

The MAV Insurance Liability Mutual Insurance scheme audit was undertaken in 2015 on roads, footpaths, pathways and tree management compliance review. The Audit provided feedback on the structure of the RMP and systems used by the City Works department to relevant to the review. All the recommendations have been incorporated into the revised RMP.

Challenges

The changes made to the RMP were based on the current resources available to the City Works department and recent increases over the last few years in capital expenditure in footpath/shared path renewals will need to be maintained into the future to meet our current obligation under the RMP.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Recycled materials are used in the maintenance of road assets where possible. The predominant recycled materials used are recycled concrete as crushed rock and hot mix asphalt which has a proportion of recycled asphalt in the mix.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The levels of service provided in the RMP apply to all users who access the Darebin's road assets using their own transport or public transport.

Economic Development

Nil

Other

The RMP reflects the purposes and objectives of Council as specified under Parts 6 and 7 of the Local Government Act, 1989. These objectives are described in the City of Darebin Council Plan 2013 – 2017, which sets the strategic objectives of Council. These include:

“Promote an innovative, vibrant and thriving economy with physical infrastructure that is both well maintained and appropriately regulated.”

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The levels of service provided under the RMP are detailed in Appendix B- Inspection frequencies & Appendix C-Maintenance Standards including response times. The level of service is delivered within the current operating and capital budgets for Infrastructure Maintenance.

CONCLUSION

Council as a road authority has adopted a Road Management Plan under the Road Management Act 2004 to articulate the levels of service provided to maintain the integrity of Council's road assets, ensuring that these assets are safe for all road users. Intervention levels are being met, with 99.8% of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level and customer satisfaction levels have been improved.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Council officers to monitor the impact of the changes to timeframes and ensure our compliance rates continue to be met.
- The plan will be reviewed over coming months as required by June 30 2017.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Acts

- Road Management Act 2004
- Local Government Act 1989

Regulations

- Road Management (General) Regulations 2005
- Road Management (Works and Infrastructure) Regulations 2005

Codes of Practice

- Code of Practice 'Worksite Safety – Traffic Management'
- Code of Practice – 'Operational Responsibility for Public Roads'
- Code of Practice – 'Management of Infrastructure in Road Reserve'

Council Documents

- Road Asset Management Plan
 - Road Geometry and Drainage Design Guidelines
 - Defects and Safety Inspection Manual
 - Register of Public Roads
 - Drainage Strategy
 - Open Space Asset Management Plan
 - General Local Law 2005
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**1. SEXUALITY, SEX AND GENDER DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN
2012-2015**

AUTHOR: Diversity Policy Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015 (SSGD-AP) cascades from the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015 (E&IP) that identifies twelve groups of Darebin residents at risk of exclusion, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community members. The plan aims to foster understanding, inclusion and equality for our LGBTIQ community members and to strengthen the participation and rights of all in Darebin, regardless of sexuality, sex characteristics or gender identity. The Plan is one way for Council to contribute to addressing homophobia, biphobia transphobia and any type of discrimination on the basis of sexuality or sex and gender identity more broadly. The Plan outlines actions to promote inclusion by valuing diversity within our organisation, promoting inclusive practices throughout our services and programs, and working in partnership with our community to respond, support and advocate for a fairer and more inclusive society for SSASGD people.

Strategy Started On:

August 2012 (Council resolution 6 August 2012).

Strategy Ends On:

June 2017

Strategy Reviewed By:

June 2017. The Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015 has been extended to align with the Council Plan and Community Health and Wellbeing Plan planning cycles.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The SSGD Action Plan assists and strengthens Council's approach to social inclusion and diversity by proposing concrete actions to address issues of discrimination and exclusionary practices on the basis of sexuality, sex characteristics and gender identity across the municipality. This is the first time Darebin has developed and implemented a plan to promote inclusion of LGBTIQ people across our organisation, services and the community. The Plan has increased Darebin's organisational capacity to understand and respond to the unique needs of LGBTIQ communities.

In its fourth year of implementation, with the continued support of a very active advisory committee, implementation of the SSGD-AP has progressed steadily and fruitfully. This report provides an update on activities and projects that took place between July 2015 and June 2016.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
To achieve an organisational culture that is welcoming, inclusive and respectful of SSGD staff and strives for equal opportunity.	Develop SSGD-sensitive internal practices: Training and professional development	LGBTI-related training included in in diversity capabilities framework. Training for Family and Children services on working with same-sex parented families carried out in March 2016. Screening of State Government apology to individuals convicted under laws that previously criminalised homosexual act organised for staff (May 2016)
	Policies, plans and strategies are inclusive of SSGD residents	EIPAT application on several Council draft strategies highlighted the need to consult and respond to the needs of SSGD communities. Consultation with SSGDAC carried out on draft Darebin Public Toilet Strategy in September 2015 - strategy reviewed to respond to identified needs.
	Research & data gathering	Quarterly Community surveys' question on Council services' inclusiveness of LGBTI residents. Council surveys/evaluation forms routinely contain inclusive gender options (male/female/other).
	Partnerships	Strong collaboration by various Council units with LGBTI organisations & networks including Q-North Network, MatrixGuild, AGMC (through planning for <i>Colour of Youth</i>)... Continued and strengthened partnership with Banyule CC and Moreland CC on LGBTI projects, extended to Yarra CC from February 2016. Council representation on VLGA Rainbow working group and participation in VLGA-run "Local Government Turns Rainbow" forum (April 2016).
To ensure that Darebin Council services, programs and policies are accessible and responsive to, and inclusive and supportive of SSGD residents.	Review Council services for inclusiveness	<i>LGBTIQ Inclusive Language Guide</i> used to guide review of Kindergarten and Child Care forms, Library feedback form, Reservoir Leisure Centre Membership Form. Guide also applied to wording of new booklist and to provide feedback on parenting session flyer.
	Support SSASQ youth in Darebin	Youth Services organised the Youth Diversity celebration as part of Midsumma 2016, as well as celebration of IDAHOBIT 2016 with activities at Thornbury High School, Northland Youth Centre and Decibels program.

	<p>Continue to provide inclusive material in Darebin Libraries</p> <p>Cater for ageing SSGD residents and SSGD residents with a disability.</p> <p>Develop SSGD-inclusive communication and marketing</p> <p>Include SSGD Community in Community grants</p>	<p>Libraries developed “Family-friendly books about same-sex parents, sexuality and gender” booklist (launched at Midsumma 2016), ran two LGBTIQ focused events (author talk for Midsumma and film screening for IDAHOBIT) and continue to provide access to LGBTIQ literature, magazines, etc.</p> <p>Aged and Disability Team worked with community organisations to offer a LGBTI-inclusive Seniors month 2015 event, ensured confidential and culturally sensitive care was provided to a transgender client with concerns around HACC, and renewed engagement with SSGDAC as a way to inform and develop their community development approach in an LGBTI-inclusive way. LGBTIQ senior organisations included as part of the Older and Active in Darebin Directory.</p> <p>Significant LGBTIQ dates recognised through Council communications including: Mayor’s Columns, media releases and advertisements on Northcote & Preston Leaders.</p> <p>Three LGBTIQ projects funded through community grants including Positive Attitude, MatrixGuild and Engaging LGBTI Youth Through Performance Poetry.</p>
<p>To support residents, as well as sector and community partnerships and projects to foster a Darebin community culture that is inclusive and respects SSGD residents’ full and equal participation in community life.</p>	<p>Show Darebin’s recognition of and commitment to its SSGD residents</p> <p>Work towards inclusion of SSGD communities through community events, arts and culture and sports.</p> <p>Support diverse families</p> <p>Support culturally and linguistically diverse SSGD</p>	<p>Ongoing coordination and contribution of the highly committed Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee, with SSGDAC presence at Darebin Community and Kite festival 2016.</p> <p>Rainbow Flag and Darebin is Coming Out Banner exhibited at Northcote and Preston Town Halls during IDAHOBIT week.</p> <p>Council supported community event to recognise and support our LGBTI residents in the wake of the Orlando homophobic shooting (community Iftar June 2016).</p> <p>Darebin Council participated in Midsumma Carnival and Pride March in partnership with Moreland and Banyule City Councils. Commemoration of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) included a flag-raising ceremony, session on the experiences of same-sex attracted women from immigrant and refugee backgrounds and screening of <i>Gayby Baby</i>.</p> <p>Official Council support to marriage equality endorsed 6 July 2015</p> <p>Continued work on intersections between sexuality/gender identity and culture/faith: one</p>

	<p>residents and vulnerable SSGD residents</p> <p>Work towards a safer, more inclusive city for SSGD peoples.</p>	<p>IDAHOBIT (see above), planning and Council support for AGMC-run for Colour of Youth Conference (young SSAITGD people from diverse backgrounds – postponed), planning for a panel on sexuality/gender identity and faith as part of November 2016 VINC. Contact with VAHS re: potential development of a support group for young LGBTI Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>Renewed advocacy on Council from Council on legal and human rights issues facing LGBTI residents. Council support to Safe Schools Coalition (21 March 2016) and practical ways to support Darebin schools who are members of SSC and their SSAITGD young people.</p>
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Challenges

As the Plan is in its fourth year of implementation, work on LGBTIQ issues has become more sustained and embedded throughout Council and has gained more traction. Coherent integration of SSGD-AP actions to broader organisational capacity initiatives such as the EIPAT and the Diversity Capabilities Framework, along with sustained support from the highest levels of the organisation have assisted in achieving this. Ongoing work will continue to further build and strengthen internal capacity on LGBTIQ issues and ensure there is systematic consideration of LGBTIQ needs through the consistent uptake of the EIPAT from the early stages of planning across the whole organisation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) was applied in the development of the Plan. The SSGD-AP specifically addresses the needs of Darebin’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) residents, one of the priority groups identified in the Equity and Inclusion Policy (E&IP). Through application of the EIPAT, the plan also considers the intersections of sexuality, sex characteristics and gender identity with other grounds for vulnerability, notably youth; old age; Aboriginality, cultural and linguistic diversity, disability, social isolation. The SSGD Action Plan is aligned with the explicit support for a broadened understanding of diversity expressed in the Darebin City Council Plan 2013-2017 Diversity Statement.

Economic Development

Through creating a LGBTIQ-inclusive municipality and supporting LGBTIQ residents to participate fully and equally, the plan might offer opportunities for economic development and potential job creation in the municipality.

Other

The SSGDAP aligns with the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-15 and contributes to Council's commitment to LGBTIQ residents expressed in the Council Plan 2013-17 (Diversity Statement and KPI 2.9).

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015-2016 \$8,150 was directly allocated for the implementation of the SSGD-AP. Actions, events and projects were progressed within this budget. Additional resources contributing to the aims of the plan were provided through other Council departments responsible for progressing aspects of the LGBTIQ-inclusive work (e.g. Aged and Disability, Youth services, Libraries, Communications).

CONCLUSION

Work on the SSGD-AP has continued to progress fruitfully in its fourth year of implementation. Supported by a very active and committed advisory committee, Council has made sustained progress, reached key milestones and laid down groundwork for future achievements. The focus of the fifth and final year of the plan will be on embedding inclusive practice, providing welcoming and safe environments throughout our city and working in partnership with community organisations and other councils to strengthen advocacy and action across matters of key concern for SSGD communities. Sustainability and continuation of the work beyond the life of the Plan will be a key consideration for the year to come. The new planning cycle should aim for Darebin City Council to continue being recognised as a leader in this field that other Councils draw upon or ask for advice.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implementation of SSGD-AP ongoing actions for 2016-2017
- Contribution to VLGA Roads, Rates, Rubbish and Rainbows tool-kit/guide for local governments
- LGBTIQ health and wellbeing research project
- Review of Plan and redevelopment in line with broader Council planning cycle

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015
 - Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
 - Council Plan 2013-2017
-

1. DAREBIN TRANSPORT STRATEGY (DTS) 2007-2027

AUTHOR: Senior Transport Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Assets and Business Services

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Going Places - Darebin Transport Strategy 2007 – 2027 (DTS) is Council's plan for managing transport and traffic in the City Of Darebin over the next 20 years. Its aim is to enable Darebin residents to move through the transport network with ease while addressing the environmental and social issues caused by our existing reliance on a car-based transport system.

Since the release of the DTS in 2007, a number of changes have occurred at a local and state government level. In light of this and acknowledging the changing demographic in Darebin, Council resolved to review the DTS in 2015.

Strategy Started On:

The DTS was adopted in October 2007. The review of the DTS was undertaken in 2015 and adopted by Council in December 2015.

Strategy Ends On:

The DTS will finish in 2027.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The DTS is due to be reviewed in 2021/22.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The DTS has eight key objectives; the actions undertaken in 2015/16 to address these are discussed below.

The Darebin Transport Strategy was reviewed in 2015 to ensure that the DTS remains current in light of a number of changes to local and state government policy and wider contextual developments.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
To improve local and metropolitan accessibility	Completion of the Junction Urban Master Plan, with delivery in 2016/17 and first stages of work on the Thornbury Master Plan for delivery in 2016/17 and 2017/18	Supporting greater access and inclusion for the community to activity centres.
	Worked in partnership with PTV, Transdev, Yarra Trams and MetroTrains to construct pedestrian refuges near Northcote and Thornbury train stations and other improvements to tram and bus stop infrastructure.	Providing infrastructure that benefits people accessing train stations, tram and bus stops
	Construction of pedestrian and cycling facilities to improve local accessibility including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boldrewood Parade intersection with North Street in Reservoir • Construction Langwells Parade connection to the car park of Northcote Plaza • Darling Street Pedestrian Refuge • Provided an additional 238m of new shared path on Normanby Ave 	Improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure along key routes and near major destinations such as activity centres, open spaces and schools
To increase the role of sustainable transport modes	Ongoing active advocacy and collaboration with State Government agencies including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully advocated for the removal of 3 level crossings in Darebin. • Advocated to PTV and Transdev to retain existing 902 SmartBus services. • Team Leader Transport Strategy seconded to PTV to work on improvements to tram Routes 86 and 11. • La Trobe shuttle introduced in 2016. • Worked with PTV to achieve upgrades to bus stop infrastructure. 	Continuing to explore avenues to improve provision of public transport services and access to public transport infrastructure for our community
	Council has been delivering the action plan for the Safe Travel Strategy and the Cycling Strategy	An average 84% growth in bicycle volumes has been recorded on St Georges Rd (2007-2014).
	Promoted live website for St Georges Rd Bike Counter to external stakeholders	The St Georges Road bike counter recorded approximately 520,000 riders using the St Georges Rd shared path in 2015/2016, 4% more than the previous year.
	Development of the Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) as part of the development of the Walking Strategy	PPN is guiding the investment in pedestrian infrastructure in Darebin

	Submission to VicRoads's Chandler Highway Bridge duplication project	The submission highlighted the need for considering of sustainable transport options such as improvement of bus services and better walking and cycling facilities, as well as safety improvements at the intersection of Chandler Highway/ Heidelberg Rd
To build new developments that reduce transport demands	Collaborated with the Strategic Planning Team to ensure positive transport outcomes in key development areas such as Northland Urban Renewal Precinct and the La Trobe National Employment Cluster, and through grade separation projects.	Ensure that development offers existing and future residents and businesses more travel choices and enhancement of urban amenity Explore opportunities to achieve better land use and transport integration outcomes from large transport infrastructure interventions. This is particularly important for Reservoir Level Crossing Removal.
	Submission to City of Yarra's public consultation for the AMCOR site	Submission highlighted the need for a staged transport plan that truly considers sustainable transport to and from the site and manage the impact of grow in transport demand on neighbour municipalities such as Darebin
	Advice on transport elements of large developments such as the Australia Post, Preston Central Master Plan and Fairfield	Consideration of walking, cycling and public transport initiatives and optimisation of parking during planning stages.
	Ongoing. Through the Statutory Planning process, developments are reviewed to ensure that they adequately address all modes of transport in the proposed designs. Where appropriate, car parking waivers are also supported, particularly where alternate transport infrastructure and travel plans are proposed.	Developments are being reviewed with a consideration of sustainable transport options.
To increase social inclusion for residents	Ongoing work in partnership with PTV to improve bus services in Darebin	Introduction of new bus route 382 between Northland and Whittlesea, replacing an existing route, but with higher frequencies than previous service. Introduction of Route 301, the LaTrobe shuttle, which operates between Reservoir Station and LaTrobe University
	The development and implementation of the Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan.	TAC grant for pedestrian improvements on Broadway and Edwardes St

	The expansion of the car share program.	Five car share bays were installed in 2015/16 enhancing transport options for businesses and residents
	Ongoing projects to provide bus shelters throughout Darebin, bike parking at train stations and in activity centres, improve safety of routes within neighbourhoods that experience disadvantage, and the implementation of shimmy routes for less confident bike users, all help those that do not have access to a car, or choose not to use one to get around Darebin.	Enhance travel choices in Darebin
To improve health and environment outcomes	<p>Integration of land use and transport planning to reduce the need to travel, has a combined effect in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving personal health</p> <p>Implementation of travel behavioural change programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 local workplaces ran Ride to Work Day breakfasts • Council ran 19 bike education courses for adults including five Back on the Bike sessions, two Urban Cycling Confidence courses, six Basic Bike Maintenance Courses, one Women on Wheels session and two Riding Skills for Parents Course, and three commuting 101 for over 160 people <p>Capital programs for the Safe Travel and Cycling Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructed three new refuges to allow bike riders to cross main roads safely on popular bike routes, and a contra flow bike lane on Tyler Street to allow bike riders to ride west between High Street and Plenty Road in Preston • Installed way finding for the new Great Western shimmy back street bike route between Northcote and Reservoir • Partnered with Melbourne Water to develop a master plan for the reinstatement of the St Georges Road median shared path and trees following replacement of the water main 	Encourage active travel for transport have incidental health benefits, these include cycle training for adults, support for older adults to walk and use public transport
	Completed the replacement of halogen traffic signals with LED lights	LED lights have been very successful in reducing council's energy consumption and maintenance costs

	Inclusion of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features into transport infrastructure projects	WSUD helps to future proof our city for climate change adaptation, manage stormwater and council's garden irrigation needs
To improve community safety	Finalisation of the Safe Travel Strategy 2010-2015 in process of update. The STS included the implementation of travel behavioural change programs for children, audits around schools and in neighbourhood areas to identify barriers to walking and cycling: 5 teachers at 3 schools were trained in Bike Ed and 6 schools ran Bike Ed programs Provision of a bike fleet of 15 bicycles, helmets and mini street signs to Bell Primary school to run active travel initiatives including Bike Ed	Reduction in the number of vehicle crashes and in the number of crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists Increase the uptake of Bike Ed programs among schools
	Tailored safety campaigns and training courses for people on bikes and for older residents including with 19 bike education courses run specifically for adults	Supporting our community to ride safely, reducing crashes and increasing mobility.
	Audits of key routes on the PPN to understand how to improve routes for pedestrians.	Supports the delivery of the Community Safety Strategy objectives to design and provide safe public spaces
	Reduced speed limits from 60km/hr to 50km/hr on Arthurton Road, Northcote; Miller Street, Preston; Regent Street, Gilbert Road and Edwardes Street, Reservoir and from 50km/hr to 40km/hr in the Northcote precinct between Clarke St, Victoria Road and the Merri Creek to improve safety for all road users.	Increased safety for all road users
To integrate quality urban design, economic development and access	Ongoing advocacy to achieve improvements to tram infrastructure	Low Floor E-class trams committed for introduction to Tram Route 86 in 2016/17
	The Cycling Strategy and draft Walking Strategy action plan have both focused on projects that support active travel to local centres.	Improvement of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to activity centres and local destinations
	Participation on the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct (NURP) and the LaTrobe Cluster	Influence MPA to consider more sustainable transport options in planning for the LaTrobe Cluster including improvement of bus services and consideration of a new tram line

	Used the results of the 2015 municipality wide Traffic and Transport Survey, and data on speeding, crashes and traffic volumes to identify where traffic management needed to be targeted in the municipality.	Local areas safer and more pleasant for the local community.
To engage stakeholders through effective communication	Consulted the Springthorpe residents group on traffic management treatments for their area.	Effectively plan a safer and more pleasant environment for the local community, with their support and engagement.
	Implementation of a broad variety of travel behaviour change programs and marketing campaigns to encourage people to use walking, cycling and public transport. Council ran 19 bike education courses for adults including five Back on the Bike sessions, two Urban Cycling Confidence courses, six Basic Bike Maintenance Courses, one Women on Wheels session and two Riding Skills for Parents Course, and three commuting 101 for over 160 people	Strong uptake of active transport in Darebin particularly cycling.
	Darebin is represented, and actively participates in the NorthWest4 road safety committee, Metropolitan Transport Forum, Victorian Sustainable Transport Interest Group and Cross Council Bicycle Network. Transport matters relating to the delivery of this strategy are regularly discussed as part of Council's Darebin Local Safety Committee, and Darebin Disability Advisory Committee.	Local road safety issues are communicated to Victoria Police's Epping Highway Patrol to share information about the municipality and request enforcement where needed
	A successful Bicycle Advisory Committee has been set up, and provides a useful forum for the community to engage with Council around cycling issues.	Improved communication with the cycling community regarding pressing safety and infrastructure issues
	A number of community advocacy campaigns have also been run, including for an extension of tram Route 11, for upgrade of the St Georges Road shared path, grade separation and for the improvement of tram Route 86	Influence stakeholders to include sustainable transport elements in the delivery of these projects
	Local road safety issues are communicated to Victoria Police's Epping Highway Patrol to share information about the municipality and request enforcement where needed	Information is shared about road safety issues and enforcement requested where needed
	Council meets regularly with relevant representatives from VicRoads, Public Transport Victoria, and other relevant state government departments and service authorities.	Council is able to facilitate good road, public transport and walking and cycling outcomes for the community.

Challenges

- Parking strategy. Parking management can be a critical tool to achieve sustainable transport outcomes in Darebin. Council needs to work with the community to explore mechanisms to manage the demand for parking given the limited options to expand the parking supply, particularly in activity centres.
- Walking Strategy. Council completed the Principle Pedestrian Network (PPN) in 2015 which will inform the Walking Strategy action plan. Internal consultation was completed in 2015/16 and is expected the new strategy will be completed in 2016/17.
- The LaTrobe National Employment Cluster and Northland Urban Renewal Precinct (NURP). The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA – former Metropolitan Planning Authority) is responsible for the planning and delivery of the La Trobe National Employment Cluster which includes Darebin's NURP. VPA's direction for the La Trobe Cluster is likely to determine Council's land use and transport plans for the NURP including key projects such as improvement of bus services and introduction of a new tram line in the precinct.
- Major transport projects. Major transport projects such as the Chandler Highway duplication and rail grade separation of Grange Road, Bell Street and Reservoir represent a once in a lifetime opportunity. Council must ensure that these projects, as well as delivering the crucial transport improvements, result in an enhanced outcome for future generations by way of land use and public realm improvements.
- Tram route 86 stage 2. Completion of the tram Route 86 project remains a priority for council. However, tram service performance improvements have not been as great as anticipated, and a lack of funding has delayed the completion of stage 2 between Dundas St and Separation St. Improvements to tram Route 86 are key elements in achieving expected land use, economic, environmental, transport and place-making outcomes considered in the Thornbury Master Plan and Preston Junction Master Plan.
- Introduction of E-Class trams and optimisation of tram stops. Yarra Trams and Public Transport Victoria are rolling out the new E-class trams thru Metropolitan Melbourne with Routes 11 and 86 being amongst the first to get the new trams. However, E-Class trams require longer stops which could result in the loss of some tram stops and car parking along the routes where new trams are introduced.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The Darebin Transport Strategy has environmental sustainability at its core as Council has recognised the link between sustainable transport, local living, accessibility, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and reduction on consumption of fossil fuels. The implementation and monitoring of the Strategy will enable Council to track progress towards its goals and inform the community of this progress.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The strategy is consistent with Human Rights principles and Council's Equity and Inclusion objectives to ensure that Darebin residents can maintain their independence as much as possible and this means being able to travel to attend appointments or access goods and services.

The strategy acknowledges that there are many different transport options to help individuals to maintain their independence, especially those on low income and with restricted mobility.

The strategy is also consistent with Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan by ensuring the transport informs the major determinants of health including, access to the built environment, economic participation, social interaction and cultural participation

Economic Development

To have successful businesses in Darebin requires an efficient transport system that connects customers to businesses and employees to jobs in an efficient manner. Congestion is becoming a major issue in Greater Melbourne Area and Darebin has been impacted by the strong population growth in Whittlesea and also inner city growth. The Darebin Transport Strategy supports the improvement in productivity as well as the creation of jobs in Darebin. The provision of good quality infrastructure to encourage walking, cycling and public transport is an effective mean to manage congestion in Darebin.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The DTS guides Council's transport management delivery program and provides a vehicle for integrating sustainable transport into the delivery of related capital works projects across other areas of Council. Future budget will be sought through future years funding allocations.

External funding opportunities to support greater investment in transport for the community are sought wherever possible. In 2015/16 grants were provided for safe travel to school audits (VicRoads), a raised intersection at a school (TAC Local Government Grants), a number of Water Sensitive Urban Design projects as part of larger works (Melbourne Water), and a Walk to School month program (VicHealth). A Change to Walking grant (VicHealth and Victoria Walks) and another Walk to School month program (VicHealth) have been provided to Council in 2016/17.

Changing demographics and a growing population are increasing the pressures on the Darebin transport network. The community has expressed a strong expectation that Council will respond to these changes and increase its role in managing transport. Implementing this and other transport strategies for Darebin, will assist to manage these demands, however some elements will be resource intensive and will need to be prioritised against other Council priorities.

CONCLUSION

The Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027 continues to achieve positive outcomes in the key action areas of accessibility, use of sustainable transport modes, reducing transport demand through land use, increasing social inclusion for residents, improving health and environmental outcomes, community safety, integrating urban design with economic development and access, and engaging stakeholders through effective communication.

Generally the aspirations of the strategy remain current and do not need to change. During the 2015 review the policies and actions were amended to reflect changes in the wider local and state government strategic environment, or where actions are now complete.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue to deliver the DTS Actions
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of DTS as per the adopted Targets.
- Report annually on the DTS through the Annual Report to Council on Darebin Strategies

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027
 - Darebin, the Place to Live. Council Plan 2013 - 2017
 - Municipal Strategic Statement 2015 (approved by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in October 2015)
 - Darebin Safe Travel Strategy 2010-2015
 - Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013-2018
 - Darebin Housing Strategy 2013 – 2033
 - Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
 - Reservoir Structure Plan 2012 - 2030 and
 - Urban Renewal Strategy - High Street and Plenty Road 2011-2020
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1. URBAN FOOD PRODUCTION STRATEGY 2014 -2018

AUTHOR: Sustainable Food Officer

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Operations and Environment

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Urban Food Production (UFP) Strategy provides the scope and direction for how Council will work with the Darebin community to realise a shared vision for the cultivation, processing and distribution of food in Darebin, which is: 'local food systems which are secure, healthy, sustainable and fair.' It outlines how Council will guide and support the food growing and preparation culture which already exists in Darebin to result in a greater capacity across the community to make healthy and sustainable food choices.

Strategy Started On:

August 2014

Strategy Ends On:

August 2018

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

August 2018

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Strategy and Implementation Plan includes the specific tasks and performance measures for the adopted actions across four strategic action areas: **1. Home Food Growing; 2. Community Gardens; 3. Other Urban Food Production Models and 4. Integrated Approach to Planning for Urban Food Production.** Issues relating to Urban Food Production cuts across multiple Council areas, therefore the Implementation Plan emphasises collaboration across the organisation and with our community and partners to achieve the objectives of the Plan. Good progress has been made across the four areas, with some of the key outcomes captured below.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
1. Develop and implement resources and programs to inspire, support and address perceived barriers to home food growing across different sectors of the community	Review and develop the Darebin Backyard Harvest Festival program in partnership with the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC)	Highest number of attendees overall (321) and attendance rate (88%) ever recorded in the events 4 year history at the 2015 Spring festival, and 60 participants at the 2016 Autumn festival (held in conjunction with the 2016 Homemade Food and Wine Festival). Universally positive feedback given by gardeners and participants at all events.

<p>2. Develop partnerships between Council departments and / or with external agencies to deliver home food growing, preserving and preparation initiatives as part of an integrated approach to creating resilient and connected communities</p>	<p>Implement place based initiatives targeting areas of disadvantage, as identified in the Neighbourhood Action Plans.</p>	<p>The following projects demonstrably supported capacity building in home food growing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walker Street housing estate program; • East Preston / Scouts partnership to install temporary / raised garden beds & conduct gardening workshops; • Partnership with DIVRS to support the Eric Street housing estate community garden and kitchen; • Horticultural and community development support for East Reservoir Community Garden (ERCG)
<p>3. Support the community to manage existing and implement new community food garden initiatives</p>	<p>Develop communal food garden site assessment guidelines and checklist to support applications for community gardens on Council land.</p>	<p>Site assessment checklist, including community consultation steps, developed and promoted.</p>
	<p>Collaborate with schools and public housing tenants on urban food production projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,000 project supported the establishment of 2 community gardens at housing estates in Preston. • Council partnered with the Pavilion School to build the Sylvester Hive Community Garden on the grounds of the school. More than 30 local residents registered interest in being involved in management / gardening activities • Council funded community garden feasibility studies for Reservoir High school and East Preston Islamic College
<p>4. Create an internal forum and process to consider and develop a range of urban food production models / proposals</p>	<p>Develop an Urban Food Production (UFP) working group of Council officers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group formed, and meet bimonthly.
	<p>Continue to support UFP projects / initiatives through the Community Support Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of \$12,800 community grants awarded to 6 community initiatives, including 4 communal food growing sites and 2 food growing education initiatives.
<p>5. Provide opportunities for Darebin's sustainable food network to learn from innovative urban food production models and leading sustainable food businesses to inspire ideas and collaboration</p>	<p>Present UFP case studies / projects at Sustainable Food Leaders Forums and as part of the SHC Community Leaders in Sustainability program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies presented at two Sustainable Food Leaders forums attended by 42 community group representatives
	<p>Support the Fruit Squad to explore partnerships with schools, community centres and / or not-for-profits as part of developing an</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under DIVRS leadership, Fruit Squad engaged 19 volunteers to collect 2000kg for the 2015/16 financial year. Supported successful external funding to explore new

	ongoing funding model	funding models. Tree registrations increased from 270 to 378, with 130 coming from partnerships with Sprout, All Nations Park, Bundoora Homestead and Coopers Settlement
6. Align and integrate the vision, approach and actions of the UFP Strategy with other relevant Council plans and policies eg. the Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan review and Tourism Strategy	Recognise UFP in the Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan as a key pillar to facilitate long term, sustained access to fresh, nutritious food in Darebin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to implement the UFP Strategy / Implementation Plan has been recognised under Objective 1 of the Draft Plan, which is: Increase food and nutrition access and affordability for Darebin residents
	Recognise the potential of local food initiatives / businesses to enhance the visitor experience in Darebin's Tourism Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions in the Tourism Strategy include leveraging Darebin's cultural food events such as Homemade Food and Wine and Backyard Harvest Festivals and develop / promote Darebin's unique urban food offering

Challenges

The UFP Strategy is concerned with how Council can support UFP as part of the creation of local food systems in Darebin as well as Melbourne more widely. Food systems are complex, and to establish sustainable long term local food models, all components from production, processing / preparation, distribution, retailing, consumption and disposal need to be linked and integrated. While a number of good site specific local food initiatives have been implemented, Planning legislation and Planning Schemes do not currently allow for the consideration of UFP initiatives as part of weighing up the net community benefit of urban development and design. The development of GC42 Panel Sustainable Development Local Planning Policy is an important step in addressing these issues.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The environmental impacts of conventional food growing are significant in terms of greenhouse emissions, water use, land degradation and species loss. Urban Food Production provides a platform for Council to highlight the benefits of sourcing local seasonal food which respects the limits of our natural resources. The strategic action areas of Home food growing, community gardens and other food production models are all based on positive environmental outcomes, such as improved soil and plant biodiversity, urban greening, water and waste recycling and a reduction of the urban heat island effect.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

An Equity and Inclusion Assessment and Evaluation (EIPAT) has been conducted for this Strategy. The UFP Strategy Implementation Plan includes actions which direct the positive health and social connectivity outcomes of urban food production to groups who are at risk of social isolation or food insecurity.

Economic Development

Strategic Action area 3 *Other Urban Production Models* supports the goal of fostering innovation and collaboration between business and the community to enable community based local food enterprises become part of the local economy.

Other

The explicit recognition of food production in the Council Plan and Health and Well-being plan as well as the reference to and support for UFP in many other Council policies and plans is a considerable advantage for achieving the required cross council support and collaboration for the objectives and actions of the Strategy.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2015/16 Urban Food Production Strategy actions were delivered within the Environment and Natural Resources budget.

CONCLUSION

Council has been successful in delivering a wide range of actions to meet our four strategic action areas, with all 16 actions in these areas either implemented or underway. The outcomes of the reporting period have been achieved within the current sustainable food budget. A collaborative cross-council approach (facilitated through the bimonthly UFP working group) has been essential for delivering the priority actions and projects. Linking and integrating the objectives and actions of the UFP Strategy with the Food Security and Nutrition and Action Plan and Tourism has been a major step towards address UFP in an integrated way to deliver interrelated benefits which include growing the local economy, building resilient communities and delivering social gain.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continued implementation of the strategic actions to support the delivery of the outcomes sought in the UFP Strategy.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 2014-18 Urban Food Production Strategy
 - 2014-18 Urban Food Production Implementation Plan
 - Communal Food Garden Assessment Guidelines
 - Food Security Policy (2010)
 - Community Climate Change Action Plan (2009)
 - Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan (2009)
 - GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy (2012)
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1. URBAN FOREST STRATEGY 2013-2028

AUTHOR: Manager Parks and Vegetation

REVIEWED BY: Director Culture, Leisure and Works

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Urban Forest is an integral part of Darebin contributing environmental, amenity, human health and well-being benefits. Given the current pressure on our 'green assets' due to climate change, medium density development and maintenance requirements, a focused effort is required to ensure the ongoing success of our Urban Forest. The Strategy calls for an increase in the tree canopy coverage on public land to 25% in 15 years. The current coverage stands at approximately 14%.

The Urban Forest Strategy will increase liveability and provide a greater 'connection to nature' by building partnerships with the community and other key stakeholders to explore opportunities for planting in the City of Darebin.

Strategy Started On:

16 December 2013

Strategy Ends On:

December 2028

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The strategy calls for the tree canopy coverage to be measured every five years. The first review will be due 2018.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Over the last year Council has as part of the strategy implementation been involved in community planting events at Springthorpe and Edwardes Lake, doubled the number of trees planted in the infill and whole street planting program, given away over 3,000 trees to residents at community events, provided trees to several schools and community groups and continued a tree planting program for parks above the usual programs such as pocket park improvements. Further tree planting has been undertaken in Cheddar road.

As well as aiming to increase the tree canopy across Darebin the strategy is also concerned with the maintenance and impacts of the Urban Forest. Electric line clearance, one of the major risks faced by Council due to fire hazards and the potential for fines imposed for each breach of the line clearance regulations has been achieved. The program now moves to a sustainable two year cycle.

The strategy is on target to meet its major aims with the exception of the introduction of a significant tree register.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Develop and maintain a healthy, resilient, diverse and safe Urban Forest that will provide multiple and long-term benefits to the community and the environment	Tree Protection- Introduce a significant tree register	Register not introduced. The proposed method of registration and limited protection was not endorsed by Council
Develop and maintain a healthy, resilient, diverse and safe Urban Forest that will provide multiple and long-term benefits to the community and the environment	Develop and maintain an inventory of the Urban Forest	90% of the street and park tree population has been surveyed. The survey covers species, age, height, safe useful life expectancy and risk rating. The information has been uploaded to Council's GIS system and will be used to better inform tree planting and maintenance programs
Create a large scale community carbon reduction project through extensive community consultation and collaboration with community planting groups	Encourage the active participation of Darebin community groups in planting projects	Trees have been provided to the Merri Stationeers, Northcote Stationeers, Dennis Stationeers and Croxton School as local community owned projects. Community planting days have been held with Springthorpe residents and at Edwardes Lake
Increase tree coverage on public lands to at least 25% over 15 years in the City of Darebin	Identify high priority areas for planting that will achieve multiple benefits for Darebin and maximise the contribution to achieving the canopy coverage target	Street tree plantings both infill and whole street in Reservoir have been increased after surveys showed this was the area most deficient in substantial tree cover. The net gain this year was again in excess of 900 trees
Develop and maintain a healthy, resilient, diverse and safe Urban Forest that will provide multiple and long-term benefits to the community and the environment	Fund a cyclic (2 year) electric line clearance program to achieve and maintain compliance.	The City is now compliant for electric line clearance. The program was completed 6 months earlier than expected and we have moved in to a 2 year pruning cycle

Create a large scale community carbon reduction project through extensive community consultation and collaboration with community planting groups	Provide incentives for tree planting on private land. A program of donating trees to property owners will be considered	Over 3000 trees given to residents at various Council community activities and other community events for planting on private property
Planting opportunities	Public authorities cooperate and work collaboratively with Darebin to increase tree planting and canopy cover on public utility land	Further plantings and landscape improvements along Cheddar rd Reservoir in collaboration with Melbourne Water. Trees and assistance have been provided to Croxton School to enhance their grounds

Challenges

Difficulties have been minimal. There is resistance in some communities to increased tree planting and in others to the removal of aging, no longer safe trees or inappropriate trees. These have been settled through increased community consultation and participation in the decision making process.

Over the last two years there has been a significant increase in the number of trees planted the implication of this will be increased maintenance costs unless additional support is given to formative pruning.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The Urban Forest Strategy advocates for an increased tree canopy across the city which will help to reduce the heat island effect, improves air quality and increases carbon sequestration. The use of water sensitive urban design (WSUD) in streetscapes decreases storm water runoff and increases water filtration which is also identified in this strategy along with Council's recently adopted GreenStreets Strategy. Avenues of trees create bio-links and important habitat for local fauna.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Urban Forest Strategy impacts on all members of the community.

Trees and open spaces can contribute to both physical and mental wellbeing. Ensuring access and cultural issues and competing needs for open space are considered in the development of a Darebin Urban Forest Strategy it will benefit the community by providing enhanced green space and a greater connection to nature.

Tree planting and open space activities can bring communities closer together and volunteering harnesses and engages people in their community. These types of engagement activities can cost more in the short term but can create ownership and long term connections with place and community.

Economic Development

None

Other

None

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of the new strategy will have financial implications. Once the strategy has been adopted additional funding will be needed in budgets for:

- Additional planting as part of the GreenStreets Tree Program.
- Additional funding for tree maintenance over the long term to ensure electric line clearance complies with state regulations.
- Ongoing support for an increase in the funds available for tree planting and maintenance.

The resourcing of this strategy will be considered by Council through its' annual budget process.

CONCLUSION

The Urban Forest strategy implementation saw a substantial increase in the net gain of Council's street tree planting program for the 2015-16 year. There has been cooperation between various community groups such as the Stationeers, school groups and Council to actively participate in planting days. Discussions with statutory authorities apart from the good results achieved in the in the planting of Cheddar Road median have been difficult.

The provision of free trees to residents at community events was well received.

Major advances in mitigating tree risk have also been achieved with better species selection, completion of the first electric line clearance cycle and the introduction of engineering controls to reduce tree root damage to infrastructure.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Capital bids to support future actions such as increased tree planting and monitoring of the canopy change
- Continue to work with community groups to increase the tree canopy and create a sense of community ownership
- Address the action items as guided by the strategy

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- GreenStreets Strategy 2012
 - Open Space Strategy 2007
 - Open Space Asset Management Plan 2009
 - Community Climate Change Action Plan 2009
 - Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan 2009
 - Watershed Water Strategy 2015 - 2025
 - Council Minutes – 7 November 2011 and 20 February 2012
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1. WASTE AND LITTER STRATEGY 2015 - 2025

AUTHOR: Manager Environment and Natural Resources

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Operations and Environment

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Waste and Litter strategy focuses on achieving “Best Value” outcomes including social, economic and environmental outcomes. It encompasses:

- Infrastructure and services - ensuring infrastructure and service provision is adequate, efficient and meets the needs of our community and contributes to strategic outcomes.
- Education and engagement - educating and engaging our community and stakeholders on waste, recycling and litter management issues.
- Enforcement - ensuring that illegal behaviour is understood, discouraged and penalised and promoting the shared roles of Council, authorities and the community in this.
- Advocacy - speaking on behalf of our community and others across all levels of government and with other stakeholders.

Strategy Started On:

July 2015

Strategy Ends On:

July 2025

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

July 2020

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Overall kerbside waste and waste to landfill has reduced against the 2013/14 baseline, although there was a slight increase compared with last year. Commingled recycling continues to decrease due to drop in newspaper circulation and lighter packaging. Food and recycling audits will be undertaken at 3 to 5 year intervals and will be scheduled in the implementation plan to be considered by Council in 2017.

Community satisfaction levels with litter and dumped rubbish have seen slight improvements, which is pleasing.

A key education program over the year was the “The Food Know How” program which focussed on avoiding food waste and involved a website, popular cooking workshops, information, competitions, prizes and compost/worm farm sessions. The program received joint funding of \$352,000 with Yarra, Moreland, Whittlesea and Maribyrnong Councils from the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group’s Metro Fund.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

TARGET	BASELINE 2013/14	Outcome 2015/16
Reduce overall kerbside waste generation (including total waste, recyclables and green waste recycling)	347kg/ capita/ year	338.4kg/capita/year
Reduce kerbside waste sent to landfill	185 kg/capita/year	178 kg/capita/year
Reduce food in landfilled kerbside waste	38% by weight (or 69 kg/capita/year)	No audit undertaken 2015/16
Reduce recyclables in landfilled kerbside waste	11% by weight (or 20 kg/capita/year)	No audit undertaken 2015/16
Reduce contamination in kerbside recycling	15% by weight	14 by weight%
Increase DRRC rates of recycling	40% by weight	40% by weight
Maintain and improve level of community satisfaction with litter collection in public places	80.5%	80.8%
Maintain and improve level of community satisfaction with the level of dumped rubbish	76.7%	78.1%
Provide ongoing community education and information on waste, litter and recycling	Provide information, seminars, workshops, training, service advice, support and access to home compost systems.	12 workshops and programs were held including composting and worm farming, Food Know How (range of events and activities), Clean Up Australia Day, Plastic Free July, Community Recycling Stations Program, Bright Sparks Small Appliance Recycling Program, DeTox Your Home Drop Off Day and general waste and litter education sessions and seminars.

Challenges

Food waste remains a significant component of waste to landfill and there is currently no capacity for this to be collected and processed within existing regional contracts. Plans are underway to expand metropolitan capacity to process food over the next three years.

Whilst key targets are in line with expectations, staff vacancies have delayed the development of the strategy implementation plan which will be reported to Council in 2017.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The primary environmental drivers behind the Darebin Waste and Litter Strategy 2015- 2025 are waste and litter minimisation and resource recovery. Reducing and recycling waste also impacts on greenhouse emissions both upstream and downstream. For example recycling a single aluminium can could save the same amount of electricity as a television uses in three hours. Litter and dumping not only degrade our environment, but also threaten biodiversity and contribute to poor waterway health and local pollution.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Access to waste services is an issue across our community and can become a health issue if adequate standards are not provided or enforced. Litter and dumping degrade the quality of the environment and are linked to other antisocial behaviours which can affect community wellbeing.

Actions proposed through the strategy consider our diverse community's needs in relation to use, information, engagement and education around waste and litter issues. The strategy development has specifically considered CALD communities and people with disabilities.

An Equity and Inclusion Assessment was conducted for the development of this Strategy.

Economic Development

Predominantly commercial and industrial waste disposal is undertaken privately as business needs and waste are varying. Council offers businesses access to kerbside waste and recycling services similar to residential properties. One 80 litre waste bin is provided free and up to two recycling bins can be accessed with payment of a one-off fee.

Actions in the strategy support working with businesses, the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group, State Government and others to promote business waste minimisation programs in our community.

Other

The Council Plan aims for Council to lead and work with the community and partners to achieve a rapid transition to an environmentally sustainable city. A specific action under the plan was to review the Darebin Waste Management Strategy with a focus on the reduction and recovery of food waste and improvements to the hard waste collection program that will increase recycling and reuse.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Combined waste disposal to landfill, resource recovery (recycling) and litter and dumping management services cost the Darebin community over \$15 million per year.

The majority of actions proposed within this strategy are being undertaken within existing Council budgets.

CONCLUSION

Overall kerbside waste and waste to landfill has reduced against the 2013/14 baseline and community satisfaction levels have improved. The strategy implementation plan will be reported to Council in 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, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Council report regarding implementation plan 2017

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Waste and Litter Strategy 2015 - 2025
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**1. WATERSHED: TOWARDS A WATER SENSITIVE DAREBIN
WATER STRATEGY 2015-2025**

AUTHOR: Manager Environment and Natural Resources

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Operations and Environment

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin, is Council's whole of water cycle management strategy from 2015 - 2025. The strategy and implementation plan set Council's approach to water to deliver a range of environmental, economic, social and liveability benefits. It includes consideration of:

- Water supplies, both potable and non-potable
- Stormwater management
- Waterway health
- Flood risk management
- Water for amenity and liveability
- Education, engagement and outcomes

Strategy Started On:

July 2015

Strategy Ends On:

July 2025

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

July 2020

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

The Implementation Plan for the Strategy was signed off by Council and actions prioritised. The interdepartmental Water Sensitive City Group was established and met formally. \$898,000 of external co-funding was secured for water projects including: water sensitive urban design (WSUD) projects, strategic prioritisation, TW Blake Reserve water design and Darebin International Sports Centre Water Harvest and Flood Mitigation Project at John Cain Park. Funding was also received for a community engagement and education project. WSUD maintenance awareness and training has been delivered to relevant staff across Council. These are all important advancements in the first year of the Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin Strategy and indicate that the strategy is progressing well against its 2025 targets in its establishment phase.

During this time Council's annual potable water usage has increased against the 2013/14 baseline. Disappointingly a significant part of the increase (18,400kl) was due to an undetected leak at the depot which has now been fixed. Additionally as the bulk of Council's water usage is through irrigation, weather and rainfall have large impacts on water requirements. Rainfall during peak watering months (October to March) in 2015/16 was substantially reduced last year (less than 50% of rainfall experienced in 2013/14) which explains an increase in irrigation. Council's rollout of warm seasons turf and irrigation efficiencies have and will continue to lessen the effect from weather and rainfall. Moves to alternative water use in line with the Watershed Strategy, will also support future reductions.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Targets for 2025	Baseline 2013/14	Outcome 2015/16
Reduce Council's annual potable water use by 15%	228 ML/yr	269 ML/yr
Increase Council's annual use of alternative water sources by 30ML	101ML/yr	101ML/yr
Reduce the number of properties identified as being 'high flood hazard' from Council drains by 5%	To be determined by Darebin Drainage Study Review	Darebin Drainage Study Review has not been finalised
Work with State Government and others to support the reduction of annual residential potable water use to a maximum of 155L per person per day	157L per person per day (148,556 people using 8,526ML/yr)	159L per person per day (150,881 people 8,752ML/yr)
Work with State Government and others to support the reduction of non-residential potable water use by 3%	2,507 ML/yr	2,621 ML/yr
Water for the Environment and Liveability		
Reduce annual nitrogen load leaving the municipality by a further 650kg	347kg/yr removed through Council activities	Modelling in progress
Continue to ensure that 100% of new or replacement trees planted have either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no irrigation need (beyond establishment) • passive irrigation • irrigation from alternative water sources 	100% of new and replacement trees	100% of new and replacement trees meet this requirement

<p>Ensure that 100% of sports grounds, sports courts, sports fields, sports courses and other sports areas either have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warm season grasses • no irrigation need • irrigation from alternative water sources • treatment to reduce water use. 	<p>Baseline information under development</p>	<p>Eight sports grounds were converted to warm season grasses from 2014/15 to 2015/16, bringing the total number of grounds with warm season grasses to 41. A further eight conversions are planned for the next two years.</p> <p>Three sports grounds are irrigated using water sourced from Edwardes Lake.</p>
Water Smart Council and Community		
<p>Hold a minimum of four Water Sensitive City Group meetings per year</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Two meetings held (implementation delayed)</p>
<p>Invest a minimum of 50 hours of Council staff total time in water-related training annually</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Years 1 and 2 training combined - 184 hours of WSUD training scheduled for 9/8/16 (23 staff x 8 hours)</p>
<p>Ensure 100% of water related capital works have an allocated maintenance budget</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>All new WSUD assets constructed in 2014/15 and 2015/16 were applied to the regular maintenance schedule</p>
<p>Hold a minimum of three water focused community engagement and education activities each year</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Council partnered with Waterwatch for: Water Bugs Stall at the Darebin Kite Festival (March 2016), Annual Frog Census at Edwardes Lake (April 2016) and Frogs on Wheels event at Darebin Creek (April 2016). Darebin Environment Officers also presented two schools talks (March and June 2016) on litter and waterway impacts and gave the keynote speech on litter and waterway impacts at the East Preston Mini Festival (March 2016).</p>

Challenges

Council's annual potable water (tap water) use has increased against the 2013/14 baseline. As the bulk of Council's water use is for irrigation, weather and rainfall have large impacts on water requirements. In 2015/16 during peak watering months (October to March), rainfall was less than half the amount occurring in the baseline 2013/14 year, which explains the increased use. Council's rollout of warm season turf and other irrigation efficiencies helps to lessen the effect of decreased rainfall. Increased use of alternative sources of water such as the planned water capture and reuse project at Darebin International Sports Centre will further reduce potable water use.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The primary environmental drivers behind *Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin* Strategy are: water quality and water consumption improvements; improved waterway health and biodiversity; flood risk management and protection of stormwater infrastructure, climate change adaptation measures and water for liveability and the environment with community engagement and education.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

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

Actions proposed through the strategy and implementation plan support the continued focus on supporting sustainable and healthy environments for our community, with equity of access to leisure opportunities and water environments. It has a key focus on improved liveability outcomes and resilience to climate change, with their associated social and quality of life benefits.

An Equity and Inclusion Assessment was conducted for the development of this Strategy.

Economic Development

Water is essential for most business and there are some large commercial water users in Darebin, including Council. Yarra Valley Water has primary responsibility around water business use and delivers targeted programs to support high water use businesses to use water efficiently and through its green business programs. Council also encourage businesses to make efficient use of resources including water.

Actions in this strategy support working closely with Yarra Valley Water, Melbourne Water, State Government and others to further programs in our community.

Other

The Council Plan aims for Council to lead and work with the community and partners to achieve a rapid transition to an environmentally sustainable city. A specific action under the plan was to review the Sustainable Water Strategy, with a focus on the development of a Water Sensitive City including water sensitive urban design.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council currently spend \$835,000 annually on water and sewerage bills.

Six successful grant applications resulted in \$898,000 funding for water projects over the year.

\$650,000 funding was received from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's *Local Water Management Fund* for part funding of the Darebin International Sports Centre Water Harvest and Flood Mitigation Project at John Cain Park. A further \$248,000 funding was received from the Melbourne Water *Living Rivers Fund* for part funding of WSUD treatments and strategic work

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the newly adopted strategy has commenced and establishment has proceeded well. Council received \$898,000 in grants over the year for water harvesting and flood mitigation, WSUD treatments, community education and engagement and strategic work. An undetected leak was the most significant cause of the increased use of water and lack of rainfall has also increased water usage for irrigation over the year against the baseline year.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implementation will continue
- The Darebin International Sports Centre Water Harvest and Flood Mitigation Project at John Cain Park will commence in the coming year
- Further external funding will be sought to support further strategy

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin 2015 – 2025
 - Darebin Drainage Study Review
-

1. **WOMEN'S EQUITY STRATEGY - GENDER EQUITY ACTION PLAN 2012-2015**

AUTHOR: Diversity Policy Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Women's Equity Strategy (WES) 2012-2015 articulates Darebin's priorities for advancing gender equity and reducing violence against women within Council as an organisation, across Council services and in our community. The Strategy emanates from the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015 and is delivered through actions outlined in two separate but interconnected action plans: the Gender Equity Action Plan (GEAP) and the Preventing Violence against Women Action Plan (PVAWAP). This report specifically pertains to the Gender Equity Action Plan.

Strategy Started On:

June 2012

Strategy Ends On:

June 2017

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

June 2017. Along with the other action plans stemming from the Equity and Inclusion Policy, the Women's Equity Strategy and Gender Equity Action Plan 2012-2015 have been extended to align with the Council Plan and Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Building on Council's extensive work on, and sustained commitment to, gender equity, women's full and equal participation in community life and prevention of violence against women, renewed in the Council Plan 2013-17 (strategy 2.16), the Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015 (WES) and Action Plans strengthen Council's approach to these issues. Within the overarching structure of the Equity and Inclusion Policy (E&IP), the WES provides a framework to deliver Council's policies and actions aimed at improving gender equity and reducing violence against women.

Through its fourth year of implementation, the Gender Equity Action Plan has progressed steadily and fruitfully. Darebin has continued to build on previous and successful work to advance gender equity across multiple settings, notably Darebin's services and programs and the Darebin community.

This report provides an update on activities and projects that took place between July 2015 and June 2016.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
<p>To achieve an organisational culture that is welcoming, inclusive and respectful of women, that strives for equal opportunity and builds the skill and confidence of Darebin women to advance women's leadership opportunities at all levels across the organisation</p>	<p>Leadership & Training opportunities for women</p> <p>Pay equity</p> <p>Employment & recruitment</p> <p>Staff capacity building and training</p>	<p>Council's Enterprise Agreement renews the strong commitment to gender equity and builds on existing good practice.</p> <p>Gender equity has been identified for discussion amongst the Consultative Committee (management and union representatives) to ensure that Council policies, flexible work practices and opportunities are reflective of this commitment.</p> <p>Recruitment and Selection follow Equal Employment Opportunity principles and legislated requirements.</p> <p>Employees can access up to 10 weeks purchased leave per annum to allow for work/life balance.</p>
<p>To ensure Darebin Council services, programs and policies are gender equitable, inclusive of strategies around prevention of violence against women and actively encourage women's full and equal participation.</p>	<p>Embedding gender equity into departmental plans & policies</p> <p>Community settings including sports and recreation facilities, parks, community facilities, customer services and libraries.</p> <p>Communication and marketing</p> <p>Groups at risk of disadvantage</p> <p>Research and development</p> <p>Families and children</p> <p>Youth Services</p>	<p>Leisure: Darebin Women in Sports network continues to meet quarterly. Leisure Services Action Plan contains a number of strategies to increase women's participation in sport. <i>Levelling the playing field: the ball is in her court</i> brochure developed to recognise, value and encourage women's participation in sports.</p> <p>Youth Services continue to provide specific programming for young women.</p> <p>Libraries screened <i>Utopia Girls</i>, the gripping story of how Australian women won the right to vote, making Australia an unlikely leader on the global stage, for International Women's day (IWD) 2016.</p> <p>Communications: Continuous promotion of women, gender equity and anti-violence communications across numerous channels including media releases, social media, Mayor's Columns, advertising and Darebin Community News.</p> <p>Women who experience homelessness: work to support older women and women escaping domestic violence as key target groups for Darebin Affordable Housing Pilot sites project. Support to the work of Women's Property Initiatives.</p> <p>Aboriginal Women: Sisters Day Out program held December 2015. Specific workshop for Aboriginal women organised in Darebin as part of GoWomenLG2016 project (see below). IWD Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration featured Aboriginal feminist writer Celeste Liddle as a keynote speaker</p>

Challenges

Although Council's commitment to gender equity is long standing and has in part become embedded, work continues to further mainstream the gender agenda to ensure ownership of and support to the plans across the organisation. A better articulation of gender within the EIPAT and increased and will assist this work.

There is a need also to establish a mechanism for reporting progress against gender equality measures within the workplace. This would enable the assessment and reporting on Darebin's performance against set gender equality indicators and allow officers to easily communicate progress.

The balance between supporting awareness-raising activities against longer-term projects continues.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) was applied in the development of the WES and related plans. The WES specifically addresses the needs of Darebin's women at risk of family violence, gender stereotypes or pay inequity, some of the priority groups identified in the Equity and Inclusion Policy (E&IP).

The WES also applies a gender lens to the groups at-risk-of-exclusion mentioned in the E&IP and considers the intersection of gender with other grounds for vulnerability, notably Aboriginality, cultural and linguistic diversity, disability, social isolation...

Economic Development

The support offered to women in business in particular and to women's leadership and full and equal participation in all aspects of community life in general offers opportunities for economic development and potential job creation in the municipality.

Other

The Women's Equity Strategy and Gender Equity Action Plan align with the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-15 and contribute to Council's commitment to gender equity and prevention of violence against women expressed in the Council Plan 2013-17, Strategy 2.16.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2015-2016, \$16,311 was allocated directly for the implementation of the GEAP. Actions, events and projects were progressed within this budget. Additional resources were provided through other Council departments responsible for progressing aspects of gender equity as part of their core work (e.g. Leisure Services, Libraries, Business Development...).

CONCLUSION

Darebin continues to be recognised as a leader in the promotion of gender equality and the prevention of violence against women. The first Women's Equity Strategy/Gender Action Plan has built a clear case for working towards gender equality within Council as an organisation, across Council services and in the community. The focus of the fifth and final year of the plan will be on embedding inclusive practice and Council's commitment to gender equity.

Sustainability and continuation of the work beyond the life of the Plan will be a key consideration for the year to come. The new planning cycle should aim for Darebin City Council to build its years of work and seek to elevate the gender equity agenda. Gender equality can only be achieved over time and through a series of stages, which are cumulative in their impact. The next stage in Darebin's journey requires a process of systemic integration of gender equality best practice into business, policies and processes that is strongly led by leaders across the organisation. This process will involve re-engaging key internal stakeholders as well as considering what might be the best governance structure to drive implementation of identified initiatives.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implementation of WES/GEAP ongoing actions for 2016-2017
- Review of Plan and redevelopment in line with broader Council planning cycle

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Women's Equity Strategy 2012-2015 and Gender Equity Action Plan
 - Preventing Violence against Women Action Plan 2015-2017
 - Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015
 - Leisure Strategy 2010-2020 and related action plan
 - Youth Engagement Strategy 2012-2017
 - Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
 - Council Plan 2013-2017
-

1. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012 - 2017

AUTHOR: Coordinator Youth Services

REVIEWED BY: Director, Community Development

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Darebin Youth Strategy 2012 - 2017 was developed to provide direction in planning the services that support all young people across the municipality.

This strategy provides strategic directions for Council over a five-year period that supports the development and delivery of activities through youth services. For the purpose of this strategy, young people are defined as aged 12-25 and live, work or play within a variety of settings across community.

Strategy Started On:

Council endorsed the Youth Engagement Strategy in August 2012.

Strategy Ends On:

The Youth Engagement Strategy is a five-year document and will conclude in 2017.

Strategy to be Reviewed By:

The Youth Engagement Strategy will be reviewed by December 2016

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Summary

Since council endorsed the Youth Engagement Strategy 2012 – 2017 in August 2013 a number of outcomes have been achieved through the strategy. The strategy has provided greater direction and strategic alignment for work that the youth service unit has and is currently undertaking. To support the implementation of key strategies detailed in the strategy an annual business plan has been created to support the implementation.

Key Outcomes for 2015/2016

Key achievements are outlined below.

Strategy Objective	Action	Outcomes
Strategic Action 1: Council will deliver services to meet the needs of young people in Darebin.	Develop Darebin Statement of Youth principles	Quarterly participant data collected to analysis trends and service needs across the unit.
	Use participant data reports to inform service planning	Maintained the delivery of 20 existing programs and events over the 2015/16
	Continue to develop a dynamic Youth Services Model development	

	Ensure staff qualifications and training supports quality programs	
Strategic Action 2: Council will dedicate and attract resources to meet the needs of young people.	<p>Maintain Council's commitment to delivering youth services</p> <p>Apply for external funding to provide additional services and programs</p> <p>Maintain recurrent capital contributions to youth services facilities.</p> <p>Develop programs and services at safe and sustainable staffing levels</p>	<p>Reviewed and updated capital works 10 year equipment replacement schedule</p> <p>Evaluated programs and services currently delivered to determine appropriate staffing levels</p> <p>Undertook a Service Review based of best value practices. New structure and model to be established.</p>
Strategic Action 3: Council will increase our responses to young people through collaboration across Council departments and with our partner agencies.	<p>Ensure young people are a key consideration within Council policies</p> <p>Foster collaboration across Council on youth issues</p> <p>Increase gender and cultural specific opportunities for young people</p> <p>Engage civic leaders in understanding and responding to youth issues</p> <p>Facilitate interagency collaborations</p>	<p>Utilised a number of consultation and engagement practices to seek the view and opinion of young people, these include; Communication & Engagement Survey, Youth Summit Consultation Survey, Northland Youth Centre Consultation Survey.</p> <p>Enhanced connections with a number of units on youth issue. These include; Community Wellbeing, Equity & Diversity, Leisure, Public Realm, Creative Culture, Economic Development, Family and Children.</p> <p>Series of gender specific support/discussion groups were delivered. Cultural appropriate information was also considered and tailored.</p> <p>Key leaders within the community came together to response to the following youth issues; Youth Unemployment, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Post Secondary Education & Training.</p>

<p>Strategic Action 4: Council will give young people a greater voice and will advocate with strength.</p>	<p>Develop a range of communication mediums to increase the participation and engagement of young people in Council business</p> <p>Extend the Youth Summit to inform local and regional youth sector planning</p> <p>Establish the Darebin Youth Advisory Group</p> <p>Advocate for young people to participate in Council's advisory structures</p>	<p>Commenced the development of an youth communication and engagement plan</p> <p>Youth Summit delivered with 10 participating schools. Topic was "What Matter", 6 priority themes were identified and action plan is currently being developed.</p> <p>Maintain the Youth Advisory Group. Review undertook following first term. Results guided future delivery model.</p>
<p>Strategic Action 5: Council will lead planning for young people.</p>	<p>Facilitate networking of youth services across Darebin and regionally Improve local planning for youth services</p> <p>Undertake local service mapping</p> <p>Identify issues for young people and coordinate advocacy and service responses</p>	<p>Maintained the Darebin Youth Services Network with six meetings facilitated annually.</p> <p>Participated in 16 different industry networks...</p> <p>Lead or participated in 5 regional projects that supported collaborative outcomes for young people</p>

Challenges

There have been some challenges associated with the implementation of the strategy, primarily structural in nature. A new structure that is currently being implemented based on the findings of the Youth Services review process will address these issues directly, creating inter-dependent teams thereby addressing a previous more siloed approach.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Youth Engagement Strategy includes a number of actions that are designed to address social inclusion and increase the diversity young people's participation within Darebin community. There is specific focus on actions and interventions that address service gaps the impact young people in risk of exclusion.

A number of the actions included in the strategy focus on the unit service model, consultation process and needs assessment the EIPAT Tool and its approach has be used were appropriate to ensure all subgroups of young people are engaged.

Economic Development

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Whilst the strategy has been delivered within the context of the 2015/2016 budget, the 2016 Unit Service Review has identified a number of opportunities that will ensure the service is delivered more effectively. These opportunities are reflected both in programs offered and the structure that the programs are delivered within.

CONCLUSION

Youth Services completed a mid strategy review in 2015 on the Youth Engagement Strategy 2012 – 2017. This review provided an update on the status and detailed what outstanding actions remained.

Over 2015/16 all outstanding actions within the strategy have now been completed. The main outcome for 2015/16 was the undertaken of the unit service review. This review has provided direction for the future of youth services and will help shape the planning for the new strategy that will commence in 2017.

The needs of young people are continuing to shift and the Youth Engagement Strategy has been a flexible document that ensures service can continue to support young people. To achieve these actions young people and our stakeholders will continue to remain at the centre of all planning with ongoing feedback and input sought.

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

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Communicate achievements to community and young people
- Undertake review of the Darebin Youth Strategy

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Youth Engagement Strategy 2012 – 2017
 - Council Report, 6 August 2012, Youth Engagement Strategy 2012 – 2017
-

**7. CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSES TO NOTICES OF MOTION
AND GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9. URGENT BUSINESS

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

11. PETITIONS

12. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

12.1 SUMMARY REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee is an Advisory Committee appointed, pursuant to section 139 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, to assist Council in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to internal control mechanisms and external reporting requirements.

A meeting of the Audit Committee was held on 29 August 2016. A summary report of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A** to this report. The minutes of the meeting, incorporating the reports considered by the Committee, have been circulated to Councillors.

Recommendation

That the Summary Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 August 2016, attached as **Appendix A**, to this report be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.



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MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday, 29 August 2016
Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street, Preston
at 2.30pm

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**MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2016**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 2.00 PM

1. PRESENT

Committee Members

Mr Michael Said - Chairperson
Mr Terry Richards - Independent External Member
Ms Lisa Tripodi - Independent External Member
Cr Vince Fontana (Mayor) - Committee Member
Cr Oliver Walsh - Committee Member

Council Officers

Mr Allan Cochrane - A/Director Corporate Services
Ms Jacinta Stevens - Executive Manager, Corporate Governance & Performance
Mr Michael O'Riordan - Financial Accountant
Mr Jim Barrett - Coordinator Performance Support

External Auditors

Mr Tim Loughnan - Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Mr Remy Szpak - Victorian Auditor General's Office

Minutes

Mr Allan Cochrane - A/Director Corporate Services

2. APOLOGIES

Mr Rasiah Dev - Chief Executive
Mr Steve Hamilton - A/Chief Executive

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Audit Committee members are required to disclose any conflicts of interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Audit Committee members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest. Declarations were made by Mr Terry Richards and Ms Lisa Tripodi. The Register of Interests was updated as follows.

Cr Oliver Walsh entered the meeting at 2.45pm.

Mr Michael Said

- Manningham City Council
- Yarra City Council
- Whitehorse City Council
- Whittlesea City Council
- Baw Baw City Council
- Colac Otway Shire Council
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library
- Chisholm Institute of TAFE

Mr Terry Richards

- Latrobe City Council

Ms Lisa Tripodi

- City of Greater Geelong

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING & CONFIDENTIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee agreed to defer confirmation of the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting and the minutes of the Confidential Audit Committee meeting held on Monday 6 June 2016 to the next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 3 October 2016.

6. STANDING REPORTS

6.1 DECLARATION OF LEGAL COMPLIANCE BY CEO

The CEO confirms that Council is legally compliant in its operations. This is reported via the quarterly Director's Questionnaire, and an end-of-year annual questionnaire which requires all Directors to attest to the legal compliance of their Directorate's activities and to report any known instances of fraud, misappropriation or pending litigation.

Directors are required to confirm full compliance with contractual agreements. All issues that are disclosed via the questionnaire are provided to the CEO.

The annual Director's Questionnaire for 2015/2016 reports no issues that affect Council's legal compliance.

6.2 CEO REPORT

A written report by the CEO was tabled at the meeting and is attached (refer Attachment Item 6.2).

Recommendation

That the Audit Committee notes the report which was tabled at the meeting.

Committee Discussion

The following points were discussed at the meeting:

- The Draft Council budget was presented at the last Audit Committee meeting.
- Highlight of changes through the adoption process held on the 27 June 2016 which was adopted with an underlining surplus of \$5.8M.
- Annual report progress is well advanced – making further improvements based on the feedback received through the awards process in 2015 – City of Darebin receive a silver award for 2014/2015 annual report.
- Organisation restructure – ready for Darebin's future time for change – was released prior to CEO going on leave. The CEO met with the Executive Management Team & Councillors on the proposed restructure to realign the council organisation ready for future. This is currently out for consultation across the Organisation to give staff the opportunity to comment on the restructure. Major change is mainly at high level management changing to 5 directorates rather than 4 which is current.

Timeframe:

- Proposed changes to commence 1 September 2016 pending feedback from consultation process. Information has been sent to CEO whilst on leave.
- Changes will most likely take effect when CEO returns from leave.

Committee Recommendation

MOVED: Cr Vince Fontana
SECONDED: Ms Lisa Tripodi

That the Audit Committee notes the CEO report.

CARRIED

7. ANNUAL STATEMENTS

7.1 EXTERNAL AUDITORS CLOSING REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

AUTHOR: Acting Director Corporate Services

MANAGER: Chief Executive

SUMMARY:

The Audit Act 1994 requires the Auditor-General to form an opinion on Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement. The audit was conducted to gather sufficient and appropriate evidence to form that opinion.

The audit approach focused on key financial report audit risks. This involved gaining an understanding of significant financial reporting processes and a combination of internal control testing and substantive audit procedures to assess the residual risk of material misstatement of the financial report. The issues of waste, probity and lack of financial prudence in the use of public resources were also considered.

The External Auditors advise that subject to satisfactory resolution of outstanding items outlined in Appendix A (page 9 of the report), they will be recommending to the Auditor-General to issue a clear audit opinion on the Financial Statements and Performance Statement of the Darebin City Council for the 2015/2016 year.

Recommendation

That the Audit Committee receives and notes the Darebin City Council Closing report to the Audit Committee Financial year ended 30 June 2016 as provided by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

Committee Discussion

The Closing Report was discussed in detail as Mr Said took the Committee through each and every page. He advised that the audit concluded a satisfactory and clear result.

Councillors would be interested to note that the External Auditors propose to issue an unqualified opinion on both Statements (Paragraph 3 – 'Audit conclusion'), and to also note that Council has sound quality assurance processes in place to assess the reasonableness of the reported figures.

Audit Committee members are to receive a copy of the Management Letter once that has been finalised.

Matters Arising

Audit Committee to receive copy of the Management Letter once that has been finalised.

Committee Recommendation

MOVED: Cr Vince Fontana
SECONDED: Ms Lisa Tripodi

That the Audit Committee:

- (1) Receives and notes the Darebin City Council Closing report to the Audit Committee Financial year ended 30 June 2016 as provided by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.
- (2) Notes that the External Auditors propose to issue an unqualified opinion on both Statements.
- (3) Notes Council has a sound quality assurance process.

CARRIED

7.2(A) DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015/2016**AUTHOR: Financial Accountant****MANAGER: Acting Director Corporate Services****SUMMARY:**

This report presents the draft Financial Statements 2015/16 year for Audit Committee review. Key elements in relation to the Statements are discussed together with commentary on the major variances from the previous year and budget in the Financial Statements.

The report proposes that the Audit Committee recommend to Council that it approve in principle the draft Financial Statements 2015/16 and authorise two Councillors to sign the Statements in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the Auditor have been made.

CONSULTATION:

Acting Chief Executive Officer
Remy Szpak - Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Recommendation

That the Audit Committee recommends to Council that it:

1. Approves in principle the Financial Statements for the 2015/16 year subject to a management representation letter, minor amendments to the Statements and the Auditor-General's review.
2. Authorises two Councillors to sign the Statements in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the Auditor have been made.
3. Note the closing report of the Auditor-General and his recommended opinion being as unqualified.

Report

Background

Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the “Act”) requires Council to prepare in respect of each financial year an annual report containing:

- A report of operations;
- Audited financial statements;
- An audited performance statement;
- A copy of the auditor’s report on the performance statement, prepared under section 132;
- A copy of the auditor’s report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*; and
- Any other matter required by the regulations.

The Act requires that the annual report be submitted to the Minister within three months of the end of the financial year. Council is required to pass a resolution giving approval in principle to each of the Statements. The Act also requires Council to authorise two Councillors to certify each of the Statements after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.

Regulations 21 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (the “Regulations”), specify that the Financial Statements must be certified by the Principal Accounting Officer, two Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer, prior to the Auditor-General signing the audit report.

To assist Council in approving in principle the Financial Statements for the 2015/16 year, the Audit Committee should review the draft Statements with the benefit of comments by Council management and the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office representative. The Audit Committee, after it is satisfied with comments of Council management and the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office representative, should then make a recommendation to Council to adopt in principle the Financial Statements for the 2015/16 year.

Core Issues

Financial statements format

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (“AIFRS”). As per Regulation 19 and 20 in part four of the regulation, the financial statements must be prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report.

Some of the more significant disclosure changes in the 2015/16 financial statements include:

- Note 16 - Included reference from Cash and Cash Equivalents to Other Financial Assets (note 18) to assist readers in understanding complete cash and investment position.
- Note 21 - Additional summary added at the beginning of Property, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment which reconciles to the Balance Sheet.
- Note 34 - New separate Superannuation note which collates key accounting standard disclosures.

Financial Statements – overview of reported results

The Comprehensive Income Statement shows that for the year ended 30 June 2016, the Council achieved an operating surplus of \$20.06 million which was an \$14.54 million increase from the 2014/15 result. The main items contributing to this movement between financial years are as follows:

- Rates (\$6.09 million increase) – The increase in general rates is in line with the general increase in rates approved by Council for the 2015/16 year together with supplementary rate income generated and an increase in green waste charges (refer note 3);
- User fees, statutory fees and fines (\$0.95 million increase) – The increase in user fees, statutory fees and fines resulted mainly from an increase in building fees associated with development within Darebin, leisure services fees, health registrations and the annual price increases on most services with some fluctuations within individual services (refer notes 4 and 5);
- Grants – operating (\$5.09 million decrease) – The decrease in operating grants reflects a mix of factors including the advance receipt of the 2015/16 Victorian Grants Commission funding last year, reduced HACC funding for aged care clients, and offset by normal CPI increases in recurrent Government grants (refer note 6);
- Grants – capital (\$1.31 million decrease) – The decrease in capital grants is reflected by the receipt last year of State and Federal funded grants associated with the finalisation of the Reservoir Community & Learning Hub and energy efficient street lighting (refer note 6);
- Contributions – monetary (\$1.66 million increase) – The increase in cash contributions is due to an increase in open space and drainage contributions associated with development within the municipality. The contribution rate on large developments has increased from 3% to 5% of site value. (refer note 7);
- Contributions – non-monetary assets (\$0.22 million decrease) – This movement represents reduced contributed infrastructure assets received from developments within the city (refer note 7);
- Fair value adjustment of investment property (\$1.04 million increase) – The increase in value of investment property is mainly due to the discounted value of the CH Sullivan stadium booked last year (refer note 22);
- Employee costs (\$3.63 million increase) – The increase in employee costs reflects increase in performance increments paid in the 2015/16 year under the current collective agreement, increases in employee provisions for annual leave and long service leave offset by the reduction in the WorkCover premium rate (refer note 10);
- Materials and services (\$1.98 million decrease) – The materials and services category includes contract payments, utilities, major maintenance and other items such as waste disposal fees. The decrease results from lower major maintenance (capital works projects not capitalised), utility charges and fuel and oil (refer note 11);
- Bad and doubtful debts (\$0.17 million decrease) – The decrease in bad and doubtful debts reflects decreases in parking and enforcement related debtors (refer note 12);
- Depreciation and amortisation (\$0.37 million increase) – The increase in depreciation arises from asset additions during the financial year and the full year impact of the previous year revaluation of infrastructure (refer note 13).

The Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2016 shows that net assets increased by \$88.82 million for the year to \$1,267.7 million. The main items contributing to this increase are as follows:

- Cash and cash equivalents (\$1.37 million decrease) – Cash balances at year end decreased due to a number of factors including the receipt in June 2015 of 50% of the 2015/16 VGC funding delays in completing capital works projects, an increase in the level of rates and contributions received during the year (refer note 16);
- Other financial assets (\$15.06 million decrease) - This increase reflects the increase in holdings of term deposits with a greater than 90 day maturity. Overall cash and cash equivalents and other financial increased by \$13.70 million (refer notes 16 and 18);
- Trade and other receivables – current (\$0.52 million increase) – This increase primarily reflects the increase in outstanding parking infringements and other debtors (refer note 17);
- Other assets - current (\$0.34 million increase) – This increase primarily reflects the increase in accrued income including bank and other ADI's interest payments on term deposits and the SRO contribution for the 2016 general revaluation (refer note 20);
- Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (\$68.83 million increase) – This increase reflects the net impact of the revaluation of property assets, contributed assets, asset disposals, additions and depreciation on all fixed asset classes (refer note 21);
- Intangible assets (\$0.07 million increase) – This increase reflects the net impact of capitalised additions and amortisation charges (refer note 23);
- Trade and other payables (\$7.33 million decrease) – This decrease represents the write-back of the payable provided for last year for the potential obligation to refund unspent developer contributions received under the previous Darebin Development Contribution Plan (DCP). Council has now received approval via Darebin Planning Scheme Amendment C148 to allow for the delivery of a further project to allocate the unspent Developer Contribution Scheme funds to the construction of a multi-purpose sports stadium to be built at John Cain Reserve. Lower trade creditors held at year end offset by an increase in accrued employee costs unpaid at balance date (refer note 24);
- Trust funds and deposits (\$0.52 million increase) – This increase is due to higher asset protection bonds and outstanding Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) held at year end (refer note 25);
- Provisions (\$1.64 million increase) – This increase is due in large to additional provisions required for excess annual leave, long service leave and personal gratuity leave. (refer note 26);
- Interest bearing loans and borrowings (\$0.17 million decrease) – This decrease is due to the repayments of loan borrowings in accordance with the scheduled repayment terms. Council had nil borrowings as at balance date (refer note 27);
- Reserves (\$77.74 million increase) – The increase in reserves is due to the increase in fair value of property assets, an increase in open space contributions received which are transferred to statutory reserves during the year and the re-instatement of the developer contribution reserve (refer note 28).

The Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2016 shows that total cash and investments decreased by \$1.37 million to \$45.44 million. The main movements during the year were a cash inflow from operating activities of \$36.1 million, offset by a cash outflow from investing activities of \$37.29 million and financing cash outflows of \$0.18 million.

The Statement of Capital Works shows that for the year ended 30 June 2016, Council had achieved total Capital Works expenditure of \$21.44 million, a decrease of \$3.20 million from the previous year. The main items of capital works for the year are as follows:

- Property (\$5.24 million) – The main items of expenditure include completion of the CS Sullivan Pavilion (\$0.98 million), Ruthven Reserve (\$0.68 million), Northcote Town Hall (\$0.57 million), Public conveniences (\$0.29 million), Outdoor court refurbishment at Darebin Community Sports Stadium (\$0.71 million) and incomplete works including the Multi-sports stadium (\$0.17 million).
- Plant and equipment (\$4.42 million) – The main items of expenditure include information technology (\$1.28 million), fleet replacement (\$2.3 million) and library resources (\$0.70 million).
- Infrastructure (\$11.78 million) – The main items of expenditure include roads and transport (\$4.76 million), footpaths and cycle ways (\$1.93 million), and parks and open space (\$3.94 million).

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Council in approving the 2015/16 Statements.

Future Actions

The draft Statements and a copy of the Audit Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to Council for consideration on 5 September 2016.

Related Documents

Darebin City Council Financial Statements 2015/16

Committee Discussion

The Financial Accountant discussed the 2015/16 significant statement disclosure changes. Of note were:

- Note 21 on page 25 – additional summary on property infrastructure on plant and equipment
- Note 34 – new separate superannuation note
- Note 16 – other financial assets – total cash and cash equivalents.

The Financial Accountant went through the income statement, 30 June 2016. Of particular interest was an Operating surplus of \$20.06M which was an increase of \$14.5M on the previous year.

Committee Recommendation

MOVED: Mr Terry Richards
SECONDED: Cr Oliver Walsh

That the Audit Committee recommends to Council that it:

1. Approves in principle the Financial Statements for the 2015/16 year subject to a management representation letter, minor amendments to the Statements and the Auditor-General's review.
2. Authorises two Councillors to sign the Statements in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the Auditor have been made.
3. Note the closing report of the Auditor-General and his recommended opinion being as unqualified.

CARRIED

7.2(B) DRAFT PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2015/2016**AUTHOR: Financial Accountant****MANAGER: Acting Director Corporate Services****SUMMARY:**

This report presents the draft Performance Statement for the 2015/16 year for Audit Committee review.

The report proposes that the Audit Committee recommends to Council that it approves in principle the draft Performance Statement 2015/2016 and authorise two Councillors to sign the Statement in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the Auditor have been made.

CONSULTATION:

Acting Chief Executive Officer
Remy Szpak – Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Recommendation

That the Audit Committee:

- (1) Approves in principle the Performance Statement for the 2015/16 year subject to a management representation letter, minor amendments to the Performance Statement and the Auditor-General's review.
- (2) Authorises two Councillors to sign the Performance Statement in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the Auditor have been made.
- (3) Note the closing report of the Auditor-General and his recommended opinion being as unqualified.

Report

Background

Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the “Act”) requires Council to prepare in respect of each financial year an annual report containing:

- A report of operations;
- Audited financial statements;
- An audited performance statement;
- A copy of the auditor’s report on the performance statement, prepared under section 132;
- A copy of the auditor’s report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*; and
- Any other matter required by the regulations.

The Act requires that the annual report be submitted to the Minister within three months of the end of the financial year. Council is required to pass a resolution giving approval in principle to each of the Statements. The Act also requires Council to authorise two Councillors to certify each of the Statements after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.

Regulations 18 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (the “Regulations”), specify that the Financial Statements must be certified by the Principal Accounting Officer, two Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer prior to the Auditor-General signing the audit report.

To assist Council in approving in principle the Performance Statement for the 2015/16 year, the Audit Committee should review the draft Performance Statement with the benefit of comments by Council management and the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office representative. The Audit Committee, after it is satisfied with comments of Council management and the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office representative, should then make a recommendation to Council to adopt in principle the Performance Statement for the 2015/16 year.

Issues and Discussion

The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*. The performance measures cover the following activities:

Sustainable Capacity Indicators

	2015/16	2014/15
• Population		
Expense per head of population	\$936	\$1,024
Infrastructure per head of population	\$4,032	\$3,827
Population density / road length	296	291
• Own-source revenue	\$923	\$879
• Recurrent grants	\$94	\$123
• Socio-eco disadvantage	5	5

Service Performance Indicators

	2015/16	2014/15
• Aquatic facilities	5.6	6.3
• Animal management	3	11
• Food safety	100%	98%
• Governance	66.9	67.8
• Home and community care Participation	19.6%	22.4%
Participation CALD	18.5%	21.1%
• Libraries	16.0%	16.2%
• Maternal and child health services Participation	N/A	75.9%
Participation CALD	N/A	60.5%
• Roads	70.8	69.3
• Statutory planning	60.3%	45.3%
• Waste collection	47.4%	48.3%

Financial Performance Indicators

	2015/16	2014/15
• Revenue level	\$1,448	\$1,381
• Expenditure level	\$2,087	\$2,290
• Staff turnover	4.96%	9.82%
• Working capital	226.8%	159.5%
• Unrestricted cash	91.5%	61.6%
• Asset renewal	66.1%	60.3%
VAGO*	88.7%	90.2%
• Loans and borrowings Compared to rates	0.00%	0.16%
Repayments compared to rates	0.16%	0.14%
• Indebtedness	1.2%	1.1%
• Adjusted underlying result VAGO**	8.0%	(1.9%)
	12.4%	3.5%
• Rates concentration	73.9%	71.4%
• Rates effort	0.25%	0.27%

Notes: *VAGO use capital renewal and upgrade expenditure to calculate the asset renewal ratio.

**VAGO use net result / total revenue to calculate the net result %.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Council in approving the Performance Statement 2015/16.

Future Actions

The draft Performance Statement and a copy of the Audit Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to Council for consideration on 5 September 2016.

Related Documents

Darebin City Council Performance Statement 2015/16

Committee Discussion

The Audit Committee discussed the report in detail.

Committee Recommendation

MOVED: Cr Vince Fontana
SECONDED: Ms Lisa Tripodi

That the Audit Committee:

- (1) Approves in principle the Performance Statement for the 2015/16 year subject to a management representation letter, minor amendments to the Performance Statement and the Auditor-General's review.
- (2) Authorises two Councillors to sign the Performance Statement in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the Auditor have been made.
- (3) Note the closing report of the Auditor-General and his recommended opinion being as unqualified.

CARRIED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Audit Committee discussed the following matters:

- Organise a Briefing to Councillors – Allan Cochrane.
- Present the Audit Committee plan at the next meeting – Allan Cochrane.
- L.G.A. review updates.
- Parliament has appointed a new Victorian Auditor-General – Mr Andrew Greaves. Mr Greaves held the same position in Queensland.

Committee Recommendation

MOVED: Mr Michael Said
SECONDED: Mr Terry Richards

That the Audit Committee notes the:

- (1) Quality and timeliness of the product delivered by officers.
- (2) Quality and timeliness of the product delivered by the Auditor-General's Office.

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Audit Committee will be held at 2:30pm on Monday 3 October 2016 in the Conference Room of Darebin City Council, 350 High Street Preston.

10. IN CAMERA DISCUSSION

In accordance with the Audit Committee Charter, Item 6, Part 5(f) and Part 6(b), an opportunity was provided for the Audit Committee to meet with the internal auditor and external auditor to discuss any matters that the Audit Committee or the internal auditor and/or external auditor believe should be discussed privately. Management left the meeting during discussion of this item.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 3.53pm

13. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

13.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in section 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to include Advisory Committees of Council if at least one Councillor is present or, a planned or scheduled meeting attended by at least half of the Councillors and one Council Officer that considers matters intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

Written records of Assemblies of Councillors must be kept and include the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending, the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending, and whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

Pursuant to section 80A (2) of the Act, these records must be, as soon as practicable, reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

An Assembly of Councillors record was kept for:

- Strategic Workshop – 5 September 2016

Recommendation

That the record of the Assembly of Councillors held on 5 September 2016 be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Councillors Strategic Workshop
	Date:	Monday 5 September 2016
	Location:	Function Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Vince Fontana, Cr. Gaetano Greco, Cr. Bo Li, Cr. Tim Laurence, Cr. Trent McCarthy, Cr. Angela Villella, Cr. Julie Williams, Cr. Steven Tsitas (from 6.30 pm).
	Council Staff:	Steve Hamilton, Allan Cochrane, Katrina Knox, Jacinta Stevens, Libby Hynes.
	Other:	
APOLOGIES:		Cr. Oliver Walsh

The Assembly commenced at 6.05 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1.	Election Period Policy	No disclosures were made.
2.	Negotiations for Surplus Victorian Government Land – Department of Education Sites at Ruthven and Lakeside	No disclosures were made. Cr. Villella absent from 6.41 pm to 6.44 pm. Cr. Tsitas left the meeting at 6.40 pm.

The Assembly concluded at 6.45 pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Katrina Knox
	Officer Title:	Director Community Development

14. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Recommendation

That Council note the Reports by Mayor and Councillors.

15. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

CLOSE OF MEETING

MOVED: Cr.
SECONDED: Cr.

That in accordance with section 89(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to contractual matters:

- 15.1 Solar Saver for Council Owned Community Buildings
- 15.2 CT201551 Provision of a Panel of Engineering Advisory Services
- 15.3 Outcome of Council Officer Process for Proposed Sale of Council Land Rear 16 Symons Street and 15 McNamara Street, Preston

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

MOVED: Cr.
SECONDED: Cr.

That the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.

CONFIDENTIAL**15.1 SOLAR \$AVER FOR COUNCIL OWNED COMMUNITY BUILDINGS**

Author: Acting Director Operations and Environment

Reviewed By: Acting Chief Executive Officer

Report Background

Council allocated \$1 million in the 2015/2016 budget for a second round of the Solar \$aver program and included community operated child care, kindergarten and community centres in council buildings as eligible participants. This report details the proposed solar installations and arrangements for community buildings which are part of the Solar \$aver program but are separate from the special rates scheme considered in a separate report.

Previous Council Resolution

This report is not subject to a previous resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

No previous briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

- Council Plan Goal 3 – Sustainable and resilient neighbourhoods
- Community Climate Change Action Plan

Summary

This report details the proposed solar installations and arrangements for community buildings which are part of the Solar \$aver program but separate to the special rates scheme as Council owns the buildings and leases them to the community associations. It is proposed that 109kw of solar in total be installed on 9 buildings.

Installation of the solar PV through the proposed arrangement is expected to significantly benefit the participating kindergartens, community houses and childcare associations with estimated annual net savings for centres ranging from \$381 to \$1,944.

The report is confidential as it discloses quoted prices for solar installations.

Recommendation

That the Council report and resolution remains confidential.

CONFIDENTIAL**15.2 CT201551 PROVISION OF A PANEL OF ENGINEERING ADVISORY SERVICES**

Author: Acting Manager Transport and Public Places

Reviewed By: Acting Director Future City and Assets

Report Background

This report seeks Council endorsement to establish a panel of engineering consultants to assist various Council business units to deliver capital works projects efficiently and at competitive rates.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

It is considered that this report supports the following Council Plan Goals;

- Vibrant City and Innovative Economy
- Healthy and Connected Community
- Sustainable and Resilient Neighbourhoods

Summary

Council called for tenders for the Provision of a Panel of Engineering Advisory Services (CT201551) on 9 June 2016. The tender called for suitably experienced and capable consultants to assist various Council business units in undertaking Transport Engineering and Transport Planning, Civil Engineering and Design, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Structural Engineering and Hydraulic Engineering services.

The Tender Evaluation Panel assessed all submissions and recommends the award of the contract to a panel of providers on a schedule of rates agreement.

The awarding of this tender will be to a panel of 22 providers, under a schedule of rates cost for the provision of engineering advisory services. The contract will be for an initial term of 3 years with options for two (2) x one (1) year extensions. Exercising of the optional extension periods shall be at the sole discretion of Council and subject to the contractors satisfactory performance during the term of the contract.

Recommendation

That the Council report and resolution remain confidential with the exception of the successful tenderer(s) name and contract period.

CONFIDENTIAL**15.3 OUTCOME OF COUNCIL OFFER PROCESS FOR PROPOSED SALE OF COUNCIL LAND REAR 16 SYMONS STREET AND 15 MCNAMARA STREET, PRESTON**

Author: Manager Strategic Asset Management

Reviewed By: Acting Director Future City and Assets

Report Background

Officer report: Report on the outcome of the financial submission process for the sale of land from a former right-of-way/road at the rear of 16 Symons Street and 15 McNamara Street Preston, known as Lot 16 on title plan TP017779W.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 20 December 1999, Council resolved:

'That Council being of the opinion that the road shown hatched on the plan and situated at the rear of 1-43 McNamara Street, 2-44 Symons Street and 551-555 Gilbert Road, Preston, is not reasonably required for public use:

- (1) discontinues the road in accordance with Section 206, Item 3 of Schedule 10, of the Local Government Act, 1989;*
- (2) directs that a notice be published in the Government Gazette;*
- (3) directs that the land from the road be sold by private treaty to the abutting property owners of McNamara Street, Symons Street and Gilbert Road, Preston;*
- (4) directs that the discontinuance and sale will not affect any right, power or interest held by the Council or the Statutory Authorities, in the road in connection with any sewers, drains, pipes and cables under the control of the Authorities in or near the road; and*
- (5) signs and seals Transfers of Land involving payment of sums assessed pursuant to Council's policy for parts of the land shown hatched on the plan enclosed.'*

Previous Briefing(s)

Council Briefing 22 August 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal: Excellent Service
Strategy: 5.4 Long term responsible financial planning
Property Asset Management Strategy – May 2015

Goal: Vibrant City and Innovative Economy
Strategy: 1.4 Strategic Land Use and Sustainable Transport Planning Policies.

Summary

This report provides the history and background relating to the discontinued right-of-way/road adjoining 16 Symons Street and 15 McNamara Street, Preston shown hatched in the plan in **Appendix A** and on the aerial photo in **Appendix B** as well as the outcome of the financial submission process (Council Offer Process).

Recommendation

That the Council report and resolution remains confidential.

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

