

**2007 – 2017 COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT – YEAR 1
June 2008**

Introduction

The 2007-2017 Community Plan was endorsed by Council in September 2007 and publicly launched in November. The purpose of this report is to account for Council-led action to address the priorities in the Community Plan.

This document lists Council initiatives and actions to date (2007-08 financial year) that respond to the strategic priorities, objectives and strategies included in the program of work for Year 1 of the 2007 – 2017 City of Port Phillip Community Plan.

Community Plan Vision Statement 2007 – 2017

The goals of social equity, economic viability, environmental responsibility and cultural vitality remain central to our desire to foster a sustainable and harmonious future. We acknowledge there is a shared responsibility to ensure that everyone, regardless of age or cultural or socio-economic background, can access services that meet their needs and can participate in community life. We want our Council to demonstrate leadership in community participation, strategic planning, advocacy to other levels of government, and accountability to the community.

The information in this report is presented to align with the Community Plan's five core topics (Parking; Building Community; Urban Planning; Entertainment areas and Residential Amenity; and Public Open Space) and the three priorities for action for each topic.

1. PARKING AND MOVING AROUND PORT PHILLIP

The Community Summit identified affordable, accessible and reliable public transport as the best solution to parking issues. However, alongside improving public transport, the Summit wanted to see all new developments be self-sufficient in their provision of parking. The Summit also called for better walking and bike paths, stronger safety measures, including reduction of speed limits and limiting car access in some streets. Other ideas included promoting shared vehicle use and rewarding non-car owners.

Community Priorities for Action	Action taken
1. Transforming public transport planning, capacity, reliability and incentives for use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning has commenced to convene a community advocacy group ▪ Council participation in regional Metropolitan Transport Forum ▪ Advocacy for Park Street (South Melbourne) tram extension
2. Improve walking paths and bike lanes and develop incentives for non-car transport etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of Parking Plan pending. ▪ Additional bike racks and signage giving directions for pedestrians installed

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3. Require new developments to be self-sufficient in parking and invest in non-car transport options	<i>Not reported</i>
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2. BUILDING COMMUNITY

The Community Summit expressed the need to celebrate and acknowledge the neighbourhoods that make up the City and communities formed by common interests. The Summit acknowledged a shared responsibility for both Council and the community to find ways for the physical environment to foster community building and reclaim shared local spaces. Bringing people together to break down isolation through shared interests and projects was seen as critical to building community.

Community Priorities for Action	Actions Taken
1. Making the physical environment support community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local celebrations – Paint the Streets, Elwood community event – Feb 08 ▪ Street parties promoted and supported ▪ Audit completed re compliance with footpath trading local laws in Acland Street and Carlisle Street. Enforcement strategy and licence renewals pending. ▪ Planning for street lighting improvements: ▪ 2008/09 budget recommendation for Stage 5 Sandridge Beach Masterplan including environmentally sensitive promenade lights ▪ 2008/09 budget recommendation for Fitzroy Street lighting upgrade ▪ 2008/09 budget recommendation for funding of lighting as part of an upgrade to Turville Place and Jackson Street intersection ▪ 2008/09 budget recommendation for funding of lighting as part of an upgrade to Murphy Reserve ▪ On going involvement with the Victorian Sustainable Public Lighting Action Group ▪ Commitment to purchase green power for street lighting in 2008/09. ▪ Updating information on public lighting on website pending. ▪ Draft Sustainable Lighting Action Plan completed – community consultation pending.
2. Continue to support the disadvantaged, disabled and low income to remain in the city and support affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indigenous community ‘Sorry Day’ event to mark apology given by national parliament. ▪ Health and Safety Community Plan (Municipal Public Health Plan) launched in conjunction with community agencies and community members. ▪ Community Grants program ▪ Port Phillip Gives fundraising for local community service organisations. ▪ Disability Action Planning commenced.

Community Priorities for Action	Actions Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed restructure of City of Port Phillip Housing Program – set up Port Phillip Housing Trust (now managed by Port Phillip Housing Association Ltd) to transfer roles of owner/developer to maintain future sustainability of the Program, including ongoing financial support for community housing projects under the Trust. ▪ Continued Council sponsorship enabling older people at risk of homelessness to access local public housing older person units. ▪ Support for campaign led by ‘Australians for Affordable Housing’ to raise awareness and support for addressing affordable ▪ Funding submission lodged with Commonwealth Government on social housing models. ▪ Working in collaboration with other Inner Melbourne councils (Melbourne, Yarra and Stonnington) on affordable housing planning issues under the Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP) and Inner Regional Housing Statement. ▪ Lead council role in developing an Inner Melbourne Affordable Housing Needs Website funded through state government (DPCD) in conjunction with Melbourne, Yarra and Stonnington Councils. Website now live (www.imrhai.com.au) ▪ Produced a new ‘Port Phillip Housing Strategy 2007 – 2017. ▪ Commenced a research project assessing mixed public/private housing and its body corporate implications. ▪ Expanded Housing Information and Support outreach service as of Sept 07. ▪ Preliminary consultations and research to develop a homelessness strategy undertaken.
3. Help people in our community share their talents and resources and assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘Small Poppy Grants’ program commenced. ▪ First phase completed to implement community interactive web ▪ Street parties supported and promoted. ▪ Promotional campaigning for ‘Port Phillip Gives’ philanthropy ▪ Civic Awards supporting community volunteers ▪ First phase of Community Leadership program established with a series of community forums on public policy issues ▪ Hosting leadership development events for students ▪ Community Plan E-newsletter introduced to keep people connected with Community Plan

Community Priorities for Action	Actions Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sponsorship of civil liberties theatre production at Gas Works Theatre ▪ Distribution of Community Plan to all participants who attended Community Summit and to local community organisations ▪ Email newsletter started to provide regular community updates on progress of Community Plan implementation ▪ Strategic planning day (Feb) hosted for youth service providers and educators, police, libraries, EcoCentre, develop a collaborative planning framework ▪ Student leadership events (Mayor's Breakfast, Little big Cake, Student Forum Yrs 6-8, Student Union Yrs 9-12) ▪ Youth development leadership resource (Look Under a Rock) developed by local students for local young people

3. URBAN PLANNING

The Community Summit expressed support for mandatory state government controls to strengthen sustainable design and planning frameworks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water consumptions. The Summit wanted to see more active community participation in the development of local planning schemes to achieve a better balance between the need of local planning schemes to achieve a better balance between the need to accommodate increasing residential density and visitor numbers with the need to quality urban design, sustainable development and community amenity.

Community Priorities for Action	Actions Taken
1. Encourage environmentally sustainable design while advocating mandatory state government controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implemented Port Phillip Community Climate Action program and events ▪ Sustainable Living at Home program ▪ Small Poppy Grants program includes environmental sustainability projects. ▪ Shower head exchange program ▪ Participating with other inner Melbourne councils through IMAP to develop Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines and education program for council staff and an action plan for inner Melbourne ▪ Sustainable Environment Strategy completed including Council commitment to Zero net greenhouse gas emissions and a 70% reduction in potable water use from council operations by 2020 ▪ New programs developed (Challenge to Change and Climate Change 1000) ▪ Drought Management Strategy completed Stormwater Management Plan review underway.

Community Priorities for Action	Actions Taken
2. Develop a sustainable bayside city planning scheme as model to other councils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Municipal Strategic Statement and local policies in the Port Phillip Planning Scheme have been reviewed and re-drafted. The revised draft document contains important policy statements about Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Transport as a key focus for land use planning and development in the City of Port Phillip. The revised document also has clearer statements relating to neighbourhoods, and includes a number of new policies including an Accessible Buildings policy which promotes accessible and adaptable housing for all existing and future residents. ▪ The draft MSS and local policies (as above) were considered by Council in October 2007, and will be implanted through Amendment C62 to the Planning Scheme. ▪ State government Ministerial Authorisation currently pending to allow public exhibition of MSS planning scheme documentation ▪ Extensive community consultation planned for finalised draft MSS and local policies – waiting on authorisation to exhibit the document
3. Council to work with relevant authorities to support the active management of waterways, foreshores, parkland and public amenities to protect impact of community on urban waterways, foreshore and Port Phillip Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of pilot street cleaning project in Elwood completed ▪ Trial program to test recycling in public places starting in April 08 ▪ Litter public education campaign Dec – April ▪ Council participated in State Government cigarette litter campaign “Don’t be a tosser” ▪ Improved response times for dumped in streets hard rubbish achieved 07-08. ▪ Increased levels of street cleaning in tourist precincts over summer months introduced 07-08. ▪ Coordinated community sites for ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ - March 08

4. ENTERTAINMENT AREAS AND AMENITY

Large scale festivals and events and late night venues get a mixed and often conflicting reaction from residents and businesses. The Summit strongly endorsed improvement of event management to minimise negative impacts on residents and the environment. Enforcement of permit conditions of licensed premises was considered a high priority in establishing a more harmonious co-existence between residents and visitors. A desire to see safer and smaller-scale cultural, sporting and social events was also expressed.

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Community Priorities for Action	Actions Taken
1. Improve event management to reduce environmental impact and better manage the effect on the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitor behaviour campaign conducted ▪ Increased response time for clean up of major events implemented for St Kilda festival ▪ Fitzroy Street Community Taskforce ▪ On-going collaboration with local police re enforcement strategies and hot spots.
2. Develop safe and affordable cultural events and entertainment opportunities, involving people across age and interest groups, providing alternatives to licensed venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of a draft 'Creative City Plan' in progress ▪ A review of event management issues in progress
3. More rigorous enforcement of permit conditions on restaurants, bars and clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborative development of a management plan with local police

5. PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Alongside a mandate for wise water management, the appearance and upkeep of parks and gardens was raised as a matter needing to be attended to. Litter and dumping of hard rubbish were highlighted as concerns and an expectation that Council will be more accountable for performance in litter collection and the appearance of streets and other public areas.

Community Priorities for action	Actions Taken
1. Manage water use and re-use, planting and park usage for prolonged drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drought Management Strategy 2007 ▪ Council participating in a feasibility study for water re-use in Alma Pk, Garden City, St Vincent's Gardens, St Kilda Botanical Gardens, and Elwood Park - focussing on identifying the most appropriate alternative water source for these sites (IMAP project). ▪ CoPP Water Taskforce established to oversee long-term water conservation & reuse strategies and contribute to Local Water Action Plan 2008-2011. ▪ Parks and Gardens working with Sustainable Environment to develop irrigation specifications for contractors and a 5 year plan for water smart plantings. ▪ Parks irrigation audit pending - will inform ways to improve irrigation efficiency ▪ Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) review currently underway – considering flooding amelioration and water quality issues to inform stormwater reuse options. ▪ Participating with other inner Melbourne councils through IMAP to develop Water

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Community Priorities for action	Actions Taken
	Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines and education program for council staff and an action plan for inner Melbourne
2. Reduce impact of major events on parks (eg Grand Prix)	▪ Council has continued to express its opposition to the Grand Prix event
3. Create more open space	<i>Not reported</i>