

Safe City, Proud Communities Plan 2020- 2024

2022 Progress Report



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Introduction

The [Safe City, Proud Communities Plan](#) (the Plan) was endorsed on 20 July 2020 to set Council's direction for enhancing road and community safety over a four-year period. The Plan was developed to align with the *Council and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021* and aimed to contribute to realisation of *Melton City 2036: The City We Imagine*.

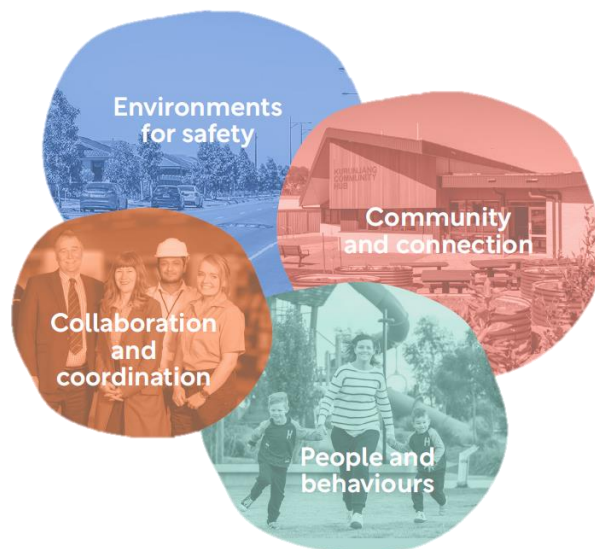
The Plan has ongoing alignment with the new community vision *Melton City 2041 – The City We Create*, and in particular, the following objectives of the *Melton City Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025*:

1.2 A safe community where people feel proud to live.

1.4 A City that promotes positive public health and wellbeing outcomes to our community.

The Plan focuses on building community cohesion, social capital, promoting positive behaviours and safe environments as evidence-based approaches for sustained road and community safety. It recognises the need for a collaborative approach to addressing the underlying factors of actual and perceived community safety.

There are four pillars which make up the Plan, including:



Each of these themes is accompanied by a key objective, strategies and short-term outcomes which were defined to guide Council programs, policies and services associated with community safety.

At the time of endorsement, a two-year action plan was developed to outline how the City of Melton would address these themes. As we reach the end of this period, the time has now come to develop an implementation plan for the remaining two years of the *Safe City, Proud Communities Plan*.

While the overall themes and strategies from the Plan remain relevant, it is acknowledged that the context for community safety in the City of Melton has continued to evolve. The development of a new implementation plan provides the opportunity to incorporate upcoming projects and address emerging issues that were not identified as part of the original Action Plan.

Purpose

The purpose of this progress report is to provide an update on outcomes of implementation to date as per the objectives and strategies of the *Safe City, Proud Communities Plan*. Further to this, the progress report will summarise further plans for the Plan's implementation over its final two years (2022-2024).

Objectives

The objectives of the *Safe City, Proud Communities Plan 2020-2024* are:

- Enable community awareness and practices that contribute to safer communities and roads.
- Promote attitudes, norms, and community participation to improve perceptions of safety.
- Build social and physical environments that enable road and community safety.
- Strengthen Melton City Council's capacity to take a whole-of-organisational approach to road and community safety.

Background

Council initiatives and responses to community safety to date have been developed to align with the objectives and strategies previously endorsed *Safe City, Proud Communities Plan 2020-2024*, to maintain an evidence informed approach to Councils work in the area of Community Safety. All initiatives continue to be developed with these in mind, and no new objectives or strategies will be added to the Plan over the next two years.

The primary intended users of this report are Council officers who will be responsible for the facilitation and reporting on initiatives. Councillors and the broader community will be involved in the implementation plan through participation in the relevant programs or services which result from these actions as appropriate.

Methodology

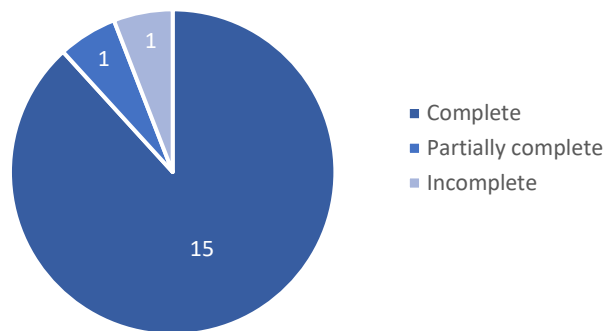
This progress report was developed collaboratively by relevant Council officers between April and June 2022. The key stages of its development included:

- an evaluation of the outcomes from the 2020-2022 action plan
- workshops with representatives from departments which:
 - committed to an action/s in the 2020-2022 action plan
 - have current or upcoming projects in the area of community safety
 - are involved in the Safe City Internal Working Groupto review previous actions and establish new ones
- drafting initiatives for ongoing implementation
- consultation of the draft implementation plan with the Safe City Internal Working Group
- review and approval from department managers for new initiatives identified in the implementation plan
- finalisation of the draft progress report
- presentation to Council's Executive Team for endorsement.

Achievements from the 2020-2022 Action Plan

Implementation to date for the *Safe City Proud Communities Plan* consisted of 17 actions delegated to service areas across Melton City Council. Council officers reported on the achievements from this Action Plan at 12- and 24-month intervals after the Plan had been endorsed. This input has been reviewed and utilised to inform the development of the future initiatives to be implemented 2022-2024.

Of the 17 actions in the 2020-2022 Action Plan, it was pleasing to see that most of these (88 per cent) were considered to be satisfied.



For the actions classified as partially complete or incomplete, the key reasons related to the impacts of COVID-19 on the cancellation of community events, and factors outside of Council's control.

Some of the notable achievements have been listed below.

Theme 1: People and behaviours

- Delivery of the Community Road Safety Forums in May 2021 and March 2022.
- Community survey to inform the Lake Caroline CCTV Project.
- Implementation of the Community Safety Ambassador Program.
- Ongoing support for road safety programs such as Fit2Drive, TAC L2P, the Aboriginal Learner Driver Program and the Road Safety for New Arrivals Program.
- Delivery of the Emerging Women's Program.
- Targeted playgroups for LGBTQI communities.
- Son's and Daughters of the West Program including people from vulnerable communities.
- Implementation of Council's Traffic Calming Policy

Theme 2: Community and connection

- Delivery of place-based events including Melton Live, Illuminate Melton, Lakeside Alive, Putt & Play and the Harmony Day Festival.
- Community programs and events held to celebrate International Women's Day, Neighbour Day, and Neighbourhood House Week.
- A total of 533 agreements for community hirers through the annual expression of interest process across 25 facilities.

Theme 3: Environments for safety

- A subscription to CASIMO has been obtained to enable Council to create a comprehensive database of existing, planned, and hypothetical community services and facilities.
- Council received a Growing Suburbs Fund grant to contribute to the construction of the Cobblebank Community Services Hub.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Victoria University and conversations now underway to explore collaboration opportunities focusing on vocational training for City of Melton residents.
- White Card training was delivered for our culturally and linguistically diverse communities as part of the 'Pathways to the construction industry' project.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles continue to be considered in the design and assessment of projects.
- A series of CPTED audits were conducted in collaboration with Victoria Police in response to community concerns.
- The Safe Systems Approach has been integrated into road infrastructure projects and general maintenance – e.g. Safety in Design workshop for the Caroline Springs Boulevard signalised intersection.
- Delivery of activation such as the Wallace Square Pop Up Park, Scott Street activation and Hillside Shopping Centre activation.

Theme 4: Collaboration and coordination

- Establishment of the amalgamated Safe City Advisory Committee.
- Establishment of the Safe City Internal Working Group.
- Ongoing participation in various external networks, including RoadSafe Westgate Committee, Local Government Road Safety Officer meetings, and the Hoon Community Reference Group.

Moving forward

For the final two years of the Plan initiatives will be delivered under the the themes and strategies outlined in the *Safe City Proud Communities Plan*. The outcomes and progress updates of these initiatives will be reported to Council and the Safe City Advisory Committee.

Theme 1: People and behaviours

Enable community awareness and practices that contribute to safer communities and roads.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Participate in relevant regional and state initiatives
- 1.2 Advocate to State Government for resourcing to implement initiatives
- 1.3 Deliver individual skill development/education initiatives
- 1.4 Support vulnerable community groups to access road and community safety programs

Theme 2: Community and connection

Promote attitudes, norms, and community participation to improve perceptions of safety

Strategies:

- 2.1 Deliver opportunities for community participation and connection
- 2.2 Support vulnerable community groups to access community participation and connection opportunities

Theme 3: Environments for safety

Build social and physical environments that enable road and community safety

Strategies:

- 3.1 Promote social environments that foster road and community safety
- 3.2 Construct, maintain and activate road and community infrastructure
- 3.3 Construct, maintain and activate public spaces

Theme 4: Collaboration and coordination

Strengthen Melton City Council's capacity to take a whole-of-organisational approach to road and community safety

Strategies:

- 4.1 Coordinate and consult with Council advisory committees
- 4.2 Coordinate a whole-of-Council approach to promoting road and community safety
- 4.3 Engage with relevant external stakeholders and partnerships where appropriate

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

Council recognises that achieving road and community safety in the City of Melton is a shared responsibility and seeks to capitalise on the roles that local government can play in promoting safety. The Plan outlines Council's intended whole-of-organisation approach to road and community safety.

A more detailed evaluation and reporting framework has been developed to guide the monitoring, evaluation and use of learnings from the implementation plan. A designated Council officer will ensure regularly reporting from each department who have committed to an action/s takes place.

The Safe City Internal Working Group (established through the original action plan) will support this process and help to coordinate the delivery of the implementation plan across Council.

Council officers will then report achievements to the Safe City Advisory Committee at the conclusion of the plan to share achievements in the space of community safety.