

21.08 LIVEABILITY14/01/2010
C62**21.08-1 Council Vision**14/01/2010
C62

Latrobe City Council will consider planning applications and make decisions in accordance with the following vision:

- To promote and support social, recreational, cultural and community life by providing both essential and innovative amenities, services and facilities within the municipality.
- To enrich the vibrancy and diversity of community life through promoting and supporting recreational services and facilities.
- To enhance the quality of residents' lives by encouraging positive interrelated elements including safety, health, education, quality of life, mobility and accessibility, and sense of place.
- To support arts and cultural opportunities that contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of community life.

21.08-2 Liveability Overview14/01/2010
C62

Latrobe City's strong sense of community continues to be a prime factor in attracting people to live and work in the region. Latrobe City offers families and individuals high quality health care, education, and housing affordability, as well as recreational, cultural and sporting facilities. Allied to this is a diverse range of employment opportunities. Community liveability includes a number of interrelated elements, including community safety, provision of health services, education services, mobility and accessibility and a 'sense of place'. Community liveability is a concept that relates to the unique combinations of these community assets, the provision of services and the ways in which they make a positive contribution to the community's quality of life.

Latrobe City is a thriving multi-cultural municipality with 15% of residents born in countries other than Australia. Its people have come from many parts of the world and have chosen to make Latrobe City their home. The Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Action Plan outlines ways and means of supporting Latrobe City family and social life, while promoting individual rights and respecting diversity. Strategies have already been developed to improve the health and level of health and wellbeing support for older people, young people, the koorie community, people with a disability, people with mental illness and those who are economically disadvantaged. The outcomes of these strategies need to be monitored and continually refined to ensure they are addressing the aspirations of the community.

Objective 1 – Liveability

- To enhance the quality of residents' lives by encouraging positive interrelated elements including safety, health, education, quality of life, mobility and accessibility, and sense of place.

Strategies

- Reduce the impact of gaming on community well-being.
- Promote the development of public infrastructure to enhance Latrobe Valley's cultural liveability.
- Promote and support an increase in the level of inclusion for older people, young people, the koorie community, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with a disability or mental illness.
- Support the multi-agency approach to enhancing the health and well-being of residents in Latrobe City.

21.08-3 Healthy Urban Design Overview14/01/2010
C62

Healthy Urban Design Good Practice Guideline – Meeting Healthy by Design Objectives is an initiative of Latrobe City Council which aims to accommodate the community, pedestrians and cyclists as a first priority in street, building and open space design. The

Healthy Urban Design Good Practice Guideline has been developed for guidance in designing and developing healthy lifestyles for the community. *Healthy Urban Design Good Practice Guideline* supports state government initiatives such as *Melbourne 2030* and it encourages:

- Walkable neighbourhoods, including safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle routes to all key local destinations.
- Design of legible street networks that are clear and easy to navigate.
- Open space that incorporates a range of shade, shelter, seating and signage opportunities.
- Building design that maximises natural surveillance and active street frontages.
- Maximised public transport options and connections to all key destinations.
- Community spaces or buildings that incorporate a variety of uses.
- Avoiding opportunities for concealment and entrapment along paths and in community spaces.
- Minimal fencing and walls, with maximum lighting, windows, doors, articulation to facades and use of low walls and transparent fencing.

Issues associated with liveability and **residential** development include:

- The main towns of Latrobe City are experiencing growth. As these towns continue to grow, new residential development is located further from town centres, and therefore access to services and community facilities is reduced.
- Residents of Latrobe City have a lower average life expectancy due to higher incidences of cancer, cardiovascular disease and mental disorders. Council therefore recognises the need to influence health outcomes through the built environment by encouraging active living and social interaction for residents.

Issues associated with liveability and **community centres** include:

- New residential development on the fringe of expanding main towns within Latrobe City are at risk of being disconnected from community services and facilities without walkable access to local hubs.
- Street lighting, particularly in laneways, needs to be improved within Latrobe City to increase safety and amenity of community areas at night.

Issues associated with liveability and **open space** and path networks include:

- Public transport opportunities, walking and cycling paths, and linkages between small and main towns in Latrobe City are not always available.
- Currently Latrobe City lacks appropriate alternatives for walking/cycle paths that provide both leisurely and direct routes. Providing paths that allow both recreational opportunities and destination based routes would benefit residents and visitors by enabling journey choice.

Objective 1 – Healthy Urban Design

- To provide for walkable neighbourhoods, ensuring public transport, shops, public open space and mixed-use community centres are close to all dwellings.

Strategies

- Promote active lifestyles and avoid social isolation by designing new dwellings to be close to user-friendly pedestrian and cycle paths that incorporate shade, toilet facilities, seating and directional signage where possible.
- Promote walkability within new developments, community centres or buildings (appropriate to the scale of development) of approximately 400-800 metres from all dwellings.

Objective 2– Healthy Urban Design

- To increase and maximise public transport opportunities between towns and within corridors to support the networked city.

Strategies

- Improve existing linear open spaces and public parks by applying Healthy Urban Design Good Practice Guideline principles through minor adjustments to infrastructure.

This could include planting new shade trees, maintaining clear sightlines and bridging missing linkages to create a network of well-lit, walking and bicycle paths.

Objective 3– Healthy Urban Design

- To encourage articulation of building facades and street integration to provide for safe and active neighbourhoods.

Strategies

- Support the Universal Housing Alliance Policy Platform and support the need for a state-wide approach to Universal Housing Design.
- All users of a path or park are encouraged to be able to see and be seen in their surroundings at all times.
- The use of lighting has the potential to encourage or discourage use and therefore should be carefully designed in all parks and linear open spaces, especially along walking and cycling paths.

Objective 4 – Healthy Urban Design

- To encourage all retail to provide active street frontages to foster a community spirit and promote community involvement.

Strategies

- Encourage retail areas that are commonly accessed community centres to be walkable spaces that promote physical activity and provide infrastructure such as bicycle racks.
- Encourage high quality community art in public spaces to foster community spirit, as well as provide attractive, quality neighbourhood designs.
- Encourage community centres to be designed to ensure active street frontages and promote ‘eyes on the street’ for natural surveillance. Provision of a mix of uses and programs that allow users to socialise. These spaces are encouraged to be located near schools, public transport, civic areas and parks which will also assist in ensuring a viable community heart.

Objective 5 – Healthy Urban Design

- To co-locate neighbourhood centres with complementary uses, such as public open space or schools.

Strategies

- Assess and evaluate future recreational and open space opportunities by ensuring that these needs are provided in accordance with Latrobe City’s Public Open Space Plan.
- Encourage a well designed open space and path network needs to include regular intervals of well arranged seating that promotes opportunities for social interaction, provides public amenities and shelter.

Objective 6 – Healthy Urban Design

- To promote physical activity and walkability in all towns by ensuring all dwellings are within close walking distance of a community centre.

Strategies

- Encourage residential developments to plan for maximum connectivity of open space networks, local services and facilities to avoid predictive route movements and encourage residents to walk within and around the greater neighbourhood.
- Ensure all subdivision housing developments in townships include community spaces or buildings that are provided within a walkable distance (approximately 400-800 metres) where appropriate.

21.08-4

14/01/2010
C62

Implementation

The objectives and strategies identified in this Clause will be implemented by;

Using zones and overlays

- Apply Development Plans to undeveloped residential land which incorporate Urban Design Good Practice principals and the provision of infrastructure and community services through developer contribution plans if required.

Further Strategic Work

- Develop sustainable design standards for urban and industrial areas.
- Develop a Gaming Strategy.
- Prepare Development Plans.
- Prepare Development Contribution Plans.
- Review public open space contributions for new residential, commercial, and industrial subdivisions.

21.08-5

14/01/2010
C62

Reference Documents

The following strategic studies have informed the preparation of this planning scheme. All relevant material has been included in the Scheme and decisions makers should use these documents for background research only.

- Community Plan (2004-2008).
- Public Open Space Plan (2007).
- Traralgon Outdoor Recreation Plan (2006).
- Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2005).
- Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Plan (2006).
- Disability Action Plan (2007/2008).
- Municipal Public Health Plan (2004).
- Healthy Urban Design Good Practice Guideline (2008).
- Childcare Strategy (2006 - 2011).
- Older Persons Strategy (2007 – 2021).