

Public Exhibition - A City for All - Draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023

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Summary

This report seeks Council endorsement for the public exhibition of the draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023. The goal of the plan is to contribute to increasing actual and perceived safety in Sydney. Perceptions of safety are formed from how people feel about others or an area or place. These fears can impact people's quality of life and the social and economic wellbeing of communities. Actual and perceived public safety influences many different aspects of our city's quality of life and sustainability for Sydney's growing population of residents, workers and visitors.

The NSW Government is responsible for law and order, public housing, health and public transport and leads on responses to these issues in the City of Sydney. The draft Community Safety Action Plan outlines the City of Sydney's contribution to making Sydney a safe and resilient place to live, visit, work and study. It describes our commitment to contributing to safety and our areas of focus for the next five years. The plan sets out four priority areas for action:

- Safe streets and spaces – working with partners to increase actual and perceived public safety in Sydney's streets and spaces to ensure they are well lit and attractive, promoting a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour and improving road, public transport and pedestrian safety.
- Crime prevention and response – contributing to reducing local crime and supporting initiatives that address domestic and family violence, sexual assault and safeguarding children from abuse.
- Ready and resilient – working together to better prepare for and respond to emergencies that may arise, and strengthening community resilience.
- A safe global destination – supporting visitors and international students to feel welcome and experience the city safely, and promoting Sydney as a safe place to visit, study and invest.

The areas for action in this plan contribute broadly to the City's overarching vision for Sydney set out in the Sustainable Sydney Community Strategic Plan 2017-2021. The priorities, objectives and actions are also aligned to key City strategy and action plans.

The plan uses a Results-Based Accountability framework to measure impact. This involves a two-level outcomes framework tracking both the population indicators and measuring the direct outcomes of specific program activity. The plan has been developed through engagement with the community and sector stakeholders throughout 2017. Stakeholders include residents, government and non-government agencies, academics and peak bodies. The plan recognises the need to work in partnership to achieve positive shared outcomes and adapt and respond to emerging issues. The community, all levels of government, and the private and non-profit sectors all contribute to making Sydney safer.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the draft Community Safety Action Plan as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for public exhibition for a minimum of four weeks; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor editorial amendments prior to the exhibition of the draft Community Safety Action Plan.

Attachments

Attachment A. A City for All - Draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023

Background

1. The City of Sydney local government area is home to over 220,000 residents, and over the last decade has one of the fastest growing populations in NSW.
2. On an average day, including visitors and students, it is estimated that there are more than 1.2 million people in the city. By 2030, it is estimated the City's population will likely have grown by around 46 per cent based on 2006 census figures.
3. Safety in our local area is influenced by a range of factors, including government policy settings, and economic and social conditions.
4. Actual and perceived public safety influences many different aspects of quality of life and sustainability for Sydney's growing population of residents, workers and visitors.
5. Research shows personal safety is a key factor when people make decisions about visiting or choosing to study in Sydney. It is also fundamental to the social wellbeing and economic success of communities.
6. Sydney is recognised internationally as a safe global city. In 2016, metropolitan Sydney ranked the third highest of 30 global cities around the world in terms of its performance in 'health, safety and security' in PWC's major comparative report on global city performance.
7. Crime in Sydney is predominantly trending down or stable with the exception of retail theft and sexual offences which have increased over the past two years.
8. Perceptions of safety are formed from how people feel about an area or place. These fears can impact people's quality of life and the social and economic wellbeing of communities.
9. Perceptions can be influenced by environmental and design factors such as poor lighting, the presence of graffiti, damaged property or rubbish, an absence of other people or a lack of seating or recreational spaces.
10. They can also be influenced by social factors including behaviour of other people, for example, alcohol or drug consumption in public places, dogs off leash, or unsafe road and cycling behaviour.
11. The draft Community Safety Action Plan outlines the City's role in increasing actual and perceived safety in the Sydney Local Government Area for the next five years, 2018-2023.
12. The draft plan is the City's first safety action plan following two previous safety strategies in 1998 and 2007.
13. Safety is a fundamental principal underlying how the City delivers its services. Within the legislative scope of its operations, the City of Sydney can influence some of the causes of crime and public safety issues in the city through a range of mechanisms.
14. Planning controls can be used to specify the design quality and safety of new buildings and infrastructure, and regulate their usage, for example, consent for licensed premises.

15. Actual and perceived safety is influenced through directly managing aspects of the public domain including: provision of street lighting, cleansing and waste management, public event management, public art, and provision of community recreational spaces.
16. The regulatory functions of the City also contribute to promoting safety, for example, outdoor alcohol restrictions in our parks and streets and the companion animal policy.
17. The areas for action in the plan contribute broadly to the City's overarching vision for Sydney set out in the Sustainable Sydney Community Strategic Plan 2017-2021.
18. The priorities, objectives and actions are aligned to key City strategy and action plans including: A City for All – Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan, the Resilient Sydney Action Plan, the Economic Development Action Plan, the International Education Action Plan, Open Sydney Strategy and the Tourism action plan.
19. The plan also contributes to supporting strategic objectives and planning priorities set out in the new long-term district and metropolitan plans for Sydney – the Revised Eastern City District Plan and Greater Sydney Region Plan.
20. The plan also draws on and aligns with a range of state and national strategies and plans that relate to crime prevention, emergency response and community safety.
21. No single organisation can solve complex safety issues in isolation. The City works with a range of partners, including community members, government agencies, non-government organisations, universities, and business to identify agreed solutions and share resources to respond to priority issues.
22. The plan has been developed through engagement with the community and sector stakeholders throughout 2017. Stakeholders included residents, government and non-government agencies, educational institutions and peak bodies.
23. The draft Community Safety Action Plan outlines the City's contribution to making Sydney a safe and resilient place to live, visit, work and study. It describes our commitment to contributing to safety and our areas of focus for the next five years.
24. The plan sets out four priority areas for action:
 - (a) Safe streets and spaces – working with partners to increase actual and perceived public safety in Sydney's streets and spaces.
 - (b) Crime prevention and response – contributing to reducing local crime and initiatives that address domestic and family violence, sexual assault and safeguarding children from abuse.
 - (c) Ready and resilient – working together to better prepare for and respond to emergencies that may arise, and strengthening community resilience.
 - (d) A safe global destination – supporting visitors and international students to feel welcome and experience the city safely, and promoting Sydney as a safe place to visit, study and invest.
25. It describes work already underway as well as new initiatives, to present a holistic picture of action by the City and its partners to achieve shared outcomes - in areas within Council's control, influence and concern.

26. Types of actions include: provision of lighting, partnering to improve road and pedestrian safety, building the capacity of community and business to increase safety and respond to complex issues, continuing to embed and promote child safe standards, establishing outdoor alcohol restriction areas implementing the recommended approach of Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism, and providing programs and activities to support and welcome international students and visitors.
27. This plan is a collective plan for action intended to be delivered jointly with other levels of government, the business and not-for-profit sectors, and wider community. It reflects the fact that safety is inherently a shared responsibility, with benefits for all members of society.
28. The success of the plan will be measured using a Results-Based Accountability framework (RBA). RBA uses a two-level outcomes framework: monitoring the population indicators and measuring the direct outcomes as a result of specific programs.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

29. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This plan is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City - a city that is globally competitive, offering an attractive and safe destination for investment in business, education, tourism and entertainment.
 - (b) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling - safe and accessible travel through Sydney's walking and cycling networks and at public transport hubs.
 - (c) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - resilient local communities that are strengthened by social connections in challenging times.
 - (d) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - high quality urban design, enhancing safety and amenity in the built environment.
 - (e) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships - effective governance to help safeguard the significant number of children and adults that engage with our services or attend events and Sydney's broader residential and business communities.

Organisational Impact

30. The actions are deliverable within existing staffing and operational budgets, or will be delivered through future planned capital works projects, procurement contracts and agreements.

Social / Cultural / Community

31. Safety is fundamental to the cultural and social sustainability of communities. The City uses community development approaches to build social cohesion and to empower communities to participate in decision-making processes.
32. The draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023 has a focus on strengthening informal networks and enhancing community structures with the potential to build community capacity. This can provide opportunities to mobilise communities to address local issues and increase safety.

Economic

33. Maintaining and promoting Sydney's reputation as a welcoming, safe and inclusive place to live, visit and to do business will help to increase economic prosperity, to create a thriving, globally connected community, and further Sydney's international reputation as a great place to visit, live, work, invest and study.
34. Research shows personal safety is a key factor when people make decisions about visiting or choosing to study in Sydney. People visiting Sydney make a significant contribution to Australia's prosperity and local job creation. Direct expenditure from the tourism sector alone contributed over \$16 billion to Sydney's economy in 2017.
35. Sydney also benefits greatly from the international student market, as Australia's leading international education destination. In 2015, around 36 per cent of NSW's export income was generated by international students (around \$7.7 billion) with a further estimated \$2.8 billion received from direct spending.
36. The draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023 will support local businesses through capacity building initiatives in partnership with NSW Police designed to reduce opportunities for crime to occur. A key area of focus is helping retailers protect themselves from retail theft and fraud, which is reportedly costing Sydney businesses \$2.3 billion a year.

Budget Implications

37. The delivery of this plan largely represents the alignment of business as usual activities with the outcomes in the plan – sometimes requiring a shift in focus or realignment of resources, but not requiring extensive new resources.
38. The plan is based on shared responsibility and delivery in collaboration with other government and non-government stakeholders. As such, many of the actions will not require City resources beyond coordination or advocacy activities achieved within existing resources.
39. Note that safety related activity will continue in 2018/19 with further planning to occur in preparation for 2019/20 budget.

Relevant Legislation

40. Local Government Act 1993.
41. Liquor Act 2007.

42. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
43. Roads Act 1993.
44. Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW).
45. Government Sector Employment Act 2013.
46. Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012.
47. Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

48. If approved by Council, the draft plan will be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of four weeks.

Public Consultation

49. The draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023 builds on the City's current strategies, plans and policies, and draws on day-to-day experience, working with partner agencies, networks and community members to address safety in Sydney.
50. To identify immediate and longer term priorities and desired outcomes for the action plan, the City:
 - (a) engaged with community members made up of representatives from social housing communities in the Local Government Area;
 - (b) engaged with a range of government and non-government agencies, including: NSW Police, Family and Community Services, Health, Justice, Corrective services, Victims Services, Legal Aid, local community agencies and peak bodies;
 - (c) engaged with specialist criminology departments and academic institutions;
 - (d) analysed long-term trends in local crime data and community indicators to identify risks and areas of resilience and strength to build on;
 - (e) reviewed community safety and crime reduction initiatives from comparable cities; and
 - (f) drew on outcomes from extensive community and stakeholder engagement undertaken for the development of the City's Social Sustainability Action Plan from 2015, and the Resilient Sydney initiative across Greater Sydney, to provide a wider metropolitan lens.
51. Community feedback played a key part in developing the priorities for the draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023. Our residents, visitors and business are essential partners in making Sydney safer. We recognise the valuable skills, experience and knowledge they hold and continue to create the conditions for them to collaborate and contribute to decision making.

52. The plan will now be subject to a further public exhibition period for a minimum of four weeks, subject to Council endorsement.
53. During the public exhibition period, key sector partners and community members who have participated to date will have the opportunity to comment. Additionally, the wider community, sector stakeholders and the City's relevant advisory panels will also be engaged for feedback. Methods will include face to face and online engagement through the Sydney Your Say website.
54. An accessible online printable version will be produced to maximise engagement from vulnerable community members.
55. Feedback obtained during the public exhibition period will inform finalisation of the action plan, which will then be reported back to Council for adoption and publication.

ANN HOBAN

Director City Life

Trina Geasley, Safe City Manager