21.13 SOCIAL

21.13-01 Housing

The City of Wodonga is yet to develop a comprehensive housing policy that clarifies the Council’s role in the planning and provision of housing in Wodonga. A housing policy will be completed by 2001 to address the Council’s strategic response to local housing needs. The policy will be developed in consultation with the Department of Human Services and complement objectives for the provision of public housing in Wodonga.

Strategic Actions

Implement principles of good urban design and apply Clause 54, Clause 55 and Clause 56. The Council will continue to pursue initiatives to promote a variety of house types, more affordable and innovative design. This will be done by participating in relevant government programs and encouraging the private sector to address these issues.

The Council will work in partnership with the Department of Human Services in the planning of public housing projects to ensure the maximum benefit is gained through each project.

The provision of housing for the aged and disabled will be encouraged in locations convenient to services and commercial facilities and access to public transport.

Private residential developments will be encouraged to provide equity of access to ensure greater flexibility with housing choice.

21.13-02 Recreation

The City of Wodonga recognises the importance of sport, recreation and other forms of physical activity to the quality of life of all members of the community. To reflect this recognition the council is working towards the adoption of, and participation in, the National Participation Framework, Active Australia.

The Active Australia vision is:

“all Australians actively involved in sport, community recreation, and other physical activities”.

The Council will pursue three critical goals in supporting the Active Australia vision. They are:

- To increase and enhance lifelong participation.
- To realise the social, health and economic benefits of participation.
- To develop quality infrastructure, opportunities and services to support participation.

Outcomes to be achieved include:

- Increased lifelong participation.
- Better health and quality of life for all community members.
- Quality infrastructure, programs and services.
- Increased participation opportunities.
- Minimised risk of injury or other adverse reactions in participation activities.
- Increased satisfaction with participation experiences.
- Increased economic value of the sport and recreation industry.
Increased awareness of the benefits of active participation.
Equitable access to participation opportunities.
Decrease in health care costs.

21.13-03 “A Learning City”

In 1998 the City of Wodonga was proclaimed Australia’s first learning city. The concept of a learning city promotes a culture of life long learning and self improvement. The objectives of the learning city project are:

- The promotion of learning for community cohesion, informed citizenship and social and economic wellbeing.
- The encouragement of the provision of learning opportunities for everyone.
- The encouragement of partnerships between education sectors, and between education and business.
- The facilitation of all businesses and organisations as learning organisations.
- The provision of readily accessible information.
- The analysis and evaluation of its own experience.

Council will support the learning city through:

- Supporting the Learning City Planning Coordination Committee.
- Partnering with educational institutions and business in regard to education and training opportunities and needs.
- Facilitate locational synergies between business, industry, education and training providers.
- Promoting learning as a means to progress the local economy and quality of life.

Significant opportunities exist to strengthen the education precinct that focuses on the La Trobe University and TAFE College. The area is recognised as providing further opportunities for research and development on business and industry that can achieve synergies with the tertiary institutions. Land to the west of the university will be carefully planned to ensure that future development builds on the location and proximity to the tertiary institution.

By 2021 Education Victoria estimate Wodonga will need to plan for two additional primary schools and secondary schools. With the rapid growth in the population of Wodonga additional school facilities will be required in the future. In conjunction with Education Victoria the Council will include in its structure plans appropriate locations for school facilities and where achievable combine locations with open space areas to achieve efficiency in the use of recreational resources.

21.13-04 Healthy City

In 1997 the City of Wodonga completed a project titled ‘Healthy Lifestyles in a Healthy Community’ – an integrated approach to a municipal public health plan. The report lists the following specific objectives for a healthy community:

- A healthy population – low levels of mortality from preventable causes and morbidity.
- A population with the knowledge, skills and resources to make choices which promote health.
- Organisational settings which promote the health of people they service.
- A high quality natural environment.
- Social, economic and political environments that promote health – quality of life and well being.
Council will support these objectives by:

- Encouraging active participation of the local community in decisions which have the potential to affect their health in the short and the long term.
- Advocating to other spheres of government on behalf of the health needs identified within the local community.
- Facilitating the provision of relevant and appropriate health protection and promotion actions within their local area.
- Working with local and regional interests to achieve a balance between ecological and economic sustainability.
- Maintaining an integrated approach to the planning of facilities, services and infrastructure.
- Ensuring private and public investment contributes to the social and economic well-being of the community.

Wodonga is well served by medical and health facilities which includes a public and a private hospital specialising in oncology. The Murray Valley private hospital was established at the former Clyde Cameron College site in 1999 and provides cancer treatment services to the wider region. The Wodonga and District Hospital was completely redeveloped in 1999 and offers a wide range of medical and health services. Both of the hospitals are located in residential areas, although the private hospital has significantly more potential to cater for future expansion and associated carparking. Due to the limited space available to the Wodonga and District Hospital, many associated services are and will continue to be located on land nearby. This is particularly the case in Vermont Street where there are a number of specialised services. Council will ensure that adequate carparking is provided with all new developments.

21.13-5 Equity of Access

Both the Planning Scheme and Strategy recognise that the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) (DDA) makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the grounds of a disability. In a planning context the DDA applies to the provision of access to premises, including places of employment, accommodation, education and shopping centres and public building. The City of Wodonga will be planned as an “accessible city” with new developments being required to comply with the requirements of the DDA. Through the application of a local policy new development refurbishment and extensions to buildings will promote equity of access.