

Community Engagement Report

Sustainable Infrastructure Policy

August - September 2017

Background

An updated Sustainable Infrastructure Policy 2017 is a key document in delivering the Council Plan goals of 'a liveable city' and 'a sustainable natural environment' and it captures existing Council strategies, plans and programs that influences Council's approach to ensuring the design of new and operational management of existing infrastructure owned by Council is environmentally sustainable. The Policy was updated from the Sustainable Buildings Policy 2010.

The review and update of this Policy is a key action identified within the Environmental Sustainability Framework adopted by Council in 2016. The updated Sustainable Infrastructure Policy 2017 has been streamlined and provides improved clarity on the Policy intent. The changes are proposed to enhance the drivers for further change in implementing ESD initiatives within the design, construction, maintenance and operations of Council's infrastructure, to maximise environmental performance, comfort, and efficiency.

Communication and Engagement

The draft Sustainable Infrastructure Policy was released for consultation on 8 August 2017.

The draft Policy resulted from a review of feedback from relevant internal stakeholders on the existing effectiveness of the existing Policy.

A Communications and Engagement Plan outlined the community engagement phase of the project. Council conducted a period of public exhibition of the draft Policy from 22 August to 4 September 2017. Community feedback was invited through:

- A 'Have Your Say' page
- Direct email correspondence with users of sporting pavilions
- Direct invitation for feedback from key stakeholders, Bayside Climate Change Action group.

Objective

The primary objective of the Community Engagement was to:

- Seek feedback on the draft Sustainable Infrastructure Policy
- Identify any issues not addressed by the updated Sustainable Infrastructure Policy
- Educate the community about Council's commitment to improving infrastructure.

Analysis of Community Engagement

The responses received were small in number but all were generally supportive of the direction of the Sustainable Infrastructure Policy, particularly the quick poll. Engagement was targeted at the existing 'Have Your Say' page audience and selected users of community buildings which may be affected by implementation of this Policy in the future.

High engagement was not anticipated given that this Policy has more general application than typical consultations, e.g. for a project on a specific site.

The responses may be grouped under the following themes.

1) Systems for implementation of this Policy in Community Buildings

Two responses related to the introduction of systems to support users of community buildings to operate more sustainably, e.g. by inclusion in Council's recycling collection. While Council is not committing to new systems to support users of buildings in all cases in the revised Policy, education for users to assist in managing buildings sustainably is addressed under Section 7.2 of the Policy, which states:

"Council will provide Council staff and tenants or operators of Council owned and/or managed infrastructure with information and advice in environmentally sustainable procurement, 'green office' practices and behavioural change programs to assist in implementing ESD measures where appropriate, which will be detailed in the Procedure."

2) Solar on Council owned Buildings

One response called for the installation of solar panels on sporting pavilions. A program of installation of solar panels on council-owned buildings has commenced in 2016-17 and will include several sporting pavilions. This is addressed in Section 7.1 of the Policy regarding the implementation of works, which states:

"Council will implement this Policy with all Council owned and/or managed infrastructure as opportunities arise during the construction of new, renewed or expanded infrastructure. Council will also implement this Policy during operations and maintenance by integrating ESD at the earliest possible stage of the project/activity to reduce capital costs of retro-fitting ESD initiatives and optimise ongoing operational savings."

"Specifically, this will occur by:

- Implementing improvements that have a payback in operational savings of 10 years or less by funded sustainable building elements in capital and non-capital budgets; and
- Implementing improvements specifically aimed at sustainable infrastructure enhancement by allocating funding in the annual budget (e.g. installation of photovoltaic cells)

3) Embedded or Lifecycle costs of Materials used in Infrastructure

One response directed Council to consider the higher costs in the use of materials with "embedded energy". This is addressed in the Policy Statement that:

"Council will consider the 'whole of lifecycle' cost of materials in the design, construction and operation of infrastructure, including material production, transport, use and disposal."

Summary

Community engagement on the draft Sustainable Infrastructure Policy has shown general support for the implementation of the Policy. Based on analysis of community feedback, issues raised are addressed in the draft Policy exhibited. The only changes to be made to the draft Policy have been made at the request of Council prior to the period of public exhibition. The Sustainable infrastructure Procedure, which will be developed and guided by the Policy, will provide further detail on how issues raised by the community will be addressed.

It is recommended that the Policy be adopted by Council with no further changes.

Feedback Received

'Have Your Say' page results

The 'Have Your Say' page was titled: 'Improving the environmental performance of Council's infrastructure', with the following introductory text.

The updated Sustainable Infrastructure Policy (2017) sets out Council's commitments and approach to integrating sustainable design (ESD) principles into the design, construction, operation and maintenance of Council owned and/or managed infrastructure.

Increasing the environmental performance of Council owned and/or managed infrastructure will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and aid in the efficient use of water and energy.

Both Council and community have a role in improving the environmental performance of community infrastructure, Council would like your feedback on the draft Sustainable Infrastructure Policy (2017) as well your ideas for improving environmental performance.

Two questions were asked of the community to promote feedback and discussion.

1) Will this Policy improve the environmental performance of Council infrastructure?

Do you believe implementation of this Policy will enhance Council's environmental performance with regards to operations, maintenance, planning, design and construction for new, renewed and expanded infrastructure projects? Why? Why not?

Only one response was received to this question:

"Why only a 90% target? Better to aim high & fail, than aim low & falsify victory. Construction excludes recycled (soft) plastics and also recycled tyres which can be used for many things, such as road base. We've seen it used at Hurlingham Park, and there was a good segment on both of these (plastics and rubber) being used for recycling in the recent ABC War on Waste series, yet Bayside has omitted these from its policy. Disappointing. Waste collection excludes soft plastics recycling. Although beyond the scope of this project, there should be soft plastics recycling added to the kerbside collection service, and a service for apartments should be introduced."

A second question was posed for discussion.

2) How can Council support users and hirers of its buildings to be more sustainable?

Council will provide users of Council owned and/or managed buildings with information and advice on how to reduce environmental impacts associated with the use and management of these buildings. What would help you understand your role and support you with this change?

Only one response was received from the same participant.

"Waste collection excludes soft plastics recycling. Although beyond the direct scope of this project, there should be soft plastics recycling added to the kerbside collection service. You already offer it at the corporate centre, it should be expanded to all council properties as a first step towards adding it to the kerbside service (including a version for apartments and commercial/industrial properties) as the market for the products increases. Council should also encourage, and prioritise, the purchase of products made from these recycled materials rather than newly mined resources."

Quick Polls

Two quick polls were provided to participants of the 'Have Your Say' page.

Quick Poll 1

Do you support Council's target to ensure 90% of Council capital works projects completed consider Environmental Sustainability in planning, design, construction and operation by 2020?

YES – 11 responses

Unsure – 0 responses

NO – 0 responses

All responses were positive towards the target set in Council's Environmental Sustainability Framework and achieved through implementation of the revised Sustainable Infrastructure Policy.

Quick Poll 2

What is your top environmental priority?

- *Energy efficiency (cost/use)*
- *Renewable energy*
- *Recycling and waste systems*
- *Alternative water use (rainwater tanks)*

No responses were recorded on this poll.

Summary of 'Have Your Say' page Feedback Received

As a result of the communications activities by 4 September 2017, the 'Have Your Say' page recorded 12 responses from community stakeholders with the following breakdown of engagement levels.

- Total visitors: 12
- Engaged visitors: 11
- Informed visitors: 1

Direct Correspondence from Stakeholders

The following correspondence on the draft Policy was received directly by Council officers.

Email *Re: Your feedback is important: draft Sustainable Infrastructure Policy*

Coming into our pre-season (and with an employer who would want me to do some work), I unfortunately don't have the time to make a formal submission. I will however hope you will allow me to make some comments here which I'm hopeful you can acknowledge

I would love to see the roofs of council sports pavilion covered in solar panels. This power could be used for the buildings themselves, ground lighting and perhaps even pushed back into the grid. Obviously there is a cost, but hopefully this can be incorporated into the design submissions of new buildings, at the very least. And I'm sure there will be savings in the long term

Finally, I believe Council should make an effort to collect recycling from sports clubs. As an example, the majority of our cricket club's rubbish is cans and bottles, and cardboard. We would love to recycle this - but have been told that we need to do this at our own cost - which as a not-for-profit, we just can't afford. We are happy to put it out for normal collection - we just need to be able to have it collected for recycling.

Email *Improving the environmental performance of Council's infrastructure*

The draft updated Sustainable Infrastructure Policy (2017) is encouraging and seems achievable.

I wonder whether attention will be paid to the 'embedded energy' aspects of sustainable infrastructure?

I am unsure whether there are standards already in place to take account of the energy costs and environmental risks of producing infrastructure that might otherwise appear ecologically attractive. But I do hope that this important 'hidden factor' forms part of Council's sustainable infrastructure policy and its implementation.

Sample Letter to Stakeholders.

DOC/17/XXXXX

21 August 2017

Salutation FirstName Surname
Title
Organisation
Address
Suburb VIC Postcode

Via email: president@email.org.au

Dear Salutation FirstName Surname,

Your feedback is important: draft Sustainable Infrastructure Policy

Council has developed a draft Sustainable Infrastructure Policy. This will ensure the design of new buildings and the operation of existing infrastructure owned by Council is environmentally sustainable.

To assist in the development of the Policy, Council is undertaking community engagement with key stakeholders, interest groups and users of Councils buildings.

Have Your Say - until Sunday 10th September

- Online – please visit www.yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au to review the Policy.
- Make a submission – send your written feedback on the Policy and address it to the Environmental Sustainability Team.

Feedback received from the consultation will be incorporated into the Sustainable Infrastructure Policy and presented to Council at its September Ordinary Meeting. Details of this meeting will be available on Council's website should you wish to speak or attend.

If you have any questions related to this project or would like a copy of the Policy sent to you please contact me on 9599 4749.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Donlen
Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability