How to prepare a Statement of Environmental Effects (SOEE)

What is a Statement of Environmental Effects?
It tells Council what you are proposing to do, outlines the likely impacts of your proposal on surrounding properties and the measures to be put in place to minimise these impacts. It helps to also describe in words your plans and drawings.

SOEE's are required for most Development Application.
Where proposals are likely to have minimal impacts on neighbouring properties (like interior alterations, minor building works or change of use applications), they can be supported by a simple SOEE.

The SOEE identifies and addresses those issues that are relevant to your application. This factsheet is a starting point to help you prepare your SOEE and has been provided as a guide to help you put together a SOEE to support your proposal.

General details to be provided in the Statement of Environmental Effects

Site Description
- What is the property address?
- What is the Lot and Deposited Plan (DP) or Strata Plan (SP) of the property?
- What is the current zoning of the property?
- Is the proposed development/use permissible under the zone?
- What is the current use of the site?
- What was the previous use of the site? (if known)
- Are there easements or any other site constraints? (such as flooding, heritage, acid sulphate soils, vegetation etc)

Outline of Development Proposal
Explain what it is you are trying to achieve on the site, including description of the development or use.

Compliance with Development Controls
Does the proposal comply with Council’s relevant development control plans (DCPs) for residential development:
- Chapter 2 Requirements for Development Application Submission
- Chapter 3 Environmental Management & Constraints
- Chapter 5A Dwelling Houses, 5B Secondary Dwellings, 5C Dwelling Houses on Narrow Lots
- Chapter 6A Townhouse & Villa , 6B Dual Occupancy
- Chapter 7 Residential Flat Buildings

Access, Traffic and Transport
- Does the proposal meet Council’s car parking & access requirements in Chapter 12 Car parking, Vehicle and Access Management of City Wide DCP?
- Does the proposal meet disability access requirements?
- Is there adequate pedestrian amenity?
- Is the development located on a Classified or Regional Road?
- For major traffic generating developments, is a traffic impact assessment prepared by a Transport Consultant?
- Is the site in proximity to public transport?
Amenity and Privacy
- Does the proposal cause noise (such as air conditioners, etc.)? What are the measures in place to mitigate noise?
- Does the proposal cause overshadowing on adjoining properties or open space?
- Do plans show window placement relative to adjoining dwellings?
- Is there any light spillage onto adjoining dwellings?

Soil and Water
- Does the proposal involve cut and fill?
- Does the site have ready access to water supply and sewage disposal?
- Does the proposal meet Council’s drainage and / or On-site Detention requirements?
- Does the site have any mainstream or overland flooding issues?
- Is the site affected by acid sulphate soils?

Surrounding Natural and Built Environment
- Does the site contain any significant vegetation or fauna?
- Is the site located within/partly within the E2 Environmental Conservation zone under Fairfield LEP 2013?
- Is the site impacted by the Biodiversity or Riparian constraints as identified by Council’s LEP Maps?
- Have the effects on any residential development in the vicinity been considered?

Waste
- Does the proposal include demolition of existing structures?
- Is the site contaminated or has had a previous use that may have cause contamination?
- Have you considered Appendix E Waste Not Policy in the Fairfield City Wide DCP?
- Have you provided a waste management plan?

Heritage
- Does the site contain a heritage item?
- Is the site in proximity to a heritage item?
- Should you answer ‘Yes’ to either of the above questions, a heritage impact statement prepared by a suitably qualified heritage planner/architect may be required

More information
For more information, please contact Council’s Duty Officer between 8:30am and 4:30pm at Fairfield City Council’s Administration Centre or by telephone 9725-0222.

Disclaimer
This information sheet provides brief a summary of the major issues concerning residential development in Fairfield City. Anyone proposing a development or use of land should discuss the proposal with relevant Council staff.

This is an information sheet only and is not a Statement of Environmental Effects. The information sheet is not to be handed to Council as part of the Development Application.