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INTRODUCTION

The Fairfield City Plan 2012-2022 is a compilation of the local community's vision, goals and priorities for Fairfield City over the next 10 years. It is important to stress that the City Plan is not the Council's plan – it belongs to the community and it summarises their views on what is important to them for the future of our City.

We all have an important role to play in delivering the future outcomes identified in the City Plan – all levels of government (Federal, State and Council), organisations, institutions, and agencies as well as every local resident and business operator.

The community came together in 2010 and again in 2012 to share their ideas about the future, and the City Plan includes a summary of that feedback in "The Top 10 Things We Would Like to See in Fairfield City by 2022". Priority number 4 on that list is Less Rubbish Dumping.

CITY PLAN GOALS & STRATEGIES

The City Plan 2012-2022 defined Goal 4: **Being Safe and Law Abiding** (in Theme 1 – Community Wellbeing) as:

We share core values about respect for individual rights and our responsibility to society and feel safe going about our daily lives, respecting and complying with laws and regulations supporting community order and social justice.

- 4.1 Reduce crime and violence
- 4.2 A safer and secure City
- 4.3 Improved public awareness of crime prevention and community safety
- 4.4 Effective laws and regulations
- 4.5 Less anti-social behaviour
- 4.6 Fewer accidents

The City Plan identifies the following related strategies for achieving these goals-

- Educate the community on intervening and preventing crime
- Provide community education on law and order
- Encourage the reporting of crime
- Implement better design to increase passive surveillance and reduce opportunities for crime/accidents to occur
- Ensure fair and consistent enforcement
- Encourage everyone to work together and share resources and information of all services and cultures to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Provide clear information about rules, regulations, processes and consequences of behaviour

The City Plan defines Goal 1 – **Our City is a Clean and Attractive Place Where We Take Pride in our Diverse Character** (in Theme 2 – Places & Infrastructure) as:

Our City takes pride in the diversity of its built environment which is reflected in the quality of new buildings and facilities as well as the care and maintenance of existing places and infrastructure.

- 1.1 *Keep our local character and respect the City's heritage and cultural diversity*
- 1.2 *Places, infrastructure, lighting and buildings are clean, maintained and safe*
- 1.3 *Our diverse culture can be seen throughout our community's buildings, open spaces and art works*
- 1.4 *A clean City where litter, dumped rubbish and graffiti are minimised*

The City Plan identifies the following related strategies for achieving these goals –

- Design, landscaping and public art considers our diverse community and provides a clean and safe City
- Update older residential, commercial and industrial areas to meet changing community needs
- Reduce littering and illegal dumping through education and enforcement

OUTLINE OF PRIORITY (DEFINITION)

Rubbish dumped may include many things including general household rubbish; larger domestic items (for example mattresses, furniture and whitegoods); construction, demolition and excavation waste; hazardous waste; and abandoned vehicles, car parts and shopping trolleys.

Littering and illegal dumping are not only issues across the Fairfield local government area but are state wide issues. NSW Local Governments are estimated to spend \$10 million a year removing and properly disposing of illegally dumped materials and land filling.

OVERVIEW OF PRIORITY IN FAIRFIELD

Fairfield City Council in 2014/15 period spent almost \$2.5 million to combat illegal dumping and littering as well as clean up the city. Recently, there has been an increase in illegal dumping incidents of asbestos in the local government area and across the Western Sydney region. This poses an extremely high health and safety risk to the community as well as significant increase in the cost of clean- up.

Several hotspots detailed below have been identified through the operations area of Council and through the customer request management system.

The following Multi Unit Dwellings areas in Cabramatta, Fairfield, and Carramar including the following (but not limited to) streets:

- McBurney Road, Cabramatta
- Longfield Street, Cabramatta
- John street, Cabramatta
- Hughes Street, Cabramatta
- Equity Place, Canley Vale
- Harris Street, Fairfield
- Hardy Street, Fairfield
- York Street, Fairfield
- Wrentmore Street, Fairfield
- Carramar Avenue, Carramar
- River Avenue, Carramar
- Wattle Avenue, Carramar
- Waterside Crescent, Carramar

Rural and Industrial areas such as Smithfield, Wetherill Park, Horsley Park and Cecil Park including streets:

- Hassall Street, Wetherill Park
- Chandos Road, Horsley Park
- Newton Road, Wetherill Park
- Hollywood Drive, Lansvale
- Cecil Road, Cecil Park

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Department of Environment, Department of Social Services, Department of Human Services

STATE GOVERNMENT

Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Environment Protection Agency, Department of Family and Community Services, NSW Housing

LOCAL

Under the Local Government Act 1993, Council is the lead agency in the provision of waste services and contributes to Less Rubbish Dumping. Currently, Council provides services that contribute to the priority 4. They are

- kerbside collections (including recycling, garbage and bulky waste)
- commercial waste service
- Recycling Drop Off Centre
- chemical and e-waste collection events
- Waste Enforcement Group
- waste project and education
- Western Sydney Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad
- town centre attendants and cleaning at Cabramatta and Fairfield CBD
- advocacy

Local Government is responsible for Illegal rubbish dumping¹ under

- *Local Government Act 1993 (Section 496)*
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 No.58*
- *The Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014*
- *The Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013*
- *Local Government Act, Chapter 3 or Councils charter*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 No.156*

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

- Neighbouring Councils/Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC)
- Local businesses including real estate agents and strata management
- Local Schools
- Local Residents
- Tourists

¹ Illegal dumping refers to the dumping of large items of rubbish in public areas such as roadsides or illegal landfills – private land where waste is dumped without Council or EPA approvals.

WHAT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED OVER PAST FOUR YEARS?

NSW STATE GOVERNMENT

The NSW State Government's priorities are identified in NSW 2021 and South Western Sydney Regional Action Plan. The priorities related to 'Cleaner Environment' are stated below.

NSW 2021 – A PLAN TO MAKE NSW NUMBER ONE

Strengthen Our Local Environment and Communities

- *Goal 22:* protect our natural environment (managing weeds and pests, protect and conserve land biodiversity and native vegetation, protect rivers and wetlands and coastal environments, target illegal dumping, and provide information to local communities on air quality)
- *Goal 23:* Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments (by 2016, NSW will have the lowest litter count per capita in Australia, increase recycling to meet the 2014 waste recycling targets, reducing graffiti, and increase neighbourhoods crime prevention)

SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

- Improve water quality and quantity in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system and address the risk of weed infestation caused by increasing urban run-off
- Manage the impact of coal seam gas and long-wall mining
- Improve air quality
- Minimise the effects of climate risk and variability
- Improve waste management services
- Protect natural habitats.

In the 2015, the NSW State Government released *NSW Making it Happen* which identified State and Premier's priorities.

PREMIER'S PRIORITIES – KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN

Reduce the volume of litter by 40%, by 2020.

Littering harms ecosystems and our natural environment, and is linked to anti-social behaviours.

The NSW community consistently identifies littering as an area of environmental concern. NSW will overtake Victoria as the least littered state in Australia if we reduce our volume of litter by a further 40% by 2020. A new container deposit scheme and other waste management initiatives will reduce littering, increase recycling, and help us reach this target.

After the current Council was elected in September 2012, it adopted its Delivery Program 2013-2017 with commitments on what it would deliver over its 4 year term in office. This included how it would contribute to the community's "Top Ten" priorities.

INCREASE TO SERVICES

The Council's review of service levels resulted in a number of increases to address improvements to 'cleaner environment'

- Street and Public Amenities Cleaning – increase the service to include a full-time attendant to service the Fairfield and Cabramatta town centres with cleaning and handyman services to ensure they are kept clean and maintained.
- Street and Public Amenities Cleaning – increase in the service level of scrubbing and steam cleaning of footpaths in major centres to be closer to all fixtures and fittings.
- Waste Enforcement Group – increase this service to permanently appoint a Waste Enforcement Group which includes four staff that are dedicated to reducing the amount of dumped rubbish throughout Fairfield City.

Council also committed to a number of new initiatives that make the City's environment cleaner.

Waste services:

- Implementation of new mulching service to facilitate the recycle of green waste, and reducing the illegal dumping of mulch in open space.
- Continuation of drainage, kerb and gutter upgrades

Waste Strategy and Sustainability:

- Expansion of CCTV camera program including covert and overt surveillance cameras to detect illegal dumping activities
- Implementing trial program on household asbestos disposal scheme
- Implementing E-waste and chemical collection annual events

CURRENT SERVICES

Waste Services

Waste services currently collects waste from 56,000 domestic homes and 10,000 home units. The waste services also

- Home units dumped rubbish collection
- Residential and industrial street sweeping
- Illegal dumping clean up – flying squad
- The Waste Operations picked up about 600 tonnes of rubbish reported as illegal dumping in the 2014/15 financial year.
- In addition, nearly 2,000 tonnes of rubbish was collected in street cleansing and CBD areas.
- The Waste service is providing domestic mulching service and provide back to the residents.

Waste Education and Projects

Council provides the community with various educational materials and endorses projects to help educate the community. These include:

- Illegal dumping newspaper advertisements
- Recycling calendar
- Clean up brochure
- RID Squad information brochure and information sheet
- Community enforcement cards
- Waste information booklets
- Keep Australia Beautiful schools program
- Clean Up Australia Day events
- Household's Asbestos Disposal Scheme
- Multi-Unit Dwelling waste contamination management and illegal dumping project

Waste Enforcement Team (WEG)

The Waste Enforcement Team has been established within Council. This is a specialist team focussing on pro-actively investigating and reducing the amount of illegal waste from being deposited in the Local Government Area (LGA).

A suite of strategic tools will be used to investigate, detect and deter persons and others from illegal waste dumping in the LGA.

In the 2014/2015 financial year, the WEG attended a total of 2893 illegal dumping incidents.

Community Enforcement/Environmental Management and Public Health

The community enforcement team is responsible for investigation and enforcement of regulatory and compliance laws within Fairfield City. The team will response to community complaints relating to abandoned articles and vehicles.

Similarly, the Environmental Management and Public Health team is responsible for investigation and enforcement of regulatory and compliance laws relating to the environment and public health. The team will response to community complaints relating to incidents concerning environmental issues and environmental health relating to waste management

Creek Clean Up – Natural Resources

Council's Natural Resource Management team is implementing Creek Care Program to maintain the creeks and their surrounding areas. In the 2014/2015 financial year, a total of 88.5 tonnes of litter and rubbish was removed from City's waterways. In addition, a total of 128.9 tonnes of rubbish were collected in Gross Pollutant Traps with about 20% was floating litter, 40% was vegetation and 40% was sand.

EXTERNAL KEY STAKEHOLDERS

WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ILLEGAL DUMPING (RID) SQUAD

In order to tackle the problem of illegal dumping the NSW Environment Protection Agency, along with partnering councils have formed two Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads to solely focus on and tackle the problem of illegal dumping.

Both the Western Sydney and the Greater Southern RID Squads operate across member Council boundaries to investigate and enforce breaches of NSW regulations on illegal dumping and illegal land filling.

Specifically the RID Squad aims to:

- encourage a more strategic coordinated approach to dumping incidents
- investigate incidents and take action against offenders
- organise clean-ups
- track down illegal landfills
- identify changes and trends in illegal dumping across a regional area
- Deter and educate community members about illegal dumping.

The Western Sydney RID Squad was established in 1999 to solely combat illegal dumping incidents. With support from DECCW, the RID Squad member Councils of Blacktown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool, Penrith, Parramatta and The Hills have formed a partnership to ensure illegal dumping issues are addressed in a regional manner.

In the 2014/2015, the Western Sydney RID Squad investigated 2,625 illegal dumping incidents involving 9,787 tonnes of waste in which there were 432 incident in the Fairfield LGA.

The Squad currently patrols dumps throughout the City with a particular focus on the Wetherill Park, Horsley Park and Smithfield areas.

WESTERN SYDNEY REGION – WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (WSROC)

The WSROC adopted its regional waste strategy in 2014 which identified reducing litter and illegal dumping is one of the six key strategies. Its targets are to work towards reducing the incidence of litter by 40% and illegal dumping incidents by 10% by 2017. The strategy also identified key actions to reduce litter and illegal dumping, including seeking funding to augment the RID Squad, and establishing a regional baseline for litter and illegal dumping.

NSW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) – ILLEGAL DUMPING STRATEGY

The NSW EPA adopted its Illegal Dumping Strategy in 2014 to combat illegal dumping with target to reduce large scale illegal dumping incidents reported in Sydney, the Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast regions by 30% by 2016. The strategy identified six focused areas, as

- Partnerships – build local community partnerships
- Building an evidence base
- Strategic enforcement – ramp-up waste compliance and enforcement
- Capacity building – help build expertise
- Education – spread the word
- Community engagement – motivate local communities

NSW ROAD AND MARITIMES SERVICES (RMS)

The NSW RMS is responsible for cleaning up all litter and illegal dumped rubbish in T-way and arterial roads.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

Clean Up Australia is a non-government organisation who is organising the annual Clean Up Australia Day events for the community, government and business. In the past 25 years, the organisation has engaged more than 27.2 million hours of volunteering to collect over 288,000 tonnes of rubbish in Australia.

KEEP NSW BEAUTIFUL (KNSWB)

The KNSWB is a not-for-profit organisation for litter reduction and environmental sustainability in NSW. The organisation's focus is to engage local communities in NSW to achieve the State Government's 2021's target of being the least littered state in Australia.

QUESTIONS FOR FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

We all need more information about the community's priorities for 'less rubbish dumping' to help advocate for the right improvements and implement the right projects. Feedback from the community will be included in the next update of the Fairfield City Plan.

1. What do you think the three main reasons for rubbish dumped illegally?
(Please rate from 1 to 3 for three items only).

- a. Convenience
- b. Unwilling to pay/cost avoidance
- c. Insufficient surveillance/regulation/enforcement
- d. Lack of awareness of proper disposal
- e. Lack of developmental control plan promoting waste reduction
- f. Someone already dumped there
- g. Long distance to appropriate landfill site or disposal facilities
- h. Low awareness of impacts of dumping
- i. Low awareness of fines
- j. To make money (e.g. organised dumping networks)
- k. Uncaring attitude/lack of community pride
- l. Others

2. What are your top three illegal dumping hotspots in the City

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

3. What are your top three improvements for 'less rubbish dumping'?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

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