

The Hemmings Street Precinct Action Plan 2020

Introduction

Greater Dandenong City Council's Hemmings Street Precinct Action Plan aims to improve perceptions and levels of safety in the area bound by Robinson Street, the Princes Highway, Jones Road and Railway Parade in Dandenong West.

Key strategies in the Plan will achieve these through stakeholder partnerships, security measures, community engagement, place-based activities, and using social media.

Hemming Street Precinct community members, Greater Dandenong Council, Victoria Police, State Government agencies, local services and Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong will plan and deliver these activities and other identified actions.

These include arts and cultural events, promoting crime prevention and community safety strategies, and supporting the community to report crime and anti-social behaviour to Police.

The following five priority areas form the basis of the Action Plan.

Priority 1: Increase Community Participation Through Neighbourhood Watch Recruitment

Neighbourhood Watch is a pro-active community-based group that successfully strengthens partnerships and social connections between Police, councils, organisations and the community.

Neighbourhood Watch has proven expertise in increasing community participation through education, empowering people to work together and feel safer and improve security in and around homes and businesses.

Action

Neighbourhood Watch will lead a partnership with Victoria Police and Council to increase its membership in the Hemmings Street Precinct to build community cohesion and confidence in managing the impacts of crime and anti-social behaviour and increase safety.

Priority 2: Improving Perceptions of Safety Through Arts and Cultural Engagement

Council and Victoria Police have the capacity and responsibility to engage with local communities and build ongoing relationships and neighbourhood ownership to improve perceptions and levels of safety.

Action

Council will partner with Victoria Police, the local community and other stakeholders to design and implement three cultural space activation events in the Hemmings Street Precinct, which will also provide the opportunity to engage with and educate people to report crime and anti-social behaviour.

(Please Note: activities and events will be governed by and comply with COVID-19 restrictions).

Priority 3: Improving Crime Prevention, Security and Safety Infrastructure

Council and Victoria Police actively seek solutions to prevent crime and improve security and safety infrastructure. This includes CCTV systems that can provide Police with the capability to proactively monitor and respond to issues of concern in real-time.

A mobile CCTV camera system provides the flexibility to place the camera/s in Precinct hotspots, having proved successful in reducing hooning in key Greater Dandenong locations.

Action

Victoria Police will partner with Council to seek financial support to purchase, develop and maintain a Mobile CCTV Trailer and a Variable Message Signage Trailer, which can be used periodically to deter crime, alert Police, and improve perceptions and levels of safety in the Hemmings Street Precinct.

Priority 4: Advocate to and Partner with State Government to Improve Precinct safety

The Mayor and Councillors believe that Hemmings Street Precinct issues require the support and partnership of State Government to improve safety.

Action

Council will advocate to local members of parliament and partner with State Government agencies to improve crime prevention and safety infrastructure, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve safety in the Hemmings Street Precinct.

Priority 5: Conduct Precinct Research to Inform Community Safety and Security Planning

Council believes that a research project will help stakeholders to co-design Precinct projects and initiatives that will increase perceptions and levels of safety in the Hemmings Street Precinct.

By partnering with a university, the research would support ongoing and active community engagement across the Precinct. The research can provide a 'snapshot' of issues and proposed solutions to inform ongoing Precinct planning.

Action

Council will develop a proposal outlining the scope of a partnership project, associated costs and in-kind support to collaborate with a local university to improve community engagement and safety in the Hemmings Street Precinct.
