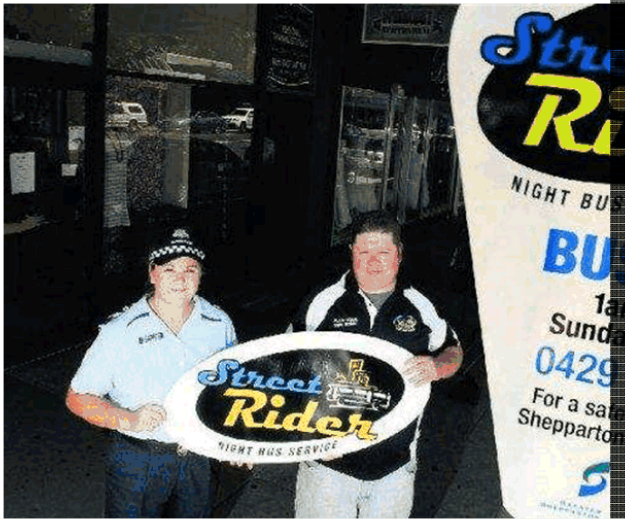# ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM

Ordinary Meeting

16 September 2014

Agenda Item 7.4   **Draft Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017**

A Community
Safety Strategy
For
Greater
Shepparton

Draft Community Safety Strategy 2014 - 2017

GREATER
SHEPPARTON

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Acronyms for Project Partners

Council Department / Branch

GSCC	Greater Shepparton City Council
GSCC-AL	Active Living
GSCC-EM	Emergency Management
GSCC-E	Environment
GSCC–F	Family Youth & Children
GSCC-IA	Investment Attraction
GSCC-MC	Marketing and Communications
GSCC-N	Neighbourhoods
GSCC-P	Planning
GSCC-PK	Parks
GSCC-PMO	Projects Management Office
GSCC-PP	People Performance
GSCC-R	Recreation and Strategy
GSCC-RS	Regulatory Services
GSCC-SA	Strategic Assets
GSCC-SE	Sustainable Environment
GSCC-W	Works

Council Advisory Committees/Sub Committees

DAC	Disability Advisory Committee
PVAWCSC	[Hume Region] Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Strategy Steering Committee
PAAC	Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
SCAC	Greater Shepparton Safe Communities Advisory Committee
SCCNSC	Safer City Camera Network Steering Committee
WC	Wipeout Committee
HWBAC	Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee

Whole Sector

HSS	Health Service providers and agencies – refers to any organisation that assesses, maintains or improves individual's health, including disability, palliative and aged care services.

External Partner Agency / Network

BS	Berry Street
CPN	Hume Region Crime Prevention Network (convened by Department of Justice)
CLC	Community Legal Centre (Shepparton)
DFLC	Drive for Live Committee
DoJ	Department of Justice
FC	Family Care
FVGSC	Family Violence Goulburn Strategic Committee
GSLA	Greater Shepparton Liquor Accord
GVH	Goulburn Valley Health
GVFVPN	Goulburn Valley Family Violence Prevention Network
GVISPC	Goulburn Valley Integrated Settlement Planning Committee
GVRS	Goulburn Valley Road Safe
LAJAC	Local Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee
LAV	Legal Aid Victoria
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
NHW	Neighbourhood Watch
PCC	Primary Care Connect
PO	Private Owners/Organisations
PVAW	Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Network (convened by the Municipal Association of Victoria)
RAV	Relationships Australia Victoria
RAC	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative
RC	Red Cross
RHNL	Rural Housing Network Limited
SLC	Shepparton Law Courts
SN	Shepparton Newspapers
VEOHRC	Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission
VP	Victoria Police
VS	Valley Sport
VR	Vic Roads
WHGN	Women's Health Goulburn North East
WM	Word and Mouth
WSV	WorkSafe Victoria

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

We, the Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton. We pay respect to their tribal elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.

Mayor's Message

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to working with the community to create, support and maintain a safe, vibrant and connected community. Council recognises that people are at the heart of making communities a safer place to live, work, learn and play.

Greater Shepparton City Council has taken a lead role in partnership with Greater Shepparton Safe Communities Advisory Committee to develop the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017. The broad skill base and knowledge of its members and the organisations and community they represent, have been drawn on to develop a comprehensive strategy for Greater Shepparton.

The 2014-2017 Community Safety Strategy is strengthened by the expertise provided through the Committee's partnership with key organisations and agencies on specific community safety initiatives. The benefit of the specialist skills and knowledge in existence within these organisations, has resulted in actions aiming to achieve best practise safety outcomes for the community.

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that there are many contributing factors which, when working together, can strengthen the safety and liveability of a municipality. Social, natural, economic, built and environmental factors all play important roles and in partnership, can work to enhance the safety of Greater Shepparton's communities.

The community safety initiatives contained within this Strategy have been developed based on feedback received during the consultation phase of the Strategy's development, and influenced by the municipality's diverse demographic and growing population. Council utilises the benefits of a crime prevention and community capacity building approach to community safety within Greater Shepparton and has incorporated this into many of the initiatives contained within this Strategy.

Together we can achieve positive community safety outcomes for our community and make Greater Shepparton an even safer place to live, work, learn and play.

Cr Jenny Houlihan
Mayor
Greater Shepparton City Council

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Introduction

Greater Shepparton is home to a population of just under 63,000 people and has the second largest Aboriginal population outside of Melbourne and enjoys a diverse demographic with 13.2 per cent of the population identifying as being born in a country other than Australia (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011). Greater Shepparton has emerged from a large farming community in to a growing diverse and dynamic community.

To assist Council to focus its efforts on community safety, the Greater Shepparton Safe Communities Advisory Committee was first established in 2007. This committee works in partnership to achieve identified community safety goals. Membership of the Advisory Committee includes Victoria Police, Council, State Government Departments, health, community and welfare services, education providers, emergency response organisations, roads and community representatives and organisations with this group taking a lead role in the development of the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017.

In developing a Community Safety Strategy it is essential a variety of settings are considered to improve safety within our diverse community. These settings include schools, workplaces, businesses, homes, religious settings, entertainment, recreation, sporting and social settings.

The Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017 addresses high priority relevant community safety issues facing Greater Shepparton that were identified using local agency knowledge, statistics and community feedback. Each initiative has been developed with measurable objectives to enable the Advisory Committee to assess and report on progress of each community safety initiative on an annual basis.

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Community Safety Strategy Vision

Greater Shepparton City Council will work in partnership with the community, government and business stakeholders to create a safer community through proactive, holistic and sustainable prevention of crime throughout Greater Shepparton.

What is Council's role in a Safe Community?

Greater Shepparton City Council is responsible for supporting the development of a safe community through its partnerships with community, service providers and other State and Federal Government Departments and supporting and delivering specific initiatives within the community safety space. This work can be seen through Council's:

- ✓ Advocacy (on behalf of the Greater Shepparton community) to all levels of Government and key local agencies for allocation of resources
- ✓ Regulatory control and enforcement
- ✓ Urban planning and environmental design
- ✓ Emergency management planning
- ✓ Developing individual and community responsibility
- ✓ Connecting people in community life through supporting and delivering programs
- ✓ Leadership and facilitation of partnerships
- ✓ Education (through strengthening community capacity and resilience to prevent, prepare and respond to safety issues and supporting engagement in education)

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Other Ways Council Works to Keep Greater Shepparton Safe

Many of the daily activities undertaken by Council also assist to foster community safety within the Greater Shepparton. Some examples of this include:

Representation and Advocacy

(including but not limited to:)

- Hume Region Community Crime Prevention Network
- Preventing Violence Against Women Network
- Goulburn Valley Family Violence Prevention Network
- Hume Region Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Steering Committee
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Local Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee
- Greater Shepparton Liquor Accord
- Goulburn Valley Road Safe
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee

Managing risks and minimising hazards in the community

(including but not limited to:)

- Emergency Management Planning and Response
- Food safety regulation and enforcement
- Safe trading in public places
- Enforcing safety regulations
- Ensuring compliance with legislative responsibilities

Developing individual and community responsibility

(including but not limited to:)

- Education regarding childhood injury prevention and child protection
- Falls prevention and staying safe at home awareness for older people
- Information / education about responsible social behaviour
- Responsible pet ownership

Local Laws

Protecting residents

(including but not limited to):

- protect and maintain the safety of residents
- utilise their powers to set the local regulatory environment through assessment and approval processes
- the use of surcharges and rebates and through the enforcement of local laws

Connecting people in community life through supporting and delivering programs

(including but not limited to:)

- Community development projects in neighbourhoods
- Support for community, social and recreation groups in local areas
- Arts and cultural activities that engage people of all ages
- Support for sporting clubs and activities

Planning, building and maintaining safe community places and environments

(including but not limited to:)

- Use of Safer Design Guidelines and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles
- Regulation of land use activities through planning
- Provision and maintenance of street lighting
- Provision of facilities for social, recreation, learning and community access
- Facilitating busy & vibrant public places, spaces and activities
- Advisory Committees

Key Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton Council Plan 2013-2017

The Council Plan 2013-2017 is the key document that drives the strategic direction of Council and is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 1989*. The themes outlined in the Council Plan are the vehicle for achieving our desired future and have been identified following extensive consultation with the Greater Shepparton community.
"*Objective 1.3 Ensure Liveability Options are always considered in our decision making activities*" contained within the Council Plan details strategies including "*develop, deliver and implement community safety initiatives with the State Government, Police, State agencies and the community including but not limited to CCTV*" and "*Review and continue to implement the Greater Shepparton City Council Safer City Strategy*" [Community Safety Strategy].

Health and Wellbeing Action Plan

The annual development of a Health and Wellbeing Action Plan plays an important role whereby community, local stakeholders and Council set the strategic direction for positive health and wellbeing initiatives that address population health trends to maximise health outcomes. Many actions from the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan are mutually applicable in providing a safe community.

Shepparton CBD Strategy

The Shepparton CBD Strategy is focused on developing plans to support the future growth of Shepparton's CBD. Key Priority No. 7 - Improving the design, function, safety of key sites and precincts within the CBD including the Vaughan Street precinct, Maude St Mall, Stewart Street and Shepparton Plaza.

Road Management Plan

Greater Shepparton City Council's Road Management Plan sets out the roads management system which Council implements in the delivery of its obligation to inspect, maintain and repair public roads for which the Council is responsible in accordance with the *Road Management Act* 2004 are met.

Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Victorian local governments have a legislated role in emergency management. Every municipality is required to develop and maintain a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) under S20 (1) of the Emergency Management Act 1986 which addresses the prevention of, response to and recovery from emergencies. The Greater Shepparton City Council's Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee enables consultation with local emergency services and community organisations who play a role in emergency management and assisting our community to remain safe during an emergency.

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

The Shepparton 2030 Strategy explores outcomes for the municipality and how the community should progress and work together to make these a reality. Support for community safety outcomes are noted in many of the objectives contained within the Strategy and are included within the "Settlement and Housing', `Community Life' and `Infrastructure' objectives.

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Programs that Enhance Community Safety in Greater Shepparton

The Greater Shepparton City Council partners with the community to deliver a wide range of crime prevention programs and initiatives that work to positively impact community safety within the municipality. Six examples of such programs include (but not limited to):

Greater Shepparton Safe Communities Advisory Committee

The first Greater Shepparton Community Safety Committee was established in 2007 to work towards community safety goals in partnership with the community, community service organisations, key stakeholders and the Greater Shepparton City Council. Membership of the Advisory Committee has been developed to encompass broad representation amongst community organisations, agencies and local government organisations who can provide relevant feedback, advice and experiences in respect of their specialist areas of expertise. This membership is made up of the following representatives:

- Councillor, Greater Shepparton City Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Victoria Police
- Goulburn Valley Health
- Primary Care Connect
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Positive Aging Advisory Committee
- Disability Advisory Committee
- Department of Human Services
- Youth Service Network

- Ethnic Council
- Rumbalara Cooperative Pty Ltd
- Yorta Yorta Nation
- Community Safety Group (Neighbourhood Watch) Greater Shepparton Police Service Area
- Department of Justice
- Liquor Licensing Accord
- Chamber of Commerce
- Local Taxi Operators
- VicRoads
- Country Fire Authority
- State Emergency Service Victoria

Safer City Camera Project

The Safer City Camera Project was launched on 30 May 2014 with stage one funded jointly by the Department of Justice, Attorney General's Department and Greater Shepparton City Council and delivered in partnership with local businesses and developers. This project consists of 19 CCTV cameras located in high priority areas within the Shepparton Central Business District that are actively monitored at peak times. The Safer City Camera Project is structured around a robust partnership model with Victoria Police with Council being responsible for the camera infrastructure and personnel for active monitoring and Victoria Police responsible for data management and passive monitoring.

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Night Life Radio Project

The Night Life Radio Project was established in 2011 as a partnership model between Council, Shepparton's late night venues, the Liquor Accord and Victoria Police. Portable radios provide an important communication link between late night venues, the Safer City Camera Control Room and Victoria Police. This project also supports management of the Liquor Accord's `Barred Patrons Policy' and provides a proactive community partnership towards crime prevention by providing a method for alerting stakeholders to potential incidents, suspect behaviour and events in progress requiring intervention or support.

'Wipeout' Graffiti Management

Council's `Wipeout' Graffiti Management Program is a best practice approach to rapid and responsive graffiti management in public areas. Rapid 24 hour clean-up of graffiti is coordinated through Council and reported to Victoria Police for prosecution purposes. Graffiti cleaning equipment is made available for use by the public to assist with this coordinated approach.

Street Rider Night Bus

The Street Rider Night Bus was established in 2008 and provides a safe late night transport option from the Shepparton CBD to Shepparton, Kialla and Mooroopna. Established as a crime prevention initiative, Street Rider assists by taking home approximately 1700 passengers annually from the Shepparton central business district reducing incidents of walking home late at night and opportunities for these people to become victims of crime. Street Rider is also offered as an alternative transport option to reduce the occurrence of drink driving. This proactive crime prevention initiative is a joint partnership between Council, Victoria Police, Community Accessibility, Uniting Care Cutting Edge with sponsorship also provided by a number of Shepparton's late night venues and local business, services clubs and groups. Local volunteers support the service by driving the bus.

Cool Heads

Greater Shepparton City Council supports Victoria Police in the delivery of the Cool Heads young driver awareness program. Established in 2008 this confronting presentation, delivered bi-annually, aims to educate young and inexperienced drivers of the consequences of risky and dangerous behaviour when driving a motor vehicle.

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What is Community Safety?

For the purposes of this strategy community safety is defined as the freedom from actual crime and the fear of crime, and includes unintentional and intentional injury. Community safety is partnered with community health and wellbeing in providing liveable communities, and connected to broader social, economic, built and natural environmental factors.

Important Elements

When considering what impacts community safety and the comprehensive approach needed to positively shape our municipality into the future, the following key elements were taken into consideration:

Crime Prevention

Crime, and the fear of crime, consistently rate amongst the highest concerns of the Australian public. The Australian Institute of Criminology has estimated that crime costs Australia around $36 billion per year (Australian Institute of Criminology 2008).

A number of agencies share the responsibility for crime prevention in our region, including local, state and federal governments and the Victoria Police. While Council is clearly not involved in the provision of law enforcement, it has a central leadership role to play in promoting safety in partnership with Victoria Police and local agencies, organisations and businesses to improve community safety.

Council participates in crime prevention and the creation of a safe community through two key strategic approaches; supporting `Situational Crime Prevention' and `Social Strategies' to promote safety.

1. `Situational Crime Prevention' aims to make crime more difficult to commit and less rewarding. Strategies may include improving physical environments to improve people's feelings of being safe, and reduce the occurrences of crime. These may include better lighting and visibility, the installation of security systems and other measures to increase household and business security. Often crime is opportunistic, not well planned or thought through, and can be reduced by removing the opportunity to commit it and increasing the likelihood of an offender being caught. Crime usually occurs where the opportunity to commit it is high and the risk of being caught is low.

2. `Social Strategies' aim to strengthen communities and social infrastructure. It involves all three levels of government, families, individuals and community organisations in a partnership approach. Social strategies can be diverse and may include initiatives such as the increased social use of public space that can reduce criminal activity; to more targeted programs that address complex social issues.

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Perception of Safety

Perception of safety is a term used to reference how safe someone feels or the extent to which they fear that they will become a victim of crime. This reference is usually in the context of a placed based or situational setting and may have been formed due to a personal experience or knowledge of a victim of crime (actual risk), or a feeling of anxiety or worry that something is unsafe (perceived risk).

Perceptions of safety can also been affected by graffiti and the presence rubbish or a general untidiness of an area including abandoned or unkept buildings, gatherings of young people, drunken behaviour, poor lighting and lack of natural surveillance.

Studies from Australia and overseas show that although crime rates have been consistently falling in recent years, public perceptions of crime and feelings of being unsafe have risen (*Povey, 2001; Marlow, 2003; Finney, 2004; Wood, 2004*).

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Who is Responsible to Make a Safe Community?

Community safety is everyone's responsibility!   Whether you are a resident, visitor or come to the municipality to work or recreate everyone has a role in making the City of Greater Shepparton a safe place. To improve community safety all sections of the community need to work together to create a safer environment in which to work, live and play.

The Greater Shepparton community is also supported by numerous local agencies and organisations provide assistance to those which may be identified as in need, vulnerable or at risk.

Greater Shepparton City Council is proud to be involved in partnerships between government and non-government agencies, community organisations and individuals that are developing community safety programs and are keen to work to expand these relationships.

A Snapshot of Community Safety Data in Greater Shepparton

Victoria Police Crime Statistics
When comparing Victoria Police statistics for the 12 month period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 and 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 for the municipality, an overall increase of 15.8 per cent in total crime offences, per 100,000 head of population and a 16.5 per cent increase in total crime by the actual number of offences can be seen. (*source: Victoria Police, My Place* http://www.vicpolicenews.com.au/my-place.html)

Victoria Police Family Violence Statistics
When comparing the periods 2011/12 and 2012/13, Victoria Police family violence statistics, show an increase of 74 per cent for the municipality. It is important to consider this information holistically given that during that same period there was also a 151 per cent increase in reported incidents where charges were laid. Although there is little question that the municipality's family violence incidents are over represented (82 per cent) when compared with the state average, this increase can be attributed to the substantial amount of work that Victoria Police has undertaken through its family violence unit with charges laid figures being a positive 104 per cent above the state average. (*source: Victoria Police, My Place August 2014* http://www.vicpolicenews.com.au/my-place.html)

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Hospital Admission Statistics

Where identified, hospital admission statistics (*source; Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, Monash University, April 2014 nb: informed by GV Health*) for the 12 month period June 2012 to July 2013 indicate that `unintentional injury' accounted for 90.5 per cent of admissions. These admissions were mainly caused by falls with the statistics finding that these were sustained at home, when undertaking sports or in transport related injuries.

Ambulance Victoria Statistics

Chest pain, breathing problems and falls are the most common causes of Ambulance Victoria call outs (combined 33 per cent) in 2013. The least common call outs are reported to be as a result of stab/gunshot (two per cent), eye problems and inhalation being the most infrequent calls for assistance received within the municipality (less than one per cent). (*source: Ambulance Victoria, May 2014*)

Road Accident Statistics

VicRoads crash statistics for Greater Shepparton indicate that 183 accidents were recorded in 2011 with the noticeably lower figure of 159 in 2012. Although the number of accidents decreased by 24 during that period, the number of fatalities increased dramatically from five to 11. In contrast during the same period serious injuries suffered in road accidents dropped from 62 to 57 and other injuries from 116 to 91.

When considering accident data from the 2013 year, a total of 137 accidents is recorded which again evidences a decrease from the previous year by 22 accidents. Similarly the number of fatalities also decreased by seven with serious injury (54) and other injuries (79) also noting decreases. (*source: VicRoads, April 2014*)

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Greater Shepparton's Perceptions of Safety

Community Indicators Victoria report perceptions of safety for residents of the City of Greater Shepparton (recorded in 2011 by VicHealth) as being 0.4 per cent above the state average during the day time, however in contrast, perceptions of safety during the night are reported as being almost 24 per cent below the state average.

Greater Shepparton City Council recognises that community safety means different things to different people in the municipality. Perceptions of safety feedback was obtained during the development of the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017 through written feedback and also through the use of the following three online surveys:

> ### Survey One – How Safe Do You Feel Where You `Live'?
> Overview of Responses:
> - 77 responses were received spread across 14 towns/localities
> - Majority of responses were received from participants aged between 50-59 (27.27 per cent) with 30-39 (25.97 per cent) a close second
> - Majority of responses submitted by females (69.74 per cent)
> - Majority of responses received from Shepparton (46.75 per cent)
> - Common concerns included drugs/ICE, alcohol, assault, violence, theft, burglary, wandering dogs, violence, arson, gangs, racism, antisocial behaviour, negative media, inadequate enforcement/penalties, footpaths, unregistered mini-bikes, poor lighting and unemployment.

> ### Survey Two – How Safe Do You Feel Where You `Work and Play'?
> - 39 responses received
> - Majority of responses from participants aged between 40-49 (25.64 per cent) and 50-59 (25.64 per cent)
> - Majority of responses submitted by females (66.67 per cent)
> - Majority of responses received from Shepparton (69.44 per cent)
> - Common concerns included driver safety, road maintenance, pedestrian crossings, family violence, lighting, theft, theft from motor vehicle, public toilets, mobile phone service

> ### Survey Three – Community Safety in Greater Shepparton, Through the Eyes of `Visitors'
> - Seven responses received
> - Majority of responses received from participants aged between 50-59 (28.57 per cent) and 60 or older (28.57 per cent)
> - Majority of responses submitted by males (71.43 per cent)
> - Majority of time was spent in Shepparton (50 per cent)
> - Common concerns included not enough activity during `night time' to keep people in the streets and poor public toilet amenities.

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Outcomes of Perceptions of Safety Feedback

The Greater Shepparton Safe Communities Advisory Committee obtained valuable insights into perceptions of safety from Greater Shepparton residents, within their homes and neighbourhoods as well as the towns or localities in which they work. Some of the collated responses are included below:

How safe do you feel walking alone in your Neighbourhood during the `Daytime'?

Respondents indicated that when walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the day 50.67 per cent felt `Very Safe' with 4 per cent responding that they felt `Very Unsafe' (refer pie graph right)

Very Unsafe 4.00% (3)
Somewhat Unsafe 8.00% (6)
Very Safe 50.67% (38)
Somewhat Safe 37.33% (28)
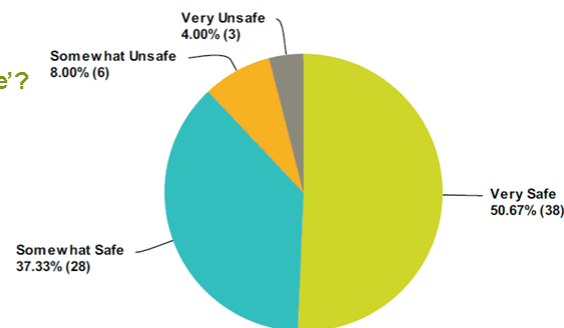
How safe do you feel walking alone in your Neighbourhood at `night'?

In contrast to above, 29.33 per cent of respondents indicated that they felt `Very Unsafe' walking alone in their neighbourhoods at night with 9.33 per cent responding that they felt `Very Safe' (refer pie graph right)

Very Safe 9.33% (7)
Very Unsafe 29.33% (22)
Somewhat Safe 36.00% (27)
Somewhat Unsafe 25.33% (19)

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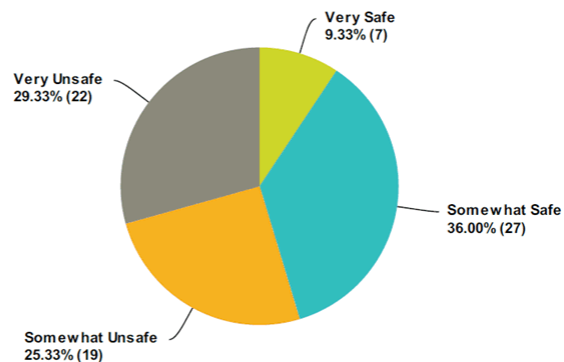
Perceived prioritisation of community safety concerns in neighbourhoods

When asked to prioritise specific community safety matters `drug use', `drug dealing' and `family violence' were classified by the respondents as major problems in their neighbourhoods based on their perceptions.

Source: Greater Shepparton Safe Communities Advisory Committee Online Survey July 2014
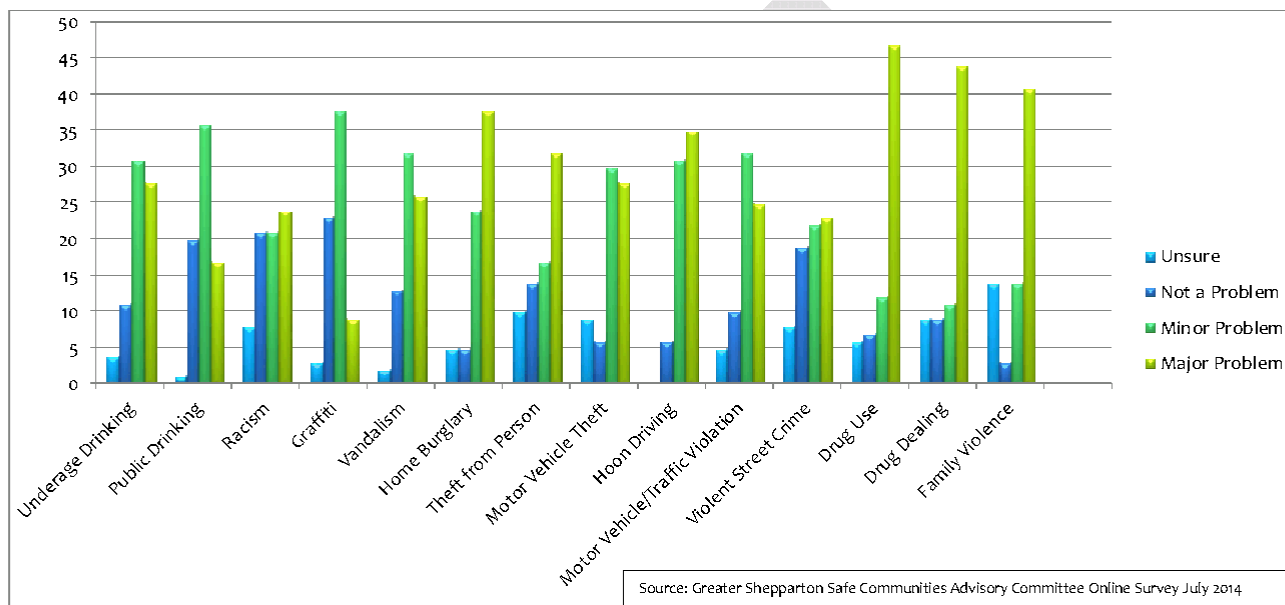
The complete statistical analysis together with online survey results and other feedback received during the community consultation was used to inform the development of initiatives contained within the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017. This information will be further considered during the delivery of these initiatives.

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Safer City Strategy 2011-2014 Outcomes

Some of the key outcomes achieved in the delivery of the Safer City Strategy 2010-2014 include:

- ✓ Crime Prevention Thought Environmental Design training for Council staff and community
- ✓ Lighting Upgrades including Maude Street Mall, Queens Gardens, Aquamoves car park, Stewart Street car park, Fryers Street car park
- ✓ Wipeout program – Monash tunnel mural community art project, portable graffiti removals kits and educational DVD
- ✓ Pedestrian crossing audits
- ✓ Taxi rank safety upgrades
- ✓ Community Safety Month activities
- ✓ Family Violence awareness projects in partnership with the Goulburn Valley Family Violence Network including Walk Against Violence and Responding to the Abuse of Older Women and Men Forum
- ✓ Endorsement of the Hume Region Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Strategy coordinated by Women's Health Goulburn North East
- ✓ Public toilet review and policy
- ✓ Wayfinding Strategy
- ✓ Footpath inspections
- ✓ Safer City Camera Project
- ✓ Night Life Radio Project
- ✓ Get Home Safely Campaign
- ✓ Street Rider Night Bus
- ✓ Support for Neighbourhood Watch projects
- ✓ Advocacy and representation on a variety of key stakeholder community safety networks

C14/10321 (10/776/0005)

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Key Directions in this Strategy

The Key Directions of the Community Safety Strategy have been developed based on those matters which have been deemed to be of the highest priority within Greater Shepparton. These have been developed taking into account community feedback and perception as well as relevant local statistics. These Key Directions are as follows;

➤ Key Direction 1 – Safer Places and Spaces
➤ Key Direction 2 – Alcohol and Other Drugs
➤ Key Direction 3 – Inclusive Communities
➤ Key Direction 4 – Road Safety

Deliverables within these Key Directions are outlined in specific Action Plans contained within this strategy.

Timeframe for delivery of initiatives

Each community safety initiative identified in an Action Plan, has been allocated a category timeframe for delivery over the term of this Strategy. The timeframes associated with each category are identified in the below table.

Category	Timeframe
1	16 December 2014 to 15 December 2015
2	16 December 2015 to 15 December 2016
3	16 December 2016 to 15 December 2017
Ongoing	16 December 2014 to 15 December 2017

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Key Direction 1 : Safer Places and Spaces				
Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness.				
Initiative		**Lead Agency**	**Partner/s**	**Performance Measure**	**Timeframe**
SP1	Consider `perceptions of safety' for the City of Greater Shepparton and utilise this information to inform and guide the implementation of community safety programs and initiatives	GSCC-N	SCAC	Undertake annual Perceptions of Safety survey with results provided to the SCAC to inform delivery of the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017	Ongoing
SP2	Regularly consider local community safety statistics relevant with information in relation to how the municipality progressing	SCAC	GSCC-N	Annual review of local statistics relevant to community safety presented to SCAC for consideration. Sources to include Victoria Police, Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, VicRoads, Ambulance Victoria and WorkCover.	Ongoing
SP3	Investigate the suitability of Court diversion programs that support rehabilitation for introduction into Shepparton Courts	PCC CLC	GSCC	Investigate a Therapeutic Justice Model for Shepparton Courts	
SP4		GSCC-N VP		Continue to operate the Street Rider Night Bus 52 weeks a year	
SP5	Continue to coordinate and support the Street Rider Night Bus project	GSCC-N VP		Look for external funding opportunities to support the Street Rider Night Bus	
SP6		GSCC-N VP	GSCC-CM	Undertake one promotional activity per quarter	
SP7	Understand and implement the Safer Design Guidelines Victoria and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles within Council	GSCC-PP	GSCC-N	Undertake annual training for Council officers in relation to Safer Design Guidelines Victoria / Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principals	

Key Direction 1 : Safer Places and Spaces				
Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness.				
Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
SP8	GSCC-N	VP	Review Stage Two of implementation plan for future consideration and report to Council	
SP9 — Maintain and evaluate the Safer City Camera network	SCCNCS-	SCAC GSCC	Evaluate active monitoring model and its impact on crime prevention	
SP10	SCCNS	SCAC GSCC GSCC-FR	Comply with best practice principals and undertake an annual audit and evaluation of the Safer City Camera network	
SP11	DoJ	GSCC-N	Attend bi-monthly Hume Region Community Crime Prevention Network.	
SP12 — Continue advocacy and partnership on key networks and working groups to support Safer Places and Spaces	DoJ	GSCC-N	Attend the Local Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee as required.	
SP13	RAC GSCC	GSCC-N	Continue to coordinate the Rumbalara Joint Working Party meetings	
SP14	NHW	GSCC-N	Attend a minimum of four Neighbourhood Watch meetings per annum and actively participate in a minimum of two crime prevention initiatives per year.	

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Key Direction 1 : Safer Places and Spaces				
Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness.				
Initiative	**Lead Agency**	**Partner/s**	**Performance Measure**	**Timeframe**
SP15		GSCC-SE	GSCC-N GSCC-PMO	Upgrade street lighting in accordance with the `Watts Working Better Street Lighting Project"	
SP16		GSCC-PMO GSCC-N		Audit all public council car parks and consider recommendations for implementation in accordance with Australian Standards	
SP17	Continue to use lighting to improve safety for residents and visitors who utilise public areas after dark	GSCC-P GSCC-N	PO GSCC-PMO	Investigate partnerships with owners of privately owned public use car parks to facilitate audits to assess options to improve lighting levels as deemed necessary	
SP18		GSCC-RS	GSCC-N	Install lighting on the remaining areas of the shared pathway at Victoria Park Lake which are unlit (west)	
SP19		GSCC-N	GSCC-PMO	Investigate external funding opportunities to support the lighting improvements in Council owned car parks	
SP20	Maintain and improve public toilet facilities within Greater Shepparton	GSCC-PMO		Implement the actions contained within the Public Toilet Policy	
SP21	Work with local media to promote positive community safety messaging and improve perceptions of safety	GSCC-N SCAC	GSCC-CM VP SN	Develop marketing campaign with local media to promote positive community safety messages.	

Key Direction 1 : Safer Places and Spaces				
Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness.				
Initiative	**Lead Agency**	**Partner/s**	**Performance Measure**	**Timeframe**
SP22	Continue to maintain, improve and deliver safe and accessible footpaths within Greater Shepparton	GSCC-SA		Undertake footpath `audits' in accordance with the Road Management Plan and consider recommendations	Ongoing
SP23		GSCC-SA		Undertake footpath `condition survey' report and consider recommendations in accordance with the Road Management Plan (every three years)	3
SP24		GSCC-PMO	GSCC-SA	Develop a strategy to consider requests for new footpaths	1
SP25		GSCC-W		Action requests to address over hanging branches on footpaths (Council owned trees and privately owned trees)	
SP26	Support the provision of more affordable housing in Greater Shepparton	RHNL	GSCC-N	Raise awareness of homelessness and advocate for more housing	
SP27		RHNL		Support partnerships with local business for the development of affordable housing	
SP28	Activate public spaces providing reduced opportunity for crime due to increased natural surveillance whilst reducing isolation and encouraging community connectedness	GSCC-IA GSCC-AL	SCAC GSCC-N NHW	Activate public spaces through delivering engaging community events	

Key Direction 1 : Safer Places and Spaces				
Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness.				
Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
SP29		GSCC-W	GSCC-N	Attend bi-monthly Wipeout Committee meetings to consider the Wipeout programs operations.	
SP30		GSCC-P	GSCC-W	Remove graffiti from Council owned property within 24 hours of it being reported	
SP31		GSCC-P VP		Continue to maintain a register of graffiti incidents within the municipality in conjunction with Victoria Police	
SP32	Continue to support the Wipeout Program	GSCC-P	GSCC-W	Continue to maintain and Council register of graffiti incidents including a measure of expanse of each incident	
SP33		GSCC-W	VP	Finalise and present Wipeout Strategy for adoption by Council	
SP34		GSCC-W	VP	Implement and evaluate a pilot project testing the CPTED theory in relation to the use of street art to address graffiti	
SP35		GSCC-W		Explore external funding opportunities to support the delivery of the Wipeout program and associated initiatives	

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Key Direction 1 : Safer Places and Spaces					
Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness.					
	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
SP36	Encourage responsible management of animals	GSCC-RS		Promote animal registrations and undertake investigation and enforcement of the Domestic Animal Management Plan and Local Law, Community Living 1	
SP37	Raise awareness of mental health issues and support for the community	GVH	SCAC HWBAC	Establish a drug and alcohol service development plan for GV catchment area	
SP28		WM	GSCC-N GSCC-F	Deliver a presentation to secondary schools to raise awareness of mental health issues (as part of the `School Tour` program)	1
SP39	Reliable mobile telephone coverage throughout the municipality	SCAC	GSCC-N DOJ	Advocate for improved and reliable mobile phone coverage throughout the municipality	
SP40	Work in partnership to develop safety in Shepparton's late night venue and Central Business District	GSCC-N	VP GSLA	Investigate opportunities to enhance the operation of the Night Life Radio network.	
SP41	Continue to support the ongoing collaborative planning and resourcing for emergency management across the municipality	MEMPC	GSCC-N	Coordinate the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and deliver any recommendations arising out of this Committee	
SP42		MEMPC	GSCC-N	Maintain and deliver the Municipal Emergency Management Plan	

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2014-2017   GREATER SHEPPARTON

<table>
<tr><th colspan="6">Key Direction 1 : Safer Places and Spaces</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness.</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">Initiative</th><th>Lead Agency</th><th>Partner/s</th><th>Performance Measure</th><th>Timeframe</th></tr>
<tr><td>SP43</td><td rowspan="2">Work in partnership to create safer workplaces</td><td>WSV</td><td>GSCC-N
SCAC</td><td>Undertake a minimum of one annual promotion to raise awareness of creating `injury free workplaces' in the municipality</td><td>Ongoing</td></tr>
<tr><td>SP44</td><td>WSV</td><td>GSCC-N
SCAC</td><td>Undertake a minimum of one annual promotion to encourage `farm safety' practices in the municipality</td><td>Ongoing</td></tr>
<tr><td>SP45</td><td rowspan="2">Provide the community with information on how to reduce opportunistic theft from home and theft from motor vehicles</td><td>SCAC</td><td>GSCC-N
VP</td><td>Deliver a home safety awareness program to educate the community on how to take a proactive approach to protecting their property from theft</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>SP46</td><td>SCAC</td><td>GSCC-N
VP</td><td>Deliver an education program to raise awareness of the prevalence of theft from motor vehicles and ways to prevent this</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>SP47</td><td>Council continue to provide safety services to people over the age of 65 years</td><td>GSCC-N</td><td></td><td>Continue to deliver the Home Safety program.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>SP48</td><td>Raise awareness in a school based setting of priority community safety matters</td><td>WM</td><td>GSCC-N
GSCC-F</td><td>Deliver two presentations to secondary schools annually ("School Tours")</td><td>Ongoing</td></tr>
</table>

Key Direction 2 : Alcohol and Other Drugs
Work in partnership to raise awareness of the effects of alcohol and other drugs whilst supporting the community to make educated life choices in this space. Work in partnership to raise awareness of support and treatment options available in Greater Shepparton and advocate as necessary for increased treatment facilities.

	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
AD1		SCAC	HSS	Coordinate a targeted ICE/Methamphetamine Information Forum to inform the community of its effects and where to seek assistance	
AD2	Raise awareness in the community in relation to the effects of alcohol and other drugs	TBA	WM HSS VP GSCC-N GSCC-F	Investigate sustainable approach for GV Passport, raising awareness of alcohol and other drugs information session targeted at Year Nine students	1
AD3		SCAC HWBAC	PCC HSS	Explore external funding opportunities to support community education programs in relation to alcohol and other drugs	
AD4	Consider alternative Court options for drug related offences in the Shepparton Law Courts	SCAC	HSS HWBAC	Complete a feasibility study into establishing a Court based response to drug and alcohol issues	3
AD5	Representation / partnership with key networks and working groups that support Alcohol and Other Drugs initiatives	GSCC-N	SCAC HSS	Establish a network of key stakeholders to discuss a local approach to the use of Alcohol and Other Drugs (including but not limited to ICE/Methamphetamine) in our community.	1
AD6		SCAC GSCC	LAJAC HSS	Advocacy support for additional drug treatment centre in regional Victoria which address withdrawal and rehabilitation needs.	

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Key Direction 2 : Alcohol and Other Drugs

Work in partnership to raise awareness of the effects of alcohol and other drugs whilst supporting the community to make educated life choices in this space.

Work in partnership to raise awareness of support and treatment options available in Greater Shepparton and advocate as necessary for increased treatment facilities.

	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
AD7	Encourage safe disposal of syringe/needles in public spaces	SCAC	PCC	Audit existing syringe/needle management programs (disposal and supply) within the municipality	
.AD8	Gain a better understanding of what alcohol support services and programs are in existence within the municipality to develop a joined up approach and collaborative projects to be established	CPN	GSCC-N	Undertake service and program mapping exercise within Greater Shepparton to better understand what is already in existence	
AD9	Support the responsible servicing of alcohol in the municipality	VP	GSCC	Coordinate the Greater Shepparton Liquor Accord and provide support to members in ensuring compliance with Liquor Licensing regulations	
AD10		VP	SCAC VS	Complete a feasibility study to expand the Liquor Accord membership to include Sporting Clubs	
AD11		SCAC	VP VS	Investigate available program models that offer education and training to sporting clubs in relation to responsible service of alcohol obligations and evaluate support that can be provided to expand programs	
AD12		SCAC		Explore external funding opportunities to support early intervention programs within Greater Shepparton.	

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Key Direction 3 : Inclusive Communities

Create an environment which promotes inclusive and supportive communities which supports the implementation of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
IC1		PVAWCSC	GSCC-N	Deliver the local government initiatives contained in the Hume Region Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Strategy	
IC2	Support programs that raise awareness of family violence and preventing violence against women and children	GVFVPN	GSCC-N	Partner to deliver family violence awareness raising projects developed by the Goulburn Valley Family Violence Prevention Network	
IC3		GVH		Continue to support the delivery the Bravehearts Ditto program in Primary Schools	
IC4		SCAC GSCC	RAV VP FVGSC	Advocacy support for funding for Men's Behaviour Change program and Counselling services to support those affected by family violence	
IC5	Support programs related to family violence	SCAC GSCC	RAV VP FVGSC	Advocacy support for funding for facilitator training for Men's Behaviour Change program - Graduates Certificate in Social Science (male family violence)	
IC6		RAV	SCAC	Develop and support programs that aid women in the recovery from their experiences of family violence	

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Key Direction 3 : Inclusive Communities

Create an environment which promotes inclusive and supportive communities which supports the implementation of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
IC7	Support the delivery of a comprehensive whole of community family violence project for the Hume Region (pending funding)	DOJ	SCAC GSCC-N	Implement family violence prevention project in a variety of settings within the Hume Region	1
IC8	Raise awareness of what family violence support services and programs are in existence within the municipality	FVGSC	GSCC-N	Raise awareness of the Family Violence Goulburn Steering Committee's Family Violence website and work to encourage agencies to ensure information is current	
IC9	Provision of emergency and short term housing for family violence victims and offenders in Greater Shepparton	RHNL	FVGSC VP	Advocate for greater availability of emergency and short term housing options in Greater Shepparton	
IC10	Work with local agencies on projects and events which have cultural significance for Greater Shepparton	GSCC-N		Deliver two culturally significant events annually	
IC11		GSCC-N		Utilise the 'Racism It Stops With Me' branding at KidsFest, Emerge, Summer & Winter markets and other events where possible	
IC12	Continue to support initiatives that support reducing racism and discrimination	GSCC-N	VEOHRC	Evaluate options to support a third party racism reporting scheme in Greater Shepparton	
IC13		GSCC-N		Deliver one Harmony Day event per year.	

Key Direction 3 : Inclusive Communities				

Create an environment which promotes inclusive and supportive communities which supports the implementation of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
IC14	Raise awareness of Australian Laws within the CALD community	SCAC VP GSCC-N	GVISPC LAV	Conduct a minimum of one CALD community awareness sessions annually to raise awareness of Australian Laws	Ongoing
IC15	Raise awareness of bullying in a school based setting	GSCC-F	SCAC VP	Develop a program to raise awareness of bullying in partnership with local schools	
IC16	Raise awareness of internet / cyber safety in a school based setting	GSCC-F	SCAC	Develop a program to promote internet/cyber safety in partnership with local schools	
IC17	Continue representation and partnership on key networks and working groups that support Inclusive Partnership initiatives (including family violence, equality and Accessibility)	GVFVPN	GSCC-N	Attend the Goulburn Valley Family Violence Prevention Network meetings and participation on project working groups	
IC18		WHGNE	GSCC-N	Regular participation in the Hume Region Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Steering Committee convened by Women's Health Goulburn North East	
IC19		GSCC-N	PAAC	Coordinate the Positive Aging Advisory Committee and support the implementation of the Positive Aging Plan	
IC20		GSCC-N	DAC	Coordinate the Disability Advisory Committee and support the implementation of the Universal Access and Inclusion Plan	
IC21		GVISPC	GSCC-N	Attend Settlement Planning Committee meetings	

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Key Direction 3 : Inclusive Communities

Create an environment which promotes inclusive and supportive communities which supports the implementation of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
IC22	Utilise Community Safety Month to raise awareness of community safety within the municipality	SCAC GSCC-N		Develop a Calendar of Events for the month of October detailing a variety of community safety awareness raising and engagement activities.	
IC23	Support vulnerable members of the community to live confidently at home	RC	GSCC-N	Raise awareness of the `Telecross' volunteer based telephone welfare check services within the municipality	Ongoing

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2014-2017

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Key Direction 4 : Safer Roads				
Create and maintain a network of safe roads and encourage safe use by the community.				
Initiative		**Lead Agency**	**Partner/s**	**Performance Measure**	**Timeframe**

	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
SR1	Support young driver road safety awareness programs	VP	GSCC-N	Coordinate the delivery of the Cool Heads young driver program three times a year	
SR2		VP GSCC-N		Investigate evaluation opportunities for the Cool Heads young driver program to increase recognition as a valuable driver awareness program	
SR3		BS	GSCC-N	Coordinate and support the L2P learner Driver program	
SR4		DFLC	GSCC-N VP	Coordinate and support the school based Drive for Life road safety program for Years 10, 11 and 12 delivered annually	
SR5	Pedestrian safety	GSCC-N	GSCC-PMO	Audit pedestrian crossings on Council managed roads and undertake any recommendations arising out of the audit	
SR6		GSCC-N	GSCC-PMO	Look for funding opportunities to improve pedestrian crossing infrastructure	
SR7		GSCC-RS		Audit School Crossings and consider recommendations for improvements	
SR8	Encourage safe cycling within Greater Shepparton	GSCC-P		Deliver actions arising out of the Greater Shepparton Cycling Strategy 2013-2017	

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Key Direction 4 : Safer Roads

Create and maintain a network of safe roads and encourage safe use by the community.

	Initiative	Lead Agency	Partner/s	Performance Measure	Timeframe
SR9		GSCC-PMO	VR	Work with VicRoads to identify improve infrastructure on VicRoads managed roads	
SR10	Develop and deliver road safety improvements	GSCC-PMO	VR	Annually consider VicRoads crash statistics to inform the development of infrastructure improvement projects	
SR11		GSCC-PMO	VR	Look for external funding opportunities to support road safety improvements and awareness	
SR12	Continue representation and partnership on key networks and working groups that support road safety initiatives/programs	GSCC-PMO		Regularly attendance at the RoadSafe Goulburn Valley meetings	
SR13	Electric mobility scooter safety awareness	PAC	SCAC	Conduct annual information sessions in relation to the safe use of mobility scooters	Ongoing

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2014-2017

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