

Help Shape the Future of Our City

Planning for Tomorrow's Community Today



Message from the Mayor

Help us to shape the future of our City; we need your help and feedback to formulate a plan for the next ten years.

Society is changing rapidly, with the economy facing all sorts of challenges, however the future for the City of Mitcham has so many opportunities and I and my fellow Councillors want to hear your vision for our beautiful City. As your elected representatives, we would like to hear from you as to what is important so that we can continue to plan and invest for a vibrant City that offers infrastructure and services that focus on the wellbeing of everyone.

As there are many things that we can work on over the next 10 years we have prepared a draft Vision and a series of Goals and Objectives to meet this Vision which will assist you in giving us your views.

We are very keen to hear your views and priorities to help shape the future development of our City.

In setting the scene for your considerations here are a few things that we as your Council consider important.

Community Wellbeing

We must plan ahead for efficient traffic movement; consider housing choices to support changing and affordable preferences; provide a healthy and safe environment; welcome cultural diversity and have vibrant activity centres such as libraries linked to modern community facilities.

City Character

Large areas of our City are renowned for their history and heritage and we will strive to maintain this. It is imperative that Council supports the continued development of dynamic District Centre Shopping Precincts and that we build strong partnerships with adjoining Councils to better align our planning.

Open Spaces

Our vast area and range of open space across our City is a huge attraction with many sporting clubs and local communities actively supporting programs and activities. They provide our community with the opportunity to have not only a healthy lifestyle, but the opportunity to explore our indigenous vegetation in a natural setting. Our focus is to provide better facilities in the future with more recreational options.

Sustainable Environment

We will continue to prioritise our efforts in working with our community to maintain the environment in a sustainable manner. We need to do more with our stormwater before it flows downstream; encourage more recycling such as food scraps and e-waste; and do more to reduce our carbon footprint.

Well Maintained Infrastructure

While this might not sound exciting it is one of the most important functions of Council. Almost 60% of the community's rates go into maintaining our roads, footpaths, buildings and stormwater infrastructure. We must focus on delivering these fundamental services efficiently and be proactive in maintenance so that unplanned costs are minimised.

Economic Wellbeing

This is fundamental in being able to achieve our objectives in **Community Wellbeing, City Character, Sustainable Environment and Well Maintained Infrastructure.**

We will focus on economic prosperity, so that we can invest in these areas to deliver the Vision.

Our Strategic Management Plan will be set on firm foundations of financial sustainability that allows for continued growth through careful planning, capitalising on the next wave of economic wellbeing in the medium to longer term.

These are the goals that Council sees as important, I look forward to receiving your feedback on your ideas or suggestions to help plan for our future.

**Have Your Say!
Let us Know What
You Think**





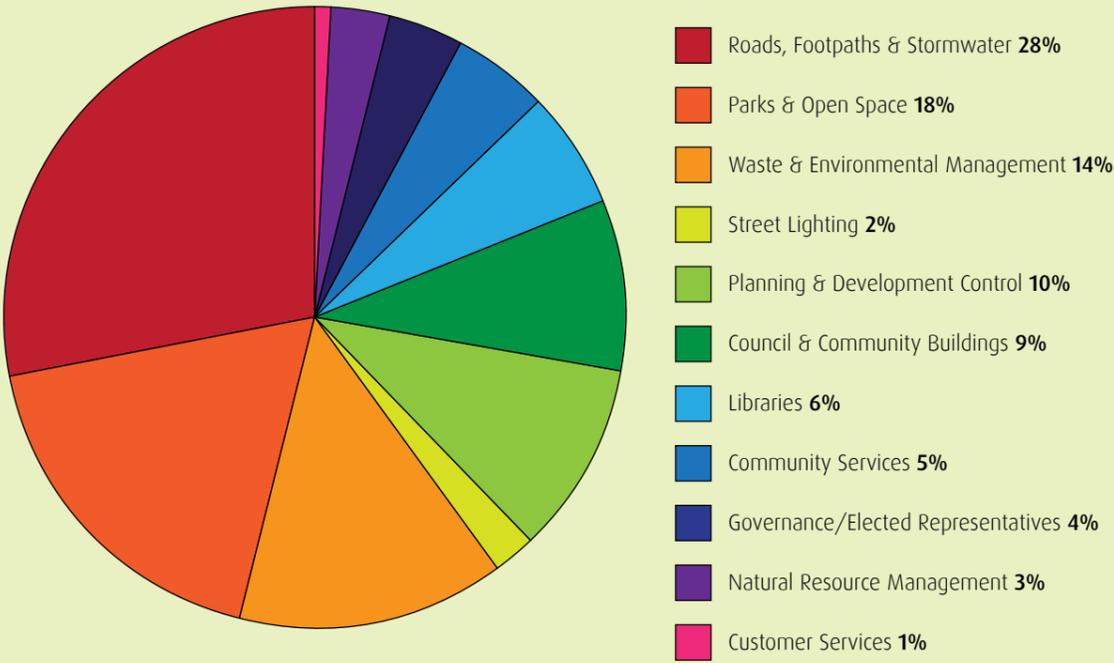
Issues for Consideration in Setting Strategic Direction



Our City Today

In 2012/2013 Council has allocated \$50.27 million in its budget for the delivery of services to the community. Services cover:

Council Expenditure 2012/2013



This demonstrates where the City's expenditure is focussed and reflects our City today. Much of this is what we term 'core business' - to maintain roads, parks, collect waste and enforce legislation. But also there are those discretionary programs being aged persons support, youth programs, arts and culture, libraries, sport and recreation that our community has decreed to be an important service for Council to provide.

Services tend to be adjusted to our changing demographics. Statistics indicate that Mitcham is an ageing community, with a higher proportion of people in the older age groups compared to other areas of Adelaide.

Along with the Australian population as a whole, we are living longer, with life expectancy predicted to increase even further over coming years. Our young people are generally well educated and many will leave the state in search of employment. Young families continue to be attracted to purchasing and renovating older homes with large allotments, while older residents and retirees are wanting to move into smaller properties.

At the time the 2008-2012 City of Mitcham Strategic Plan was developed, the economic outlook was positive, with strong business growth and a high demand for new housing

developments. There was a rise in the number of new residents moving into Mitcham, with the Craighburn Farm development reflecting significant new housing.

Population growth in Mitcham has been increasing by just over 200 persons per year.

The number of persons per household however is falling.

The South Australian Planning Strategy

The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide is a long-term vision for the future that forms part of the South Australian Planning Strategy. It was developed by the South Australian Government to establish a basis for planning growth and development of the Greater Adelaide region over the next 30 years. It identifies what needs to be undertaken to accommodate a changing population and strengthen and expand the economy.

The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide identified that residential growth in the City of Mitcham would be better situated near transport corridors and adjacent to major shopping centres.

Future Housing Trends

The 30 Year Plan indicates that development will be more focussed on building houses on smaller allotments and providing some high density apartment living. This will need to be controlled through good planning policy. Poor development outcomes could detract from the attractive neighbourhood amenity and character Mitcham residents currently enjoy. Proactive planning policies will help to build a strong vibrant community for Mitcham.

Medium density housing adjacent to shopping centres and major transport facilities is one way of providing future housing in Mitcham. Such developments suit a broad range of age groups and family structures, including young people, single persons and particularly our older residents who are hoping to downsize. Younger families are more likely to be attracted to our older housing stock on larger allotments close to schools and facilities.

Economic Change

The current economic climate dictates that Council should adopt a conservative view in estimating growth rates of businesses and new housing and therefore residents; particularly for the next few years.

While the City of Mitcham's financial position is strong, a slowing economy would inevitably impact on the level of income growth that can be expected over the next few years.

In terms of housing growth, Council's conservative estimate is that an additional 800 houses or units may be constructed over the next 10 years. Subdivision of existing allotments could meet much of this demand, together with some 400 housing allotments available for development at Craighburn Farm.

Framework for a new Strategic Management Plan

A revised framework for a 10 year City of Mitcham Strategic Management Plan is set out in the following pages and we would appreciate your ideas and opinions on the 2030 Vision and the key strategic goals and objectives, which are designed to form the basis of Council's long term planning over the next 10 years.

Strategic Directions Report

Council is reviewing its Development Plan and invites the community to provide ideas to help shape our City for the future which may lead to recommendations for revisions to the City of Mitcham's Development Plan.

