

# VICTORIAN HEATWAVE STRATEGY PILOT PROJECT

## CoM Heatwave Response Plan – DHS Final Report

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### INTRODUCTION

CoM welcomed the opportunity to work in partnership with Department of Human Services to participate in the pilot project under the Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Program and Victorian Heatwave Strategy.

As a result of the project a copy of the CoM Heatwave Response Plan is attached. The final report includes the following process undertaken to develop the Heatwave Responses Plan.

### PROCESS

The City of Melbourne (CoM) Heatwave Response Plan (HWRP) was built upon work and consultation undertaken for the CoM Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which identified that the management of the effects of rising temperature on human health is a priority area for climate change adaptation.

Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd was the consultant engaged to draft the CoM Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP). CoM sought to use the same consultancy firm to assist with the development of the CoM Heatwave Response Plan as they had already undertaken some of the research and consultation process with various stake holders during the development of the CAP.

A CoM Heatwave Planning Working Group was formulated to assist consultants Maunsell Australia to:

- provide input of local knowledge on the potential vulnerable groups to heatwave
- advise on existing Council policies or strategies relating to heatwave
- advise on knowledge of existing communication networks and links with the identified vulnerable groups
- advise on knowledge of existing or planned council projects/works to reduce the impact of heatwave within our urban and landscape design
- discuss and confirm suitable preventative and mitigative action responses for CoM under the HWRP so as to reduce the impact of heatwaves on the vulnerable community within the municipality

### ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN

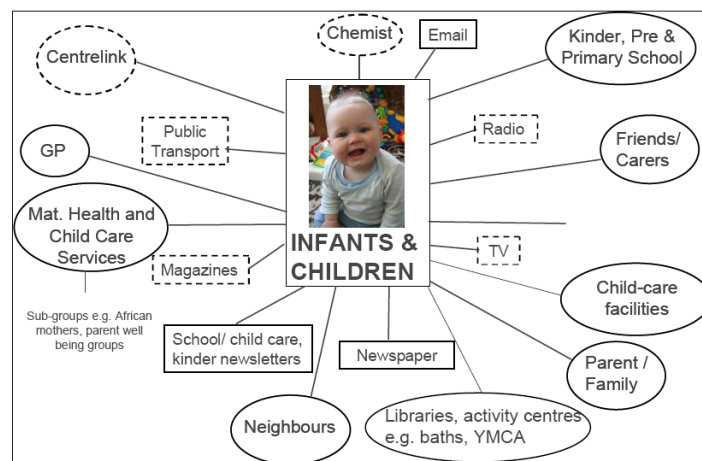
An extensive literature review was undertaken by Maunsell Australia covering:

- The historic and recent health impacts of heatwaves
- Projections of temperature rise in Melbourne as a result of climate change
- The nature of the urban heat island effect
- Local, national and international responses to managing heatwaves and the urban heat island effect

- Number, locations and characteristics of vulnerability of identified groups within CoM
- Relevant CoM policies and programs for interacting with vulnerable groups
- The health impacts of extreme heat and effective responses to heat stress and hot weather
- Relevant communication channels from CoM (and other significant channels) for communication with vulnerable groups

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Profiling the vulnerable groups within City of Melbourne. The HWRP distinguished between primary and secondary vulnerable groups and high risk scenarios and situations. For each vulnerable group, profiling focussed on determining :
  - Nature of Vulnerability
  - Population Size
  - Location
  - Services provided to the vulnerable group
  - Key communication channels to the vulnerable groups
- Recognition of current works being undertaken by CoM to improve urban and environmental design to reduce the impact of heat on the City
- A list of likely mitigative actions for the HWRP were developed using the findings of the literature review
- Recommendations of mitigative actions were broken into behavioural and structural modifications to reduce the impact of heatwave on vulnerable groups and the municipality in general.
- “Touch Point” maps were developed for each vulnerable group to summarise policies and communication channels that could be leveraged for delivering health promotion messages.



Example Touch point map

- A high level communications strategy was developed for building awareness of heatwave
- Identification of potential triggers and actions depending on duration of the heatwave event, which could lead to the implementation of a Heatwave Alert System (HAS)
- Recommended actions (noted in Appendix A of HWRP) were summarised and rated against basic cost estimates, potential time to deliver and primary delivery responsibility

## SURVEYS UNDERTAKEN

Maunsell Australia had already undertaken some of the research and consultation process with various stake holders during the development of the CAP, hence additional consultative surveys with identified stakeholders were not undertaken as the research outcomes were already available.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The HWRP will undergo implementation in various stages based on the identification of recommended actions rated as short or long term implementation.

- Short term implementation will be enacted via communication messaging; namely to utilise the print media and direct communication links to identified vulnerable groups with specific message relating to the prevention of heat stress
- Long term implementation to address outcomes from forums eg Green Roofs and other public consultations forums (Future Melbourne) that will impact on structural modifications, as well as the introduction of new strategies and policies that will impact on urban and environmental designs within the CoM and related capital works costs
- Communication messaging will be coordinated via the City of Melbourne Corporate Communications representative on the working group, with assistance from the various branches who have direct network links with the vulnerable groups.
- Intention to roll out first round of communication messaging in Nov and Dec 08, as the impact of the warmer weather starts to impact Melbourne.
- Development of "Cool Kit" to be confirmed and budgeted.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Allocation	Cost (incl GST)
Consultancy Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd	\$33, 825.00
Facilitation Includes room hire and catering	\$274.00
*HWRP Implementation, includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication via print media</li><li>• Development of HWR "Cool Kits"</li></ul> <i>*(this amount has not be spent as yet and will be done so as part of the implementation recommendations - break down of costs to be further defined)</i>	\$5,901.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the HWRP be adopted by Council to support the CAP and to introduce the implementation of the short term implementation actions in preparation for the lead into this Summer period.

The CoM will also await and review outcomes from DHS Heatwave Strategy Plan and identify actions that compliment or actions that need to be further adopted into the CoM's Heatwave Response Plan.