

2011/2012 Annual Report



Access and Equity Activity Statement

APPENDIX F

ACCESS AND EQUITY ACTIVITY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Regulation, a statement is required, setting the council's access and equity activities to be undertaken to meet the needs of our residents as identified by our Social Plan 2009 to 2014.

Social Planning is the process of investigating and responding to the needs and aspirations of the people who live and work in our community.

Social planning is underpinned by the four principles of Social Justice:

- Equity – fairness in resource distribution
- Access – fairer access for everyone to the resources and services essential to meet basic needs and improve their quality of daily life
- Rights – recognition and promotion of civil rights
- Participation – better opportunities for everyone to participate in decisions

The 2009-2014 Social Plan considers and plans how to improve the need and demand for community facilities and human services, community interactions and identity while inspiring a sense of community.

Through community consultation, the Social Plan provides:

- A profile of the local community
- Identification of needs and strategies for each community and the seven mandatory target groups
- Social Planning initiatives

Access and Equity activities and strategies for Council's Management Plan are defined as those which benefit the broad community and/or particular mandatory target groups of the social/community plan.

Access and Equity Outcomes will be delivered in line with the Wentworth Shire Council Social Plan and as required by legislation.

In line with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework introduced by amendments to the Local Government Act 1993, a Community Strategic Plan has been endorsed. The Community Strategic Plan will, in due course, replace both the 2009-2014 Social Plan and Council Management Plan.

The new Community Strategic Plan will be underpinned by the four principles of Social Justice, which will ensure that the resulting plan represents the needs of the widest possible cross-section of the community.

A Social Plan for Buronga/Gol Gol has been developed in conjunction with the LEP to cope with future expected growth.

Access and Equity Activities to be undertaken over the period 2009-2014 include:

Activity	Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Communication Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for community members to have more input into Council plans and decisions. • Develop and promote Council's website as primary source of Council and Community information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Safe Communities Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage, review and implementation of Crime Prevention Plan with all stakeholders • Advocate for provision of diversionary programs and alternative justice programs for specific target groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Recreation and Culture Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community organisations to seek funding opportunities for young people's supervised activities • Encourage the development of indigenous recreational and cultural programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Economic Development and Sustainability Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of community marketing plans • Encourage the development of business networks • Develop regional events and festivals plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Strategy for Conservation and Protection of the Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage community while advocating for home and depot rubbish recycling • Provide leadership in co-ordination of litter task force and national environmental action days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Transport Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for bus schedules and routes which meet the needs of specific communities or target groups • Support the investigation of alternative transport sharing arrangements