

# Local Area Planning Support Program Final Report

## Integrated Planning Equals Stronger Communities City of Wodonga

- How the project has made a difference and changed the way council does business
  - Outcomes ( social, environmental, economic)

The project has provided the opportunity to integrate data and understand and correlate the similarities and differences between social, economic/environmental data.

It has provided collective data that is more indicative of how communities and area's work i.e. the links between employment rates in an area plus neighbourhood characteristics and the links between industry type and environmental indicators.

The "Cleary House" model i.e. that at one point in Council – data is gathered and interpreted collectively – and all areas across the council and across sectors in the community – is accessing/understanding and using the data.

Shared understanding across sectors has been a huge benefit. Local government is perceived as the point of community planning, where many agencies and individuals ask for information and data. This project has provided an accessible, understandable and useful source of information about our community and one that is now used by many government and community agencies and other sectors across our city.

It has provided data for planning, advocacy, fund raising, service development and tools for identifying gaps within our community that need to be addressed

The data has been and will continue to form the basis of further Council planning eg Ageing Well in Wodonga Strategy Community Facilities Strategy, Housing Strategy

### Key learning's

Within Council it is now widely known how to access this data and all Council staff are using the same data.

- How the project has worked across Council eg involving different departments and levels of council. Indirectly or through collaboration

It has been a priority of the council's integrated planning team and informed a new community planning approach being developed by this team. The integrated planning Team all have direct access to the data

16 City of Wodonga and 2 staff from Towong attended training sessions on how to use the data systems

- How the project has contributed to capacity development of council

As above

- Critical decision points in the progress of the project

This project was to purchase two computer programs for Wodonga and Towong, all of which was very straight forward.

The major decisions were around which areas eg housing, preschools, Hacc etc to include or exclude from our data

- How has the project enabled the council to better engage with the community

Through the dissemination of information about the projects and training for government departments and community agencies

- Case studies/stories

Used to inform the redevelopment of preschools sites across our city.

Used to integrate two preschools into a new community school site in Wodonga

Primary Care Partnerships across four shires were able to make use of the data to inform the demographic trends across Upper Hume and to plan services accordingly.

Councils Marketing Unit has use the data to drive key messages to potential industrial and residential developers.

We have been able to make information immediately accessible to community members to verify or explore their thinking and experiences of what happens in Wodonga, as the data is readily available on our web site

- Photos, promotion and newspaper articles etc

Previously provided

How has the project made a difference to the community and other stakeholders

- Outcomes ( social, environmental, economic)

Seventeen people from organisation such as Wodonga TAFE, Wodonga Regional Health Service, Wodonga Police, Border GP Division, Community Health, Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership, Dept of Education and the Chamber of Commerce have attended a training session on the use of the data packages

There has been wide publicity on the data and it's availability on our website for all community members to use

- Key learning's

The use of the same data, for planning purposes is of benefit to the community as a whole.

- Case studies/stories

Community Health have used the data to support several funding submissions

The Upper Hume PCP have used the data for several Health promotion programs

- How the project has contributed to capacity development of the community or other stakeholders

As above

- Recommendations to other councils who may be undertaking similar projects

Already many Councils across Australia have access to these data programs. Now the City of Wodonga has similar access to data relevant to their community that was previously not available

How the project could have a sector wide implementation

As above

- How State departments are involved in the project

Using the data for their planning purposes

### **Completed Final Report to be sent to:**

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