



POLICY

SAFER CITY POLICY

Approved by: Council on 12/11/2013

Next Review Date: 2017

Responsible Officer

Position: Associate Director, Community & Culture

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1. Introduction

The purpose of the Safer City Policy 2013-2017 is to provide a framework for Council's contribution to city safety and wellbeing.

The policy is executed through the Safer City Strategy 2013 – 2017 and the annual City Safety and Customer Services Program Plan.

2. Strategic Context

Jurisdiction	Name	Key Elements relating to Safer City Policy
National	'Our Cities, Our Future', The Commonwealth National Urban Policy 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the planning and management of our cities • Support community wellbeing • Improve the quality of the public domain • Increase resilience to climate change, emergency events and natural hazards
National	National Drug Strategy 2010-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce harms to community safety and amenity
National	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared responsibility • Resilient communities • Reducing risks in the environment
National	National Environmental Health Strategy 2007-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure for health protection • Preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments
State	South Australia's Strategic Plan 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban spaces (T 1) • State-wide crime rates (T 17) • Violence against women (T 18) • Bushfire preparedness (T 20) • Healthy South Australians (T 78) • Smoking (T 80) • Alcohol consumption (T 81)
State	The Thirty Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy, safe and connected communities • Maintaining and improving liveability • Ensuring safe and walkable communities that incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles
Adelaide City Council	City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2012-2016	Outcome 4: Liveable City 'Enable people to use the city safely'

3. Policy Objectives

The Safer City Policy:

- provides the principles which underpin Council's contribution to creating a safer and healthier city
- describes Council's role in influencing people, groups and key organisations to individually and collectively improve the city's safety and health.

4. Policy Principles

The policy is underpinned by the following principles:

4.1 Place activation

Council is committed to creating a vibrant city of places that are welcoming and safe and that attract people to live, visit and return.

Why this policy principle is important

- Purposeful activation of places enables natural surveillance through the presence of people in, or overlooking, the places from the street, balconies or windows.
- People feel safer in places that attract people to engage in positive social interaction.

How Council will enact this policy principle

Council will attract people to the city by:

- designing and maintaining safe and vibrant places for people
- making it easier for businesses to activate places through simplifying permit processes.

These places will be made more welcoming and safe through the application of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in development planning and place activation; the intermittent presence of Council officers; and a flexible permits system.

4.2 Working together

Council is committed to achieving its vision for a safe and healthier city by working with the community and encouraging people, businesses and key organisations to take action to support safety and health for their customers and the community.

Why this policy principle is important

Sharing the responsibility for city safety through working together on local issues will optimise safety outcomes.

How Council will enact this policy principle

Council will continue to:

- collaborate with the community and key partners to build readiness for emergency events and natural hazards
- co-create safety initiatives in active streets
- partner with businesses with public health responsibilities to encourage compliance in protecting customers.

4.3 Harm minimisation

Council is committed to implementing a range of harm minimisation strategies to enable people to use the city safely. Harm minimisation is an approach that supports vibrancy and activity while reducing risks to the public. Council will act with our partners to protect public and individual health to reduce the adverse consequences of the use of alcohol and other drugs and the associated behaviours, for the benefit of the wider community. Council also work to minimise the occurrence of injury, illness and disease and collaborate with agencies that provide responsive services.

Why this policy principle is important

Effective management of the public realm can reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour can increase activation and perceptions of safety. Harm minimisation is also enacted through effective food preparation to address microbiological risks while swimming pools and cooling towers can harbour and spread disease. In addition building sites can be dangerous to pedestrians as can uncontrolled dogs in the public realm.

How Council will enact this policy principle

Council will continue to:

- collaborate effectively with licensees, the police, state government agencies and the community to encourage shared responsibilities for harm minimisation initiatives
- maintain and improve pedestrian lighting and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) on city streets and in and around new developments in order to minimise harm associated with crimes against the person in the public realm
- minimise harm to city users by monitoring and regulating the public realm through street audits and issuing permits for activation of the public realm.
- conduct activities such as water monitoring and food inspections and disease notification.

4.4 Health-supportive environments

A health-supportive environment supports the health and wellbeing of the city community by having clean water, air, safe food and housing. Council endeavours to provide programs to protect the city from pollutants and to assess risks to public health and intervene in the community, business and environment, to prevent and control disease.

Why this policy principle is important

A health-supportive environment is a key element of a liveable city. It enables the community to enjoy city life confidently with the ability to access clean water, safe food and a healthier public environment.

How Council will enact this policy principle

Council will continue to:

- inspect and educate local businesses to prevent city users from acquiring diseases and illnesses
- facilitate local and school-based immunisation clinics
- minimise the harm to the public from passive smoking through discouraging smoking in key places such as Rundle Mall.

4.5 Social amenity

All members of the community have the right to walk safely and easily within the city, feeling welcome, safe and free from harassment.

Why this policy principle is important

Council is committed to creating a welcoming city that is pedestrian-friendly both by day and by night. Council supports a public realm which belongs to everyone, and is committed to creating a welcoming environment, free of harassment and discrimination. As our population ages and Council encourages more foot traffic across the city, it will be increasingly important to ensure clear and accessible footpaths for city users to ensure their comfort and safety.

How Council will enact this policy principle

Council will continue to:

- work with traders to ensure pedestrian-friendly footpaths with outdoor dining, particularly in high-traffic areas late at night
- act in the best interest of city users to maximise the social amenity of city places through the issue of permits for, and overseeing of, street and footpath activity including late night queuing outside licensed venues.

5. Legislative Context

In implementing this policy it is recognised that there are specific legislative requirements and standards to be met.

The **Local Government Act 1999** provides the legislative basis for the enactment of By-Laws, including the *Local Government (Model by-law) Proclamation 2011* for the management of pedestrian malls.

The Safer City Policy is also guided by the following legislation:

- *City of Adelaide Act 1998*
- *Adelaide (City) Development Plan June 2011/Development Act 1993*
- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
- *Emergency Management Act 2004*
- *Expiation of Offences Act 1996*
- *Food Act 2001*
- *Liquor Licensing Act 1997, the General Code of Practice & Late Night Code of Practice*
- *Public Assemblies Act 1972*
- *Public Health Act 2011*
- *Supported Residential Facilities Act 1992*

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Adelaide City Council works to improve safety and minimise injury, illness and disease through undertaking the following roles:

- **Enabler** – Enabling safe use of the public realm by educating and issuing permits for business and community members who wish to trade in or activate spaces to minimise the incidence of injury, disease and illness. This includes facilitating initiatives to improve safety by bringing together stakeholders.
- **Influencer** – Influencing Government agencies and the community to collaborate on safety and health initiatives of importance to the community and residents such as noise and anti-social behaviour concerns.
- **Planner** - Researching and providing information to the community on safety and health trends and projects, and setting directions in partnership with State Government and the community.
- **Provider** - Providing a service to reduce potential risks to public health in conjunction with State Government. This includes in particular, dealing with health risks associated with disease, food safety and water quality; owning and developing infrastructure such as street lighting and CCTV; and auditing the public realm to assist with cleaning, waste removal and maintenance work.
- **Regulator** - Regulating public space through the *Local Government Act 1999* to reduce personal safety risks and improve perceptions of safety on city streets and in the Park Lands (for example, by ensuring that footpaths are free of obstructions). Regulation of the water quality of the Torrens Lake.

7. Monitoring and Implementation

Monitoring and implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the City and Customer Services Program.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed in 2017.

9. Revision History

Revision #	Approval Date	Council or Committee	Decision #	TRIM Reference	Related policy documents