Community Renewal provides an opportunity for everybody who lives, works, studies or plays in Craigieburn to participate. Most of the actions contained within this Local Action Plan are driven by local residents operating in working groups.

Working groups are interest and project specific. You do not need to have knowledge or experience in a particular field to be involved. Enthusiasm and time is all you need to help make a difference.

Due to the range and diversity of actions contained within this Local Action Plan, there are plenty of opportunities for your family, your club or group, and even your business to get involved.

To find out what current and upcoming Community Renewal events and activities are, or how you can be involved, contact Hume City Council's:

COORDINATOR COMMUNITY RENEWAL
HUME CITY COUNCIL
T: 9205 2200
F: 9309 0109
www.hume.vic.gov.au
Community Renewal is part of the State Government’s plan to create a fairer Victoria. It is a three year, $11.5 million strategy targeted at revitalising rapidly changing urban communities. There are eight Community Renewal sites across Victoria. Craigieburn is one.

The objectives of Community Renewal closely align with those of the Hume City Plan 2030, particularly Council’s commitment to social justice, community empowerment, lifelong learning, integrated communities, and an environmentally aware and sustainable community.

Through Community Renewal, Council also recognises that the most effective and locally appropriate actions are those developed by the community. Participation and ownership is greater when local residents are empowered to make decisions about their immediate environment. This approach creates more sustainable outcomes by providing local communities with genuine opportunities to instigate changes they want to see happen in their neighbourhoods.

To achieve this, Community Renewal brings together residents, government, organisations and businesses to plan, coordinate and deliver targeted responses to local issues, particularly regarding: > Community participation in decision-making > Employment and learning > Volunteering and neighbourhood support > Community facilities and open spaces > Participation in cultural, recreational and sporting activities, and > Feelings of safety and wellbeing

WHAT IS CRAIGIEBURN COMMUNITY RENEWAL?

Community Renewal provides Craigieburn with a fantastic opportunity to work in partnership with government and community organisations and make a real difference. The process has already started and this Local Action Plan attests to months of hard work by many people, in particular the community led Steering Committee. I would like to thank them for their efforts and also encourage more people in Craigieburn to get involved with Community Renewal and help transform this plan into reality.

The members of the Craigieburn Community Renewal Steering Committee are:

> Nathan Foggie (Deputy Chair)
> Madeleine Lloyd
> Anthony Catanzaro
> Cameron Trail
> Josie Mite
> Brenda Davies
> Cathy Vescio-Dibella
> Leonie Wickenden
> Omer Oran
> Ratnapala Dissanayaka
> Anglicare Victoria
> Dianella Community Health
> Victoria Police
> Salvation Army
> Department of Planning and Community Development
> Hume City Council

The Victorian Government’s Community Renewal initiative encourages residents, businesses, government and local organisations to work together to help decide what will be done to make their community a better place to live, work, study and raise a family. We are committed to creating strong, inclusive communities that are active and confident. Most importantly, we aim to support communities to give people a say in their own futures. I look forward to working with the community and seeing the progress we can make towards creating a better Craigieburn for everyone.

The members of the Craigieburn Community Renewal Strategic Partnership Group are:

> Maria Varnakou MP (Federal Member for Calwell)
> Cr. Moya White (Aitken Ward Councillor)
> Carol Whitehead (Steering Committee)
> Madeleine Lloyd (Steering Committee)
> Hume City Council
> Anglicare Victoria
> Dianella Community Health
> Victoria Police
> Salvation Army
> Brotherhood of Saint Laurence
> Uniting Care – Orana Family Services
> Stockland
> VicRoads
> Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
> Department of Human Services
> Department of Planning and Community Development

Domenic Isola
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
HUME CITY COUNCIL

Carol Whitehead
RESIDENT & STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Hume City Council’s vision is to build a prosperous, sustainable and vibrant city in partnership with our community. Our Social Justice Charter and Action Plans show our commitment to human rights and a fair go for everyone in this city.

Through Community Renewal we aim to work with the people of Craigieburn to ensure that the community’s economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and infrastructure needs are well catered for. This Local Action Plan is an example of Council working in accordance with the guiding principles of the Social Justice Charter, particularly to:

> Adopt a proactive role in supporting community initiatives.
> Strive to strengthen community pride.
> Connect citizens with each other and their neighbours.
> Foster development at an individual and community level to secure a sustainable and healthy future for citizens.
> Invest in community building.
> Promote partnership and collaborate in innovative ways to benefit and strengthen the community.

INTRODUCTION

Community Renewal is a three year initiative funded by the Victorian Government through the Department of Planning and Community Development. Implementation commenced in September 2007, and focuses on the pre-1980s residential neighbourhoods of Craigieburn. This place-based approach to community strengthening targets approximately 8,000 people from 2,562 households, key landmarks, facilities, thoroughfares and services located within, adjacent to or just outside the administrative site boundaries as defined by the following geographic features:

> Medway Road and Kingswood Drive to the north;
> Hume Highway and Craigieburn Railway line to the east;
> Craigieburn Pipe Track to the south; and
> Bridgewater Road and Cimberwood Drive to the west.

This Community Renewal Local Action Plan has been developed by people living in Craigieburn. It prioritises improvements local residents want to see in their neighbourhoods and forms the basis for Community Renewal activities.

Under the supervision of local residents, and with support provided by Hume City Council and the Victorian Government, implementation of this Local Action Plan has already commenced. Local organisations and businesses have also been recruited to participate and add value to projects, particularly those which take time to implement.

Council would like to encourage people who live, work, play and study in Craigieburn to get involved and help make a difference in one of the key priority areas or proposed actions. Most of us can relate to at least one of the five themes of this Local Action Plan:

THEME 1: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
THEME 2: IDENTITY AND IMAGE
THEME 3: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
THEME 4: ACCESS AND MOBILITY
THEME 5: COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Liz Beattie MP
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP CHAIR

The Victorian Government’s Community Renewal initiative encourages residents, businesses, government and local organisations to work together to help decide what will be done to make their community a better place to live, work, study and raise a family. We are committed to creating strong, inclusive communities that are active and confident. Most importantly, we aim to support communities to give people a say in their own futures. I look forward to working with the community and seeing the progress we can make towards creating a better Craigieburn for everyone.
CRAIGIEBURN COMMUNITY RENEWAL
LOCAL ACTION PLAN

WHY CRAIGIEBURN?

Between 1991 and 2006, the population of Craigieburn doubled to nearly 21,400 people. By 2031, it is projected that the population of Craigieburn will have grown by a further 150%. Due to the rapid pace of this growth, the appearance and composition of the established neighbourhoods of Craigieburn sit in contrast to newly completed residential estates.

In addition, the majority of community facilities and social infrastructure in the older areas of Craigieburn was built in the 1980s and are operating at capacity. This serves as a barrier to opportunity for some local residents.

Some differences are more subtle and experienced in terms of access to employment and training, perceptions of safety and wellbeing, and the availability of neighbourhood and community support.

There are also a host of fantastic community assets in Craigieburn ready to build upon. There is a strong sense of pride in this community and a genuine desire by local residents to be involved in positive change. Craigieburn is also an active community, with several large, centrally located sporting, recreation and open space facilities.

It is these types of community assets that results in Craigieburn being well placed to take advantage of the unique opportunity the Community Renewal initiative offers. Community Renewal is an intensive and focussed program that will assist more people to become reconnected with their community and get involved to make things happen.

THE STAGES OF RENEWAL

Community Renewal objectives are achieved by following these steps:

1> Hume City Council is funded to bring residents, different levels of government, local businesses and other organisations together to develop a Local Action Plan for the community. Residents are given the authority to decide priorities, directions and solutions for their community. Solutions will comprise both actions and outcomes.

2> State and local government and other organisations are asked to respond to the action plan in a flexible and coordinated way, drawing funding from a number of different sources together to make it work harder.

3> In this Local Action Plan, outcomes provide a benchmark upon which progress is measured. The outcomes are identified in response to broader Community Priorities, as well as more specific Priority Actions. Local solutions are undertaken under the supervision and guidance of residents operating in working groups. To keep things on track and help measure progress, the Local Action Plan will be reviewed by residents on an annual basis.

CRAIGIEBURN - no longer a village

Craigieburn is located 25 kilometres north of Melbourne’s CBD in a designated urban growth corridor. The suburb began its transition into a metropolitan residential estate in the 1960s and ’70s, but has experienced its most significant growth over the past few years. Rapid population growth presents its own set of unique challenges, but it is the make up of the changing face of this community that sets Craigieburn apart.

42% of Craigieburn’s population is under the age of 25, with the median age of Craigieburn residents being 29 and 85% of households comprised of families.

Craigieburn is on average younger and has a higher proportion of families than Melbourne as a whole.

The area is not only growing in population, it is also diversifying and becoming more multicultural. There are a significant number of people from a range of backgrounds now living in Craigieburn, including Turkish, Hmong, Indian and Sri Lankan.

The electrification of the Craigieburn railway line in 2007 has also connected the suburb to metropolitan Melbourne more than ever before. However, access to public transport can still be an issue in the area, particularly for those who are living with a disability. These changes are indicative of the transition from a satellite town to the outer-metropolitan centre of activity Craigieburn is today.

Of particular note, are the significant open spaces available in Craigieburn, including Aitken Creek Reserve, Malcolm Creek Linear Park, and the Craigieburn Grasslands. An outstanding feature of these parklands is the large river red gums.
# Theme 1
## Education, Employment and Training

### Community Priority

To make Craigieburn a place of opportunity for all by enhancing existing and creating new education and business capital.

### Community Assets

- Craigieburn Education and Community Centre (Neighbourhood House)
- Malcolm Creek Learning Centre (integrated centre of early years services, primary school and TAFE - VCAL)
- Brotherhood of St. Laurence employment training.
- Five school sites, five pre-school sites and Craigieburn Library.
- Hume Whittlesea LLEN, Centrelink, Djerriwarrh Employment (job placement and training).
- Long Day Care, Occasional Care and Family Day Care available in various locations.

### Why This Is a Priority

- Better links between education and the local labour market needs will assist business and create more locally appropriate pathways to employment.
- Better use of existing education and business capital will improve efficiency and reduce barriers to educational opportunities.
- 40% of parents participate in schools in the community renewal area, as compared to 67% for Metropolitan Melbourne.
- Business prosperity in Craigieburn results in employment opportunities for the local community.
- Sustainable, community owned and operated entities provide invaluable support to local communities.

### Priority Actions

- Foster education partnerships to expand the range of education opportunities available in Craigieburn.
- Implement the Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) program in Craigieburn.
- Conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a Community Enterprise that focuses on providing opportunities for participation and pathways to employment for the residents of Craigieburn.
- Facilitate the establishment of a Global Learning Centre style community facility in Craigieburn.

### Outcomes

- Expanded range of locally available tertiary education opportunities.
- Better linkages and coordination between education providers.
- Greater utilisation of existing education facilities.
- Improved relationship between the business community and residents in Craigieburn.
- Business Expansion and Retention program Action Plan to support local business to thrive.
- Improved motivation of residents to shop locally.
- More local employment opportunities.
- Opportunity to establish a community enterprise investigated.
- Community participation in the planning of the civic space in new town centre.
### Community Priority

**To improve the image of Craigieburn and create a sense of pride in both the physical appearance and strength of community.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Assets</th>
<th>Why This Is a Priority</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large reserves along major roads and intersections.</td>
<td>55% of people living within the Community Renewal area rate the local streetscapes as good or very good.</td>
<td>Improve the appearance of Craigieburn in order to reduce the obvious visual difference between the newer and more established areas.</td>
<td>Local residents feel better about the neighbourhood they live in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vistas into River Red Gum habitat and Craigieburn Grasslands.</td>
<td>Enhancing gateways and streetscapes in established areas will improve community pride and the image of Craigieburn.</td>
<td>Facilitate the replacement of the cyclone wire fence between Hamilton St and the Hume Hwy.</td>
<td>Cleaner and more attractive streets in Craigieburn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular community events such as Clean-up Australia Day and tree planting days at Malcolm and Aitken Creeks.</td>
<td>Linking the established with the newer parts of Craigieburn through reducing obvious visual differences between the areas will strengthen community connection.</td>
<td>Rejuvenate the gateways of Craigieburn incorporating high quality and consistent signage and landscaping, commencing with Kingswood Dr and Potter St.</td>
<td>The design and development of a gateway plan for the established areas of Craigieburn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soon to be redeveloped Leisure Centre.</td>
<td>Council’s ongoing graffiti removal works and free graffiti removal kits for residents.</td>
<td>Work with business and property owners to improve the appearance of the Craigieburn Plaza and Hamilton St commercial precincts.</td>
<td>Less noticeable transition between the older and newer neighbourhoods of Craigieburn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Improved appearance of established commercial precincts in Craigieburn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Community Assets

**To transform Craigieburn into a place to visit and recreate, renowned for its cultural diversity and natural assets.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme 2</th>
<th>Identity &amp; Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximity to Hume Highway and prominence as the northern gateway to Melbourne. Craigieburn Festival and Craigieburn Market. Craigieburn Grasslands, Craigieburn Gardens and Aitken and Malcolm Creek Reserves. Broad appreciation of the growing cultural diversity of Craigieburn. Proximity of communities to Craigieburn without established community events, or integrated recreation and natural open space reserves.</td>
<td>Making Craigieburn a more attractive place to live and enhancing family friendly recreational activities in the immediate area will build community strength and cohesion. Building the profile and accessibility to community events and natural areas of open space will positively influence local’s and visitor’s perceptions in Craigieburn. 43% of residents in the community renewal area attended a community event in the last six months, compared to 53% for the Melbourne Metropolitan area. Opportunities for diverse community events will showcase Craigieburn’s cultural diversity and build broader community participation, learning and confidence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To improve the quality, availability and accessibility of sporting, recreation and entertainment facilities in Craigieburn.

**Community Priority**

- **Existing**: Craigieburn Leisure Centre, Craigieburn Public Golf Course, Craigieburn Gardens, Aitken and Malcolm Creek Reserves, D.S. Aitken Reserve, Victor Ian Foster Reserve, Hothlyn Drive Reserve, Craigieburn Hall (a.k.a.: Cathouse Theatre), and Craigieburn Skate Bowl.

- **Proposed**: New BMX and skate park, redevelopment of Craigieburn Bowling Club and Leisure Centre, Highgate Recreation Reserve and the new Town Centre.

**Community Assets**

- Encouraging communities to participate in recreational activities together improves community cohesiveness and health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Craigieburn is a growing community and it is vital for the improvement of community facilities to keep pace.

**Why This is a Priority**

- 64% of people in the community renewal area rate access to recreation and leisure facilities as good or very good, whilst it is 84% for the rest of Metropolitan Melbourne.

**Priority Actions**

- Participate in the concept planning process of the Craigieburn Leisure Centre redevelopment.
- Assist Council with the selection of the site and concept planning of a new BMX track in Craigieburn, and facilitate its construction.
- Facilitate the redevelopment of the Craigieburn skate park.
- Advocate for the modification of existing and planned sports, recreation and entertainment facilities in Craigieburn to ensure that each is accessible for all and well serviced with public amenities.

**Outcomes**

- Improved sporting and recreational facilities in Craigieburn.
- Community participation in the concept planning process of the Craigieburn Leisure Centre redevelopment.
- A new BMX track and skate park in Craigieburn.
- An accessibility and amenity audit of all sports, recreation and entertainment facilities in Craigieburn.

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To improve the availability of social infrastructure in Craigieburn.

**Community Priority**

- Merri Outreach Support Service, St Vincent de Paul Transitional Housing, Housing Information and Referral Service, and the Housing Establishment Fund.
- Salvation Army outreach trailer and Internet Cafe, the Brotherhood of St Laurence family and children’s centre and Anglicare Family Services.
- Craigieburn Hall and Hilton Street Scouts and Guides Halls.
- Craigieburn Bowling Club, Craigieburn Leisure Centre and Craigieburn Young People’s Place.
- Selwyn House Community Centre and Craigieburn Library.

- 43% of the population in Craigieburn is aged under 25.
- 10% by the year 2011, is the projected increase in the number of young people in Craigieburn aged between 12 and 24. This will more than double by the year 2031.
- Easy access to affordable entertainment and social support for young people will assist to reduce public order related offences and positively impact on the symptoms of social and family disengagement.
- 22% of households are rental properties in the community renewal area while 45% are purchasing their home.
- 3.8% of mortgages in Craigieburn in arrears by 30 days or more – a clear indication of housing stress.
- Improving access to suitable crisis accommodation will reduce the incidence and impact of family breakdown and housing stress.

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**Priority Actions**

- Respond to opportunities identified by young people and families that will improve local access to suitable community facilities and infrastructure and which may include the development of a hub style youth facility.
- Participate in the concept planning process of the Craigieburn Bowling Club redevelopment.
- Facilitate the upgrade of the D.S. Aitken Reserve precinct as the principal active recreation space for the residents of the community renewal site.
- Improve access to crisis accommodation services in the area.
- Work with Craigieburn Education and Community Centre, and Hume Men’s Shed to establish programs and activities for men of all ages.

**Outcomes**

- Community participation in the investigation and potential concept planning process for a service village in Craigieburn.
- “Idea box” placed in locations frequented by young people and families.
- Community participation in the concept planning process of the Craigieburn Bowling Club redevelopment.
- Improved facilities that cater for the growing needs of sporting and recreation groups as well as the wider community at the D.S. Aitken Reserve precinct.
- Commencement of the provision of crisis accommodation in Craigieburn.
- The expansion of programs and activities available to men in Craigieburn.
To promote the use and facilitate the improvement of sustainable modes of transport in Craigieburn to improve access and mobility and positively influence the health and amenity of local residents.

Large bicycle parking area at Craigieburn Railway Station.
Recently extended bus routes with interchange at Craigieburn metropolitan railway station.
Wide street reserves in key locations such as Hanson and Bridgewater Roads.
An existing shopping centre under rejuvenation and adjacent to the Craigieburn railway station.
Increasing awareness of the need for more sustainable transport options.
Recently upgraded walking and cycling paths along Aitken and Malcolm Creeks.
The Salvation Army and Brotherhood of St. Laurence’s community buses.
Abundance of pedestrian cut-throughs and walkways throughout established Craigieburn.

Safe and convenient access to essential services would be greatly enhanced by an improved network of walking and cycling paths throughout Craigieburn.
Improving access to suitable car parking in proximity to Craigieburn Railway Station will increase public transport use and decrease parking congestion in the local street network.
Making cycling safer and easier in Craigieburn will increase the use of bicycles, relieve pressure on infrastructure and address community wellbeing needs.
More accessible transport options for people with a disability and those that are disadvantaged will improve opportunities for everyone to participate in community life.

Increase the capacity for suitable bicycle storage at highly visited locations, such as Craigieburn Railway Station, Craigieburn Plaza and the new Craigieburn Town Centre.
Facilitate and advocate for the provision of more adequate car parking facilities in proximity to the Craigieburn Railway Station, with safe access to platforms.
Investigate the creation of a community shuttle service to provide regular access to community facilities, commercial precincts and health and social support services, for people who are dependent on and experience difficulties accessing suitable public transport.

Safer and more accessible cycling opportunities in Craigieburn.
Improved rates of public transport utilisation in Craigieburn.
Reduced congestion of car parks and local streets in proximity to the Craigieburn Railway Station.
The production of a comprehensive set of walking and cycling maps for Craigieburn.
The establishment of a community shuttle bus for those most disadvantaged in terms of access to public transport.
### Community Priority

**To ensure all residents of Craigieburn have convenient and timely access to essential health and social support services.**

- A variety of community support groups: e.g. Diabetes Support Group.
- Dianella Community Health, Orana Family Services, Anglicare Victoria, Salvos 3064 and CASA House: Counselling – sexual assault (PTY outreach).
- Craigieburn Health Service.
- Craigieburn Emergency Response Team and Craigieburn and District Ambulance Committee.

**Community Assets**

- Assisting current services to meet demand will reduce waiting lists and allow more residents of Craigieburn to access essential social support and health services within their region.
- Craigieburn’s population is projected to grow by 5% per cent by the year 2024, with the proportion of people aged 50 years and over to increase at even faster rates.
- 3.4% of people in the community renewal area require assistance with core activities.
- Provision of locally-based support services allows families to remain in their communities of support in times of upheaval.
- Expansion of the Metropolitan Ambulance Service operating hours in Craigieburn will reduce response times, benefiting community safety and wellbeing.

**Why This Is a Priority**

**Priority Actions**

- Support the establishment of a new approach to service delivery to improve access to health and social support services for residents in Craigieburn.
- Support and advocate for the establishment of a 24 hour ambulance service in Craigieburn.

**Outcomes**

- Improved knowledge of and access to services within Craigieburn, including those delivered by outreach mode.
- Increased range and scope of locally-based services.
- Community participation in the investigation and potential concept planning process for a service village in Craigieburn.

### Community Priority

**To increase actual and perceived levels of safety in Craigieburn.**

- Main public spaces possess acceptable levels of passive surveillance.
- Victoria Police Craigieburn, SES, CFA, Craigieburn and District Ambulance Committee (CADC), Craigieburn Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Metropolitan Ambulance Service.

**Community Assets**

- Positive perceptions of safety are low and many members of the community, including young people, are at risk of becoming isolated and disconnected.
- Increased activity and opportunities for natural surveillance of public realms improves community perceptions of safety and will positively impact on the day to day lives of Craigieburn residents.
- Building police and community partnerships and creating opportunities for targeted policing, will improve safety and community perceptions.

**Why This Is a Priority**

- Conduct a safety audit of the community renewal site and adjacent areas and advocate for action by responsible agencies and departments.
- In conjunction with Council, respond to the findings of the safety audit and address perceptions of safety in the community renewal site.
- Create opportunities to improve the relationship between young people and police in Craigieburn.

**Priority Actions**

- Support the Hume Volunteer Gateway project by conducting a comprehensive audit of volunteer opportunities and host organisations in Craigieburn and surrounding areas.
- Support the development of a community garden in Craigieburn and identify an agency to oversee day-to-day site operations.

**Outcomes**

- Craigieburn residents feel safer in public spaces.
- The completion of a safety audit in Craigieburn and the development of an Action Plan to address issues identified.
- Greater trust and respect between young people and the police.

### Community Priority

**To increase accessibility to and the incidence of community participation and volunteering in Craigieburn.**

- Volunteer community groups such as the Craigieburn Historical Interest Group and the Craigieburn Residents Association.
- Regular Community events such as Clean-Up Australia Day and Craigieburn Festival.
- Hume Volunteer Gateway project.

**Community Assets**

- Craigieburn has roughly half the rate of volunteering as metropolitan Melbourne.
- Mapping current activities and creating links among community groups will create opportunities to participate.
- Increasing awareness of opportunities to volunteer will benefit the community groups, the individuals involved as well as the wider community.

**Why This Is a Priority**

**Priority Actions**

- Support the Hume Volunteer Gateway project by conducting a comprehensive audit of volunteer opportunities and host organisations in Craigieburn and surrounding areas.
- Investigate the development of a community garden in Craigieburn and identify an agency to oversee day-to-day site operations.

**Outcomes**

- An audit of all community groups and potential volunteer hosts in Craigieburn completed.
- A stronger network of volunteers and community groups.
- Increased access and opportunities to volunteer in Craigieburn.
- Reduced social isolation.