

THE CITY OF  
GREATER GEELONG

# COMMUNITY SAFETY FRAMEWORK 2022–26





**We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways & Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are a part of our Greater Geelong community today.**

Artwork: Corio by Dr Jenny Murray-Jones

**Acknowledgement of Country in Wadawurrung language:**

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the land, water, and sky. We pay our respects to their Elders of the Past, Present, and those Emerging.

Wadawurrung Dja muyni Djilang wurdi-karrong. Nganyaki-i-beek wurdi Wadawurrung gerrupa-tjarra-dja

Wadawurrung kinkinbil beek wurdi getjawil detetj-gupma-bul moorooop-a.

The City of Geelong is part of Wadawurrung Country. A small part of land that's connected to the larger Country of Wadawurrung

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People and the spiritual connection they share with the lands.

## **SUPPORT FOR THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART**

We have proudly pledged our support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart outlining the reforms – Voice, Treaty, Truth.

The Statement calls to enshrine a First Nations voice in the Australian constitution and to establish a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process for both agreement making between governments and First Nations People, and historical truth-telling. This provides a path forward as identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People for their own self-determination, and true reconciliation in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



# CONTENTS

<b>MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OUR COMMUNITY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>GUIDING PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY – EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>OUR STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT PROMOTE COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>	<b>14</b>

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

**Everyone in Greater Geelong has the right to feel safe, no matter their postcode, and should be able to move around freely.**

The term 'safety' means different things for different people.

Being confident to exercise outdoors at any time of the day, feeling safe at home and going about our everyday business without a thought are all priorities.

Proactive community safety measures are an important part in helping community members feel at ease when using public open space.

Feeling secure in our physical environment is just as significant, such as fire safety, spaces being free from tripping hazards and having accessible buildings for people with a lived experience of disability.

Having a sense of belonging and empowerment also play a role.

When people are connected to their community and surroundings, feel they're treated with respect and can have important conversations, their overall health improves.

Council's work is informed by the aspiration for a happier, healthier and more engaged community through Our Community Plan 2021-2025 and the community-led Clever and Creative vision.

We are taking a holistic approach through this Community Safety Framework by including the responsibilities of not only the City of Greater Geelong, but external partners and the broader community to build a safer Geelong region together.

The framework assists us in supporting the community to feel empowered when it comes to their sense of safety and provides a clear definition of community safety for both the organisation and wider community.

We want our residents and visitors to enjoy everything Greater Geelong has to offer and to live full and healthy lives.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trent Sullivan'.

**Cr Trent Sullivan**  
Mayor,  
City of Greater Geelong

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The City of Greater Geelong recognises that community safety is a very important part of everyday life for all community members and visitors.**

The feedback gathered in community consultations have reflected diversity in the definition of community safety and the nature of community expectation about safety in Greater Geelong.

We are committed to working with key stakeholders to ensure Greater Geelong is a place where residents and visitors feel safe to enjoy the full benefits of the region. We have adopted a holistic approach to community safety, encouraging community connection to places and people to ensure a safer Geelong for residents and visitors.

The City has more than 100 functions throughout many departments. Collectively, there are a large proportion of these undertaking community safety measures daily. From Parks and Gardens ensuring public spaces are maintained and kept neat and tidy, to planners when looking at new developments, to liquor licensing assessments and animal management. Many aspects of our work link to enhance positive perceptions of safety in our places and spaces.

The purpose of the Community Safety Framework is to outline a shared understanding of community safety and the role of stakeholders in shaping a safer community. The Community Safety Framework identifies the roles and responsibilities of the City in relation to safety,

acknowledging the more connected a person is to their local community the safer they feel. This framework includes guiding principles around the following:

- Social Equity
- Gender Equity
- Evidence Based Perspective
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)/Safe design principles
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Community Engagement
- Proactive measures

## FRAMEWORK AIM

Local government is often at the forefront of the community's mind when it comes to crime prevention. A key to preventing crime is empowering the community and providing the tools for communities and individuals to take responsibility for their own sense of safety. Our actions should not only focus on reducing and preventing injury and violence, but also pro-active community safety measures, because crime prevention happens when there is increased well-being through strong, cohesive, vibrant and participatory communities.

**“The risk of becoming involved in crime or being victimised is greater in those communities that experience high levels of social exclusion or lack of social cohesion.” (National Crime Prevention Framework, 2012)**



# OUR COMMUNITY

Located 75 kilometres south-west of Melbourne, the municipality covers an area of 1,252 km<sup>2</sup>, comprising suburban, coastal and country areas.

Greater Geelong is bound by the Moorabool Shire in the north, Wyndham City Council and the Borough of Queenscliffe in the east, Surf Coast Shire and Golden Plains Shire in the west, and Bass Strait in the south.



Figure 1: The City of Greater Geelong ward map and context map

## FAST FACTS



**271,057**  
Population



**39**  
MEDIAN AGE



**14,000**  
Residential (Category P) streetlights replaced with LED's with smart controllers



**4,178**  
Removal jobs recorded on the VICGR (graffiti reporting application) by our graffiti team



**14,745<sup>2</sup>**  
Graffiti reported and removed by the our graffiti team in 2021-22



**130**  
Closed-Circuit Television cameras (CCTV) across the network



**1,946.43km**  
of footpaths maintained



**2,007.94km**  
of sealed roads maintained and 371.60km of unsealed road surfaces

# BACKGROUND

## COMMUNITY SENTIMENT

We track feelings of safety in the Geelong community through the Geelong Preventative Health Survey which is undertaken every four years.

Since 2017, more Geelong residents reported always feeling safe, up from 53.8 per cent in 2017 to 61 per cent in 2021. In 2021 we also saw a decrease in those who never feel safe going down by 0.3 per cent, with 1 per cent of those surveyed never feeling safe. This indicator provides important data to support this framework.

### GEELONG PREVENTATIVE HEALTH SURVEY

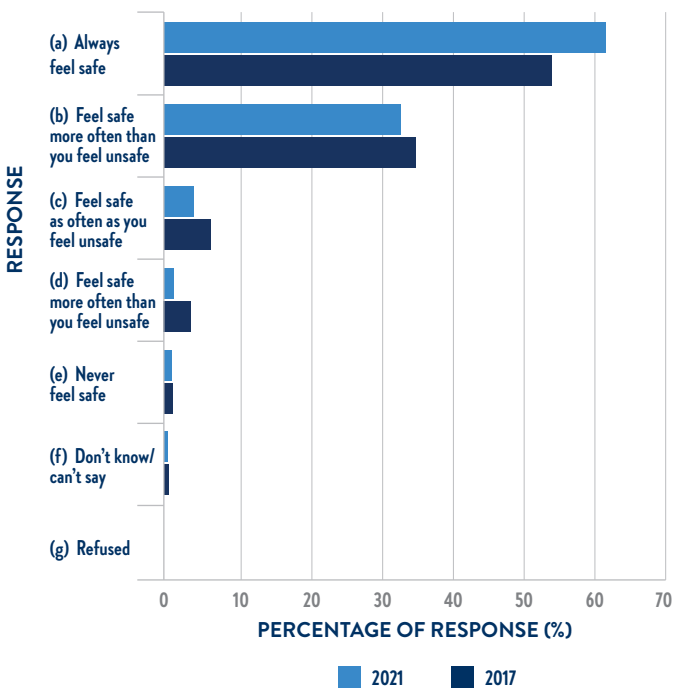
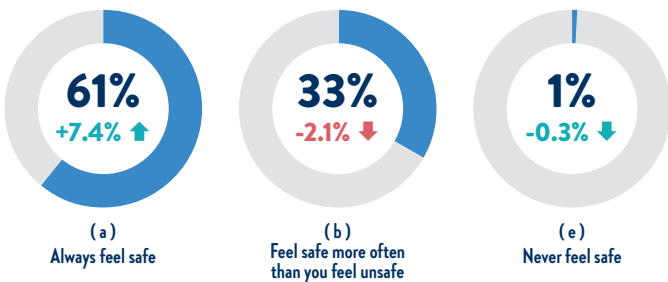


Figure 2: Geelong Preventative Health Survey 2021

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LINKS TO OUR STRATEGIES

We recognise that community safety is a very important part of everyday life for all community members and visitors. Community consultations have reflected the diversity and holistic nature of community safety in Greater Geelong.

The City's Clever and Creative vision is:

*"By 2047, Greater Geelong will be internationally recognised as a clever and creative city-region that is forward looking, enterprising and adaptive, and cares for its people and environment."*

One of the nine community aspirations identified is:

- People feel safe wherever they are.

We are working towards the vision through the development and implementation of *Our Community Plan 2021-25*.

As outlined in the *Our Community Plan 2021-25* one of the strategic directions is a healthy, caring and inclusive community. Our role is to:

- Plan communities that support healthy lifestyles.
- Deliver services to the community.
- Support community groups and local organisations.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and social equity.
- Collaborate with local, state and federal government.

One of the desired outcomes of this strategic direction is that our community feels welcome, safe, and connected. This document fulfils one of the actions for 2021-22 which was to partner with key stakeholders and community safety networks to develop a community safety framework.

This framework outlines a clear understanding of community safety and our role in contributing to a safe community, enabling all areas of the organisation to work together towards a common goal.

We will monitor our performance by reporting against *Our Community Plan 2021-2025*.

# UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY SAFETY

For the purpose of this framework and guidance for future projects and initiatives, we will follow the Pan Pacific Community Safety definition as it best reflects internal and external consultation.

**“A safe community is a place that is attractive to live, work and visit. A safe community is a liveable community, where people can go about their daily activities in an environment without fear, risk of harm or injury. Perceptions of community safety, real or perceived, impact on the way people feel and interact in their community. Community safety is not only about reducing and preventing injury and violence. It is about increasing well-being through building strong, cohesive, vibrant, participatory communities.”**  
**(Pan Pacific Community Safety Network )<sup>1</sup>**

Community safety is up to everyone, we all have a role to play in creating a healthy, safe and vibrant community.

Everybody deserves the right to feel safe. It is acknowledged that different circumstances can lead an individual to experience unsafe situations throughout their life due to several factors.

Due to experience and perceptions the term ‘community safety’ can mean a variety of different things to individuals. This can include falls or swimming safety, to more fundamental crime prevention measures of feeling you are at risk of being a victim of crime.

The diversity of definitions of community safety was demonstrated through our community consultation (March 2022) when asked “What does community safety mean to you?”

**“Safety is when people in the community are able to feel at ease when being in public, have access to assistance easily when they need help and being able to feel safe when using public property such as playgrounds, walk paths and bus stops.”**

**“All people feeling safe in their homes, neighbourhoods and when moving about in the community at all times - day or night.”**

**“Community safety for me means the ability to freely and safely go wherever I need to without feeling threatened or having to adapt what I am doing to protect myself from others.”**

**“That people don't have to think twice about enjoying public spaces, regardless of time of day. And feel safe in all parts of their community. Also that they can safely access community spaces and facilities, and get around the community safely, regardless of age or ability (i.e. footpaths to increase safe travel options for kids, people with disabilities etc. particularly near busy roads).”**

**“Being able to feel safe while performing my normal daily activities.”**

**“Everyone feeling safe to be out and about in our beautiful city, using the local facilities or visiting local places of scenery and beauty.”**

**“Being able to go about my day without being fearful. For my family and I to interact with and be active in our local community during the day and at night. Having the facilities that provide a safe environment - e.g. even footpaths, lighting, play equipment in good working order, safe roads (no potholes), walking tracks free from debris, fire safety (long grass mowed), etc.”**

**“I understand that community safety is how we maintain a safe environment for all ages [of] the community. This includes road safety, parks, commercial areas and residential areas.”**

**“Easy access to help in an emergency in regards to health services, storm /flood, safe roads, especially in relation to damage, like potholes, trees over roads etc”**

<sup>1</sup> The Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network (PPSCN) is a NGO established by representatives from New Zealand, United States of America and Australia to provide evidence-based best practice information on addressing community safety at the local level.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For all programs, projects and initiatives relating to community safety we will aim to ensure the following principles are incorporated:

## **SOCIAL EQUITY**

- Ensure the social equity enablers of fairness, access, voice, participation, inclusion and empowerment are captured within our work as well as a focus on priority populations, as outlined in the *Social Equity Framework 2022-25*.

## **GENDER EQUITY (LEGISLATED)**

- Undertake a Gender Impact Analysis (GIA) as required under the *Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020*.

## **PROACTIVE MEASURES**

- Aim to implement a preventative approach where appropriate.

## **EVIDENCE BASED PERSPECTIVE**

- Aim to incorporate an evidence-based perspective where appropriate.
- Work to build a more comprehensive evidence base for projects relating to community safety.

## **CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)/SAFE DESIGN**

- Ensure we are adhering to safe design guidelines in project scope and development.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (LEGISLATED)**

- Participants taking part in community engagement are entitled to reasonable support to enable meaningful and informed engagement.

## **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (LEGISLATED)**

- Adhere to OH&S principles and regulations within our work.





# COMMUNITY SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY – EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY

## THE ROLE OF THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

We accept the role of supporting safe community participation and access to places, services and opportunities by:

- Connecting people in community life through supporting and delivering programs.
- Planning, building and maintaining safe community places and environments.
- Partnering with other community safety organisations and groups.
- Managing risks and minimising hazards in the community.
- Actively participating in a range of internal and external networks relating to community safety.
- Working in collaboration to achieve an integrated approach to community safety.
- Collectively prioritising issues.
- Utilising evidence-based perspectives.
- Developing and supporting internal communications for the reporting of and response to community safety.
- Working with federal and state government on programs and advocating and applying for funding opportunities.
- Developing individual and community responsibility.

## THE ROLE OF VICTORIA POLICE

- Responding to calls for assistance in matters of personal and public safety, emergencies and serious incidents.
- Preventing crime through a range of proactive community safety programs.
- Detecting and investigating offences and bringing to justice those responsible for committing them.
- Supporting the judicial process to achieve efficient and effective court case management, providing safe custody for alleged offenders, supporting victims and ensuring fair and equitable treatment of victims and offenders.
- Promoting safe road-user behaviour.
- Victoria Police operates under the *Victoria Police Act 2013*.

## THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY (INCLUDING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS)

- When you see something concerning, report it to the relevant authority.
- Even if you're not sure or only have a couple of details, still report it.
- Report damage of City assets, parks, public toilets, lights to the City of Greater Geelong.
- Engage in discussions and programs aimed at achieving community safety.

## THE ROLE OF FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

Federal and State governments play an integral role in community safety through a number of functions, departments and the administering of partnership and grant opportunities. These include:

- Law enforcement; state and federal policing, border control, management of the court systems.
- Emergency management.
- Transport.
- Roads, utilities (electricity, water, gas), telecommunications.
- Land planning and development.
- Both levels of government have similar responsibilities to local government in enhancing community inclusion and engagement.

**Community safety is up to everyone, we all have a role to play in creating a healthy, safe and vibrant community.**

# OUR STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

The City has also developed detailed policies and strategies that contribute to community safety. Whole-of-organisation statements include:

- *Our Community Plan 2021-25*
- *City of Greater Geelong Municipal Strategic Statement*
- *Greater Geelong - A Clever and Creative Future*
- *BaGurrk – Gender Equity Framework*
- *Social Equity Framework 2022-25*
- *Community Engagement Policy*
- *Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-22*
- *Social Infrastructure Plan Generation One 2020-23*
- *Positive Ageing Strategy 2021-2047*
- *Multicultural Action Plan 2018-2022*
- *Smart City Strategic Framework*

There are several policies, plans, frameworks and procedures that reflect the work of the multiple departments that contribute to developing a safer community. For further details on these visit [www.geelongaustralia.com.au](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au).



Pictured: A young girl enjoying  
a swing with her parents



# PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT PROMOTE COMMUNITY SAFETY

We deliver a wide range of programs, services and actions that promote community safety. The below is a snapshot of our role in safety:

## **DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY**

- Education regarding childhood injury prevention and child protection
- Falls prevention awareness for older people
- Information / education about responsible social behaviour
- Responsible pet ownership
- Encouraging reporting

## **CONNECTING PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY LIFE THROUGH SUPPORTING AND DELIVERING PROGRAMS**

- Community development projects in neighbourhoods
- Support for community, social and recreation groups in local areas (harnessing community connection)
- Arts and cultural activities that engage people of all ages (community and place connection)
- Support for sporting clubs and activities (liquor licensing, maintenance of reserves)

## **PLANNING, BUILDING AND MAINTAINING SAFE COMMUNITY PLACES AND ENVIRONMENTS**

- Use of safe design principles in planning
- Use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles
- Regulation of land use activities
- Provision and maintenance of street lighting
- Provision of facilities for social, recreation, learning and community access
- Facilitating busy and vibrant public places, spaces and activities
- Ensuring access and inclusion requirements are met in project delivery
- Management of closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV)

## **PARTNERING WITH OTHER COMMUNITY SAFETY ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS**

- Assisting groups to identify and secure funding opportunities
- Prevention of violence against women and children (working in partnership with support agencies in the service delivery sector on education and awareness raising campaigns)
- Promoting gender equity
- Workplace safety campaigns with partners

## **MANAGING RISKS AND MINIMISING HAZARD IN THE COMMUNITY**

- Emergency management planning and response
- Fire prevention
- Food safety regulation and enforcement
- Graffiti clean-up and prevention
- Ensuring compliance with legislative responsibilities
- Liquor licensing applications
- Road safety campaigns and programs including pothole management
- Safe trading in public places
- Dumped rubbish
- Waste management
- Enforcing safety regulations
- Events management (ensuring events are compliant with safety requirements)



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**CITY OF GREATER GEELONG**

WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY

PO Box 104

Geelong VIC 3220

**P:** 5272 5272

**E:** [contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au](mailto:contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au)

[www.geelongaustralia.com.au](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au)

**CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

Wurriki Nyal

137-149 Mercer Street

Geelong VIC 3220

8.00am–5.00pm

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