Guidelines for Residential Subdivision: Designing for Health & Wellbeing Checklist, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

In Brief

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town/Region</th>
<th>Macedon Ranges Shire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>VIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Regional and Rural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Target Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note: The above target group/s are the beneficiaries of the Guidelines – the immediate target groups are:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• internal: the Council’s Planning and Development Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• external: developers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organisation(s):

- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Developers (especially those considering larger subdivisions)

Timing of Project

- Guidelines released 2005
- Completion of checklist and illustrated guide: April 2009
- Checklist to be reviewed after 12 months (to gauge level of usage; identify any improvements etc)

Weblink

http://www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au

This project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Last updated 8 June 2009
Key Outcomes

- People engaging in regular physical activity
- Built environments influencing active living
- Sense of belonging
- Sense of place
- Positive health impacts

Overview

Macedon Ranges Shire Council’s Guidelines for Residential Subdivision: Designing in Health and Wellbeing (“the Guidelines”) were prepared to help residential development proposals address subdivision design issues, including the provision of and connection to community infrastructure.

The Guidelines were released in 2005, and in 2006 the Victorian State Government introduced new standards for residential subdivision into the State Policy Planning Framework (specifically Clause 56).

In 2008 the Guidelines were reviewed to assess whether they were the most effective way to ensure that health and wellbeing considerations remained at the forefront of residential subdivision design in the Macedon Ranges Shire. It was decided that the Guidelines were relevant for reference but that the intent needed to be available in a more user-friendly format.
OUTCOMES

Successes
- At the time the Guidelines were reviewed (June 2008), Macedon Ranges Shire Council was one of few municipal authorities to have documented their intent to consider healthy design principles in land use planning decisions.¹
- Winner of the Policy for Healthy Communities 2005 Heart Foundation Kellogg Local Government Awards.

Learnings
- In the short-term, there needs to be a more user-friendly format to ensure greater understanding and uptake of healthy design principles by internal and external parties (i.e. production of a Checklist and illustrated guide for use by Council planners and private developers).
- The Guidelines and any associated checklists are only advisory because they are not formally part of the Shire’s Planning Scheme – therefore, in the long-term, the health and wellbeing considerations need to be formally incorporated into the Local Policy Planning Framework and Municipal Strategic Statement; and into all other relevant Council policies and strategies (e.g. Outline Development Plans, Open Space Strategy).

Costs
- That this is a long-term investment of time and resources given the volume of work required to ensure inclusion of healthy design principles at a strategic level (and through all levels of policy and land use planning within Council).

Benefits
- Building safe communities in Macedon Ranges Shire.
- Supporting and promoting healthy and active lifestyles.

¹Because of the way the Victorian Planning Provisions are designed, the format, and much of the content, of Planning Schemes across Victoria is the same. However each municipality can include local content via the Local Policy Planning Framework and the Municipal Strategic Statement. As at June 2008, few municipalities had taken the opportunity to address health and wellbeing concerns within their local content.
REFERENCES


Links to related material