

*The 2009 International Awards for
Liveable Communities*

City of Melville

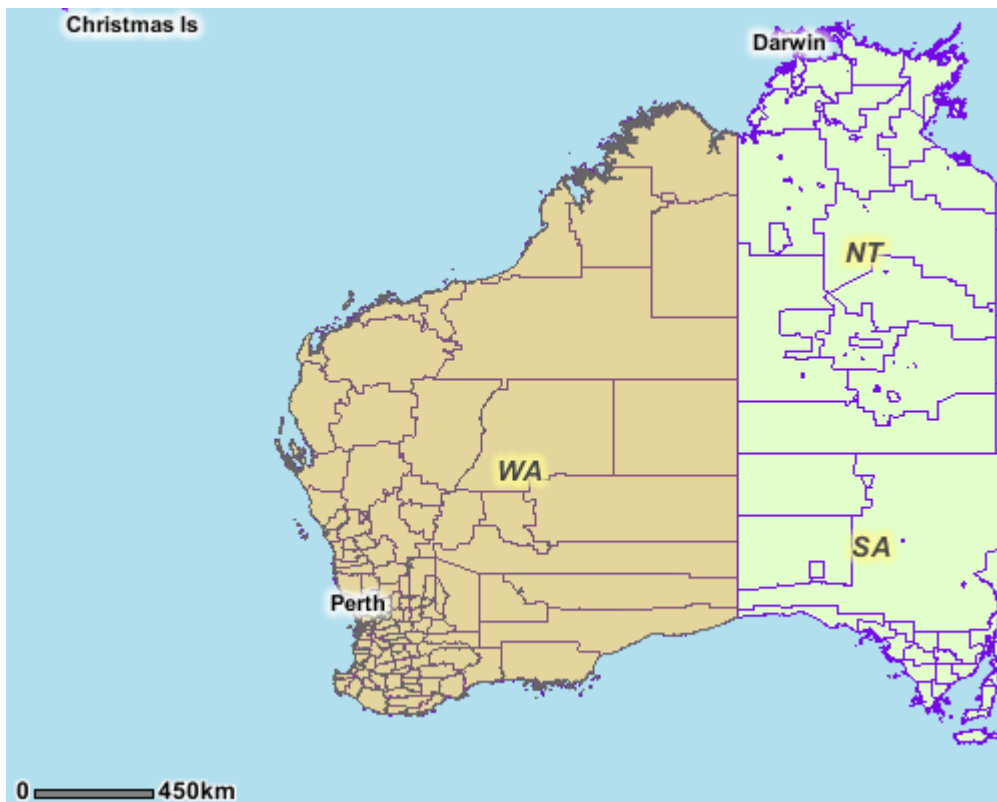
Perth

Western Australia

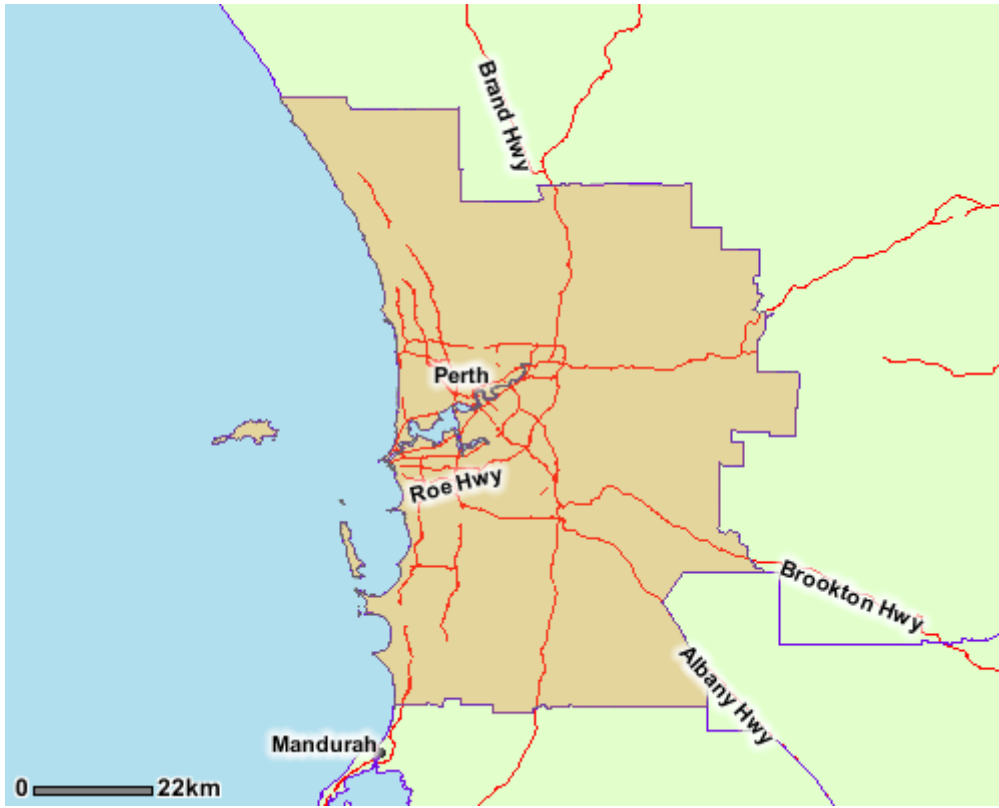
Location of the City of Melville



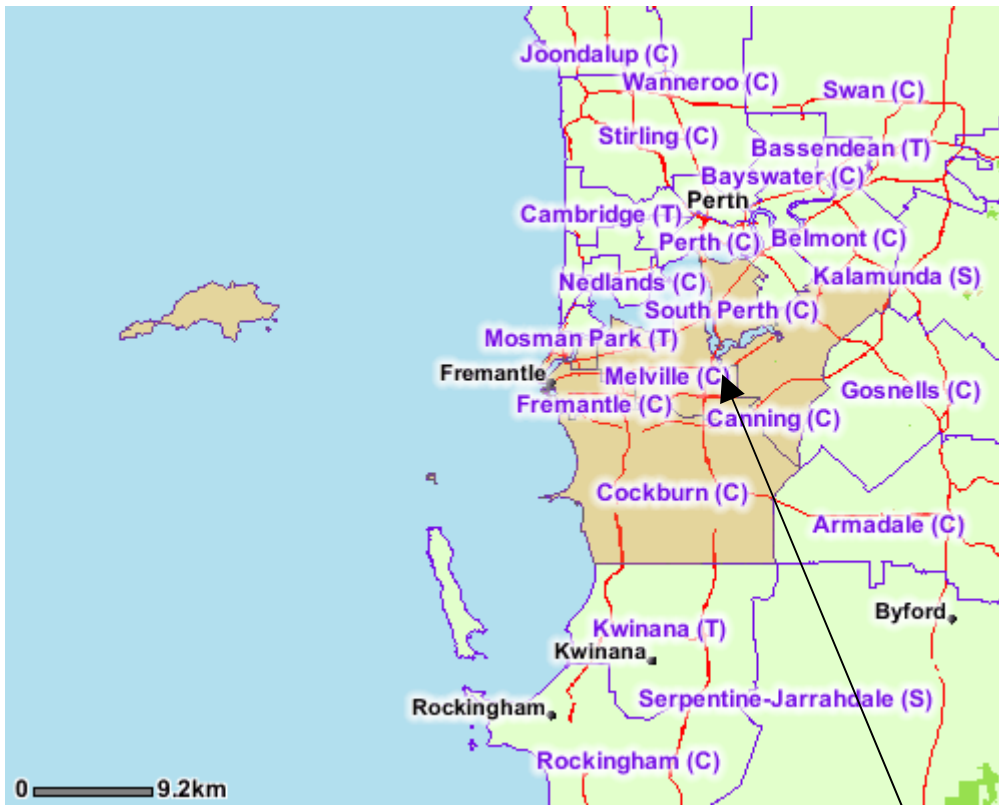
1. Australia



2. Western Australia



3. Perth Western Australia



City of Melville

INTRODUCTION

Melville is named after Lord Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty, 1812-1830.

The City of Melville is 8 kilometres south-west of Perth, the capital city of Western Australia. Melville is a predominantly residential area, with some industrial and commercial land uses. The City of Melville encompasses a total land area of about 5200 hectares including 18 kilometres of river foreshore and 18 suburbs.

Over 9000 businesses operate within the City including about 850 in health and community services and cultural and recreational areas.

Approximately 100,000 live people here, in 39,000 dwellings of which 18.5% are aged over 60 years, 58% are of working age and 23.5% are under 18 years of age. Overall, 96.9% of the labour force is employed and 3.1% unemployed.

The average cost of a house is \$650,000.

The City of Melville has a greater proportion of high income households (25% over \$1,000 per week) with the majority of people living in dwellings that are separate houses.

The City of Melville experiences a Mediterranean type climate with hot dry summers and cold wet winters. The long-term average rainfall is 855 mm and the long-term annual average maximum temperature is 24.4°C

The City of Melville Council is represented by a Mayor and 12 Elected Members who represent six wards for four year terms. The Mayor is elected by the community and the Deputy Mayor is elected by Councillors each year. The Mayor speaks on behalf of the City of Melville and liaises with the Chief Executive Officer on the affairs and performance of the organisation.



City of Melville Civic Centre and surrounding gardens

The City's population is made up of people from diverse multicultural backgrounds with 32% of people born overseas, and 18% from a non-English speaking background. The dominant language spoken at home, other than English, is Mandarin and one of the largest collections of Chinese books in a metropolitan Library is housed in the local Foreign Language Centre.

The City of Melville employs 650 full-time, part-time and casual employees, and provides more than 90 services including: recreation centres, aquatic centres, libraries, crèches, pre-school centres, community centres, food inspection services, citizenships, waste removal and recycling, planning and building services, maintenance, streetscapes, landscaping disability services, immunisation clinics, cultural and educational centres, environmental preservation and management, control of bushfires, dogs, parking, neighbourhood security patrols, sporting facilities, children's playgrounds and tourist promotions, volunteer resources and support for community organisations.

Council's vision is to:

- Create a safe, attractive City where the consequences of our actions for future generations are taken into account.
- Have natural and built facilities that are accessible to everyone
- Generate a sense of place, belonging and community spirit
- Ensure all voices are heard through the creation of opportunities to participate in decisions that affect the lives of our community



View to Perth from City of Melville



View from Swan River to suburb of Bicton Swan River foreshore

ENHANCEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE

The City of Melville features a range of bushland, wetland and riverside environments, and we are committed to preservation of our unique natural places.

We have management plans for key areas, as well as supporting the many 'Friends of' groups who are members of the community dedicated to preserving and maintaining these places.

Melville has more than 100 volunteers from the local area who help on a regular basis to undertake work in the City's lovely bushland, wetland and river foreshore reserves. These groups work in conjunction with the City of Melville to undertake a variety of activities, including collecting seed for revegetation, planting activities in winter and removing weeds from certain areas. These local people have a great deal of enthusiasm and experience in working in our local bush or foreshore.



Volunteers involved in tree planting

The City of Melville manages 18km of foreshore on the Southern banks of the Swan and Canning Rivers. The area ranges from narrow grassed areas to substantial conservation reserves.

The foreshore has many values, both biological and for the community including conservation - areas for native plants that provide animal habitat; passive recreation - bird watching, picnicking and active recreation - boating, dog walking, fishing, netting prawns, walking and cycling.

The foreshore reserves provide habitat and feeding grounds for a large number of water birds including the Black Swan. Some of these birds are migratory flying from the northern hemisphere and northern Australia to nest or feed. The Melville foreshore also provides a number of different habitats for a range of fauna, such as reptiles and mammals. Habitat areas are usually limited to pockets of vegetation and to some extensive beach areas.

Melville's River Foreshore



Bicton Swan River foreshore



Point Walter Jetty

Due to development and the impact from various urban factors, these foreshore areas differ in condition from excellent to poor. The major problems facing the City along the foreshore are weeds, erosion and litter.

The installation of baffles and the planting of sedges and other native plants are combating erosion. Weed control is an ongoing process that is carried out by City staff and volunteer community groups.



Blue Gum Lake

Wetlands

Wetlands support a large variety of plant and animal species that are adapted to fluctuating water levels. They also provide either temporary or permanent habitats for many important aquatic species

Management Plans have been prepared to provide the City of Melville with a five year program for the long term protection, conservation and restoration of all Wetland and Reserves.

Access to both natural and built facilities and assets allow us to enjoy a sustainable and healthy lifestyle in a clean and green community with lots of trees and open space. The river is a focal point of our social and cultural activities. We recognise growth is inevitable however we want to see a built environment that adequately manages population growth and maintains our natural environment.

The provision of affordable housing should enhance the diversity without compromising the general look and feel of an area.

Currently we have: natural bush reserves at Piney Lakes, Point Walter, Ken Hurst Park, Troy Park, Wireless Hill and several smaller reserves throughout the suburbs – totaling 300 hectares; 210 parks and reserves; 600 hectares of public open space available for community use; street trees that are an important part of the landscape; accessibility to the river through continuous open space with access by dual-use paths; suburban areas with established gardens and mature trees; Piney Lakes Environmental Centre.

*89% of respondents are satisfied with Streetscapes, parks and sporting grounds
(Catalyse Customer Perceptions Survey)*



Public art sculpture at Piney Lakes Reserve

HERITGE MANAGEMENT

Aboriginal Heritage

We celebrate the culture, history and achievement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We are committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through a range of initiatives, including community involvement and sponsorships. The City embraces a holistic approach that promotes spiritual, physical, emotional and mental well being.

Six significant sites have been identified in the City of Melville and include:

1. Bull Creek

Bull Creek area is significant to the Beeliar Aborigines and is referred to as *Gabbiljee* which means the watery place at the end of the river. Traditionally it was a source of food during the summer months.

2. Swan River

The Swan River site covers the foreshore areas from Waylen Bay to Blackwall Reach. The Swan River in its entirety is a significant mythological site to *Nyoongar* people of the Perth Metropolitan Area. The river, also known as *Derbal Yerrigan* is believed to have been the journey track and resting place of the *Waugal*, a mythical water serpent.

3. Canning River

The Canning River is of sacred significance again because of its association with the *Waugal*. The river is a named place and known as *Dyarlgarro*. The mouth of the Canning is referred to as *Wagoorjup* which translates to place of the *Waugal*.

4. Blackwall Reach

Blackwall Reach area is known as *Jenalup* or *Dyundalup* and the most sacred area is around the cliffs. The area was occupied by the Beeliar clan and is significant to woman and children.

5. Goolugatup

Goolugatup is located on the Point Heathcote foreshore. *Nyoongar* Elders have described the site as a meeting place and as a birthing place.

6. Raffles Hotel Site

The Raffles Hotel Site is located just north of the Canning Bridge.

Since 1995 the City has employed an Aboriginal and Cultural Liaison Officer who is dedicated to working together with the local community in a spirit of reconciliation.



Aboriginal Dancers at community event

Municipal Heritage

The Heritage Management Framework is intended to be the basis of a Municipal Inventory of Historically Significant Places within the City of Melville. There are 72 sites listed on the Municipal Heritage List. It is a guide for the establishment of a comprehensive list of significant buildings, features and places which reflect the history of the City, which we wish to protect or mark for the pleasure and education of future residents.



Entrance to heritage listed Heathcote Park



Heritage listed Applecross District Hall

*70% of respondents are satisfied with how local history and heritage is preserved and promoted.
(City of Melville Community Perceptions Survey)*

Museums and Local History - Preservation and Protection

There are three Museum sites located within the City:

- Melville Discovery Centre (Municipal Museum)
- Wireless Hill Telecommunications Museum
- Heathcote Museum and Gallery

All of the museum sites have an important role in maintaining collections of objects that record the history and culture of Melville. Interpreting the collections of the museums is done through exhibition displays and public programs.

The Heathcote and Wireless Hill heritage sites are places with natural, indigenous and built heritage significance. The museums promote education, enjoyment and community participation in cultural activities for both local residents and visitors

The current collection includes photographs, newspapers, maps and plans, oral histories, rate books, electoral rolls, City of Melville memorabilia, reports and documents. It also contains a number of historical artefacts.

The Local History and Museum Service also collect the history and development of primary industries, as well as small businesses.

Wireless Hill Vision 2020

Wireless Hill was one of Australia's first telecommunications stations. The site played an important role in both World Wars, relaying messages from ship to shore. Communication was the vision of Wireless Hill back in 1912 and the City of Melville has been working with the community to develop a plan that responds appropriately to heritage, environmental and community objectives.

The development of a 'Vision Document' for Wireless Hill provides the needed direction to ensure that this regionally significant site stays a community focal point into the future.



Wireless Hill aerial photograph

City Of Melville Civic Centre

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE PRACTICES

The City of Melville has established strong ecological foundations, demonstrating leadership and innovation concerning environmental issues. The City of Melville will continue to drive the sustainability agenda to safeguard the welfare of future generations both in our local community and the global community.

*83% of respondents are satisfied with Conservation and environmental management
(City of Melville Community Perceptions Survey)*

Our Ecological Sustainability Framework focuses on strategies which achieve environmental protection with a goal to: achieve economic, social and cultural growth without irreversibly exhausting the ecological systems supporting that growth.

We aim to use resources (materials, energy, water, etc) as sparingly and efficiently and possible, focusing our resource consumption on renewable sources, reusing or recycling resources, avoiding the generation of waste and adopting practices which are less damaging to the environment



Piney Lakes Education Centre with Native kangaroo paw flora



South facing veranda at Piney Lakes Education Centre

Piney Lakes Environment Centre

Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre is an innovative education centre showcasing the latest in renewable energy technologies and sustainable building design. Set in an urban bushland setting, this building offers a unique opportunity to learn more about the environment and sustainable living.

The Centre is located within 68 hectares of bushland/parkland, known as Piney Lakes Reserve. It is in a unique location, surrounded by residential suburbs. It is a place to escape from the noise, pollution and stress of our everyday lives.

School activity programs and night walks to view nocturnal animals are coordinated regularly.

Construction and Design

The building is a two storey design with walls predominantly made of 300mm thick rammed earth (limestone), single glazed and wood framed windows and a steel roof. Shaped in plan as a boomerang, the building symbolically acknowledges the indigenous history of the Piney Lakes region.

Piney Lakes has a minimal ecological footprint and is self-sufficient, with no connection to mains power, water or sewage.

Climate sensitive and passive solar design features

Climate sensitive design aims to reduce the need for active heating, cooling and lighting of a building through the integration of features that limit heat build-up during summer months, heat loss during winter months and reduce the need for artificial lighting.

Power

The Centre generates almost all its power from clean, green renewable energy sources: the wind, using a wind turbine, and the sun, using solar panels. Electricity generated by the solar panels and wind turbine is fed into a bank of batteries (via power controllers) to be stored for use when required. The power is then passed via an inverter for use in the building with normal mains appliances.

Heating and Cooling

The solar passive designs control the natural heating and cooling of the building. The thick, rammed, limestone walls, concrete floors and insulated roof panels act as thermal banks, storing warmth in winter and coolness in the summer. Solar air collectors provide extra

heating in winter so that there is no need for energy to be used to boost room temperature. Automatically controlled night ventilation and ceiling fans avoid the need for conventional air conditioning.

Water use and efficiency

The building is not connected to mains water or sewerage. Water saving toilets used at the venue use bacteria to efficiently break down waste products, reducing the need for water by up to 80%.

A 60 000L rainwater tank collects rainwater from the roof surface for use in the building.

The Green Office Program

The Green Office Program at the City of Melville aims to reduce the ecological impact associated with the office workplace. The program aims to raise staff awareness, prompt behaviour change and to encourage and facilitate sustainable alternatives. Improvements are made through waste reduction, energy conservation and efficiency, green purchasing and water conservation.

There is an active Green Office Team made up of staff from all areas of the organisation. The Team is achieving great things in terms of saving energy and water and much of this can be contributed to the general commitment to sustainability and much more to the active contributions of members of the Green Team. The Green Team have introduced a stationary recycling store promoted to all staff as an alternative to purchasing duplicate materials, individual officer recycling and improved recycling facilities and branding to enable recycling in the kitchens.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY



Australia Day celebrations in the park

The City of Melville is committed to the value of public participation and the Community Engagement Framework outlines principles and practical steps to successful community consultation and increased levels of community engagement.

Community Perception Surveys have been carried out since 2004 to evaluate and monitor performance across a range of services and facilities, providing valid performance measures that can be benchmarked and monitored over time.

In 2005 and 2006 the City of Melville in conjunction with the State Government Western Australian Planning Commission established the “Dialogue with the City of Melville (or Melville Visions)” project.

Melville Visions is the largest consultation exercise undertaken by the City of Melville to date and allowed residents and business owners to 'have their say' on the future of the City. It was also the largest community engagement project conducted by a local government authority in the Perth Metropolitan area.

Over 9000 residents, community groups and key stakeholders were consulted as part of Melville Visions and more than 2000 participated by providing valuable information on their current lifestyles and expectations for the future. The Melville Visions process included focus group meetings, stakeholder interviews, a public forum (which used hand-held electronic voting devices) and a large community survey to examine lifestyle arrangements and preferences.

This project used a variety of communication methods to engage the community in discussions on issues including:

- housing density and diversity
- transportation
- natural environment
- community and commercial facilities
- sense of place

The views and expectations of the community gathered through the Melville Visions process, combined with government requirements and industry practices have collectively driven the review of the Community Planning Scheme No. 5 and formed the basis of the Community Plan.



Community Workshop working on maps to consider the future built environment

People Places Participation a Community Plan for the City of Melville 2007- 2017 documents our community's aspirations and describes how the City of Melville and other stakeholders can work towards achieving these. The Plan identifies seven community priorities:

1. Begin Neighbourhood Planning
2. Create an age-friendly City
3. Build a safe and secure community
4. Change our behaviour to consider how our actions today will affect the generations of tomorrow
5. Facilitate suitable housing options
6. Facilitate sustainable transport options
7. Monitor the impact of major developments



Willagee Community Centre Participants

Community art activities play a big part in building a sense of community pride and spirit. A number of projects around the City involve the community in the planning and design of public artworks including the mosaic artwork on the Willagee Community Centre pictured above.

With a view to building sustainable communities the City of Melville provides a Community Partnership Funding Program which focuses on four key areas – seniors, events, and community support and community initiatives.



Diagram outlining the Goals and Key Result Areas for the City of Melville which links with the Community Plan People Places Participation

The City of Melville has many diverse areas each with their own distinctive characteristics, qualities and community aspirations.

Neighbourhood Development provides opportunities for local communities to come together to document a collection of their thoughts and ideas about the Neighbourhood and its future.

Community Champion Workshops are held across the City to explore local challenges and opportunities and check that the Neighbourhood knowledge we capture in Neighbourhood Plans is useful and appropriate for the community.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

*84% of respondents are satisfied with opportunities provided in the City of Melville to participate in a healthy and active lifestyle
(City of Melville Community Perceptions Survey)*



Aerobics class at Melville Recreation Centre Library



Entrance to Melville Recreation Centre and Library

The City of Melville has a vision that strives for a City of people leading healthy lifestyles and enjoying access to a variety of natural and structured leisure and community development opportunities.

We are committed to improving access for everyone, continually trying to strengthen community connections and improving the experience of all residents and visitors.

The City of Melville's recreation centres are dedicated to increasing opportunities for participation and inclusion in our community through sport and recreation.

One of the specialised activities offered is Sportslink which provides school aged children with a disability the opportunity to learn basic sporting skills such as running, jumping, throwing, catching, striking and kicking in a team environment.

Research indicates that as we get older, there is an increased importance to regularly partake in aerobic and strength building exercise programs. The City of Melville offers a number of programs designed specifically for older person including:

Forever Fit

The Forever Fit program is a set of purpose designed, low impact exercise classes for the mature exerciser. It includes gym circuits, group fitness and aqua classes. There are also free monthly Forever Fit morning and afternoon teas.

Living Longer Living Stronger

The Living Longer Living Stronger program is endorsed by Council on the Ageing is an over 50's program that encourages and supports mature people to achieve improved health and quality of life. This is a fully supervised, personalised training program that also has a social aspect.



Walking through Wireless Hill Park

The **Active Melville** Plan 2007 - 2012 has been developed to provide a strategic framework and identify the key actions for Council to ensure that a range of sport, recreation and leisure goals can be achieved. **Active Melville** forms part of the City's response to the issues and challenges of increasingly sedentary lifestyles, with the aim of enhancing the health and well being of our community. **Active Melville** outlines the level of support, service and facilities the Council will provide to achieve its physical activity mission of *'The City of Melville. A Great Place to be Active'*.

The City contains more than 20 playing fields, 2 Golf Courses, 2 Recreation Centres and 1 Aquatic Centre. It has over 200 community sporting and recreation groups and policies that guide and promote people being active in a structured and unstructured manner within the City.

The Ethnic Melville Active Seniors (EMAS) group provides culturally specific Centre Based Day Care, which include activities, lunch and outings in a fun and friendly environment. This group offers an opportunity for friendship and socialisation to people who may be isolated due to a disability or language barrier or who live alone.

The City of Melville offers several EMAS Groups, each of which is facilitated by a bilingual coordinator and supported by bilingual volunteers.

A typical day consists of activities specific to each cultural group such as:

- Modified exercise suitable for any level, including those who are chair bound, e.g. tai chi, meditation, laughter yoga, gentle movement exercises.
- Guest speakers on topics of interest.
- Board games and activities e.g. mahjong, bingo, carom.
- Musical entertainment.
- Celebration of festival days.
- Socialisation over a culturally specific nutritious lunch time meal.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Raffles residential building on Swan River foreshore



Local community coffee shop

Local Planning Strategy

The Local Planning Strategy is the key strategic urban planning document for the City of Melville and will complement the new Melville Local Planning Scheme No. 6.

The objective of the Community Planning Scheme No 6 is to improve the living standards, welfare and quality of life for the residents in the City of Melville. The Scheme is the instrument for coordinating and implementing the land use, socio-economic and environmental policies of the Council whilst having regard for development and conservation. Specific policies for Environment and Heritage relate to conservation reserves, landscape protection, tree preservation, landscaped open space, and documentation of vegetation, protection of heritage and resource conservation.

The intent of the Local Planning Strategy is to provide a long-term vision for sustainable planning that integrates diverse issues such as:

- residential densities,
- activity centres and corridors,
- community hubs,
- transport corridors
- environmental resources

A number of major development projects will impact on the growth of the City in the future.

\$1.76 billion Fiona Stanley Hospital at Murdoch.

Building has commenced in the City of Melville for this 643-bed state-of-the-art tertiary hospital. On 32.4 hectares, it will be Western Australia's flagship health facility offering healthcare services to communities in the south of Perth and across the state.

Due for completion in late 2013, the hospital will provide high level medical and teaching facilities.

The hospital incorporates sustainable design and is committed to the best possible environmental outcomes. Some \$5 million in environmental on-site and off-site initiatives will be undertaken throughout the project's development. These include landscaping, fauna relocation, seed collection, weed control, grass tree relocation, rehabilitation in Beelihar Regional Park and preservation of conservation areas.

Fiona Stanley Hospital will be the catalyst for local and regional growth and development and will generate economic investment and local employment opportunities. It will also drive private and commercial developments including retail outlets, cafes and other recreational facilities.



Artist's impression of the completed Fiona Stanley Hospital

Canning Bridge Study

The City of Melville and other stakeholders are undertaking a planning analysis of the Canning Bridge Rail Station Precinct.

The main objective of the study is to develop the area as an activity centre including consideration of:

- options for use of City and State owned land
- infrastructure funding
- economics-business vitality, employment
- urban design, principles and detailed guidelines
- movement network including- parking and public transport, statutory planning – zoning, densities, plot ratios, heights, parking requirements.

City Centre Vision Plan

The City of Melville in conjunction with major stakeholders has prepared a Vision Plan for the commercial heart of the City of Melville.

Key elements of the Vision Plan include: potential to integrate a public transport transfer station in the Entertainment and Leisure precinct; incorporating bus and possibly rail in the longer term; medium and high density residential overlooking Wireless Hill Park and toward Perth city; an Entertainment and Leisure precinct adjoining the existing cinemas, food court and Council offices.

This area may include other civic facilities and a new/upgraded library. The entertainment and leisure precinct and adjacent civic square may become the key area of public activity outside the core retail area (i.e. shopping centre);

The five key principles that define the Vision Plan and set the basis for future development are:

- Integrated community.
- Pedestrian priority.
- Importance of public places.
- Response to the natural environment.
- Commercial viability.

Heathcote Lower Lands

Community Workshops were held to provide details on the planning process, highlight information captured to date and allow the community to raise ideas and issues affecting the future management of the Heathcote lower land.

The State Government handed control over of the lower land to the City of Melville earlier in the year. The 2.5ha site, which currently consists of screening vegetation, cleared parkland and river foreshore, is being preserved for public open space. There is also a 2.9ha escarpment, which may form part of the future plan.

We want to develop a plan that responds appropriately to environmental and community objectives and enable all residents and stakeholders to participate in having a say.



Aerial view of the Heathcote lower lands adjacent to the South of Perth Yacht Club and Swan River foreshore

Strategic insights from the latest Customer Perceptions Survey indicate priority focus areas for the City of Melville are:

- Management and control of traffic
- Maintenance of roads and street signs
- Safety and security (across all wards)
- Street lighting (especially South East & South West Wards)
- How the community is informed
- How the community is consulted
- Community buildings, halls and toilets
- Council leadership

We will aim for improvement in all these areas as we plan for the future.