

**22.03**

01/10/2015  
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**SAFER DESIGN POLICY**

This policy applies to all land within the City of Banyule excluding land within the Activity Centre Zone.

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**Policy Basis**

Banyule City Council is committed to fostering the community spirit, social health and well being of its residents and visitors by promoting a safe, pleasant and attractive municipality with a strong sense of identity. Through the Municipal Strategic Statement and Banyule Health Plan, it has been recognised that enhancement of the built environment and improving community safety are key strategies in realising this objective.

Crime and the fear of crime can be reduced by the proper design and use of the built environment, including an emphasis on:

- Informal Surveillance – providing opportunities for observation of people and their surrounds by others;
- Territorial Reinforcement – encouraging and conveying a sense of ownership and demonstrating that property is cared for to ensure that people feel comfortable in and visit public spaces; and
- Access Control – using physical and symbolic barriers to influence the movement of people and define appropriate spaces for public access.

These principles are particularly important considerations when designing for uses and developments which may attract crime or illegitimate behaviour (known as vulnerable uses and developments), or when proposing development in a vulnerable setting such as along access routes or in locations which are isolated, concealed, or generate a poor public perception of safety.

The aim is to create an attractive, useable, well maintained environment in which people feel safer to live, work and travel. By providing settings which minimise opportunities for crime and inappropriate behaviour it is hoped to increase actual and perceived personal safety and encourage use of public spaces. This policy therefore identifies important urban design and land use principles to enhance community safety in accordance with the Municipal Strategic Statement's objective of wanting to achieve a safe, attractive and high quality built environment.

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**Policy Objectives**

- To minimise opportunities for crime, through well designed and well maintained buildings and spaces.
- To improve community safety and quality of life.
- To enhance community perceptions of safety and reduce fear.
- To increase use of public spaces and improve accessibility to public premises.
- To discourage graffiti and vandalism.

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**Policy**

It is policy to:

- Improve public perceptions of safety and reduce the risk of crime through the design of the built environment.
- Encourage design which incorporates informal surveillance and allows for good visibility into and within spaces.
- Provide for safe pedestrian movement in public spaces, between areas of activity and to car parks and public transport stops by:
  - incorporating clear sightlines;

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- designing clearly defined, continuous, accessible paths of travel;
- providing appropriate lighting to increase personal security in areas to be accessed after dark; and
- eliminating areas of potential concealment and entrapment.
- Ensure that urban spaces promote personal safety and security of property by controlling public access and clearly defining ownership, boundaries and legitimate use of private, public and community spaces.
- Promote design that creates safe public places and streets by encouraging pedestrian use and demonstrating ownership of urban spaces and property.
- Ensure the design of spaces, buildings, precincts and signage which enable orientation and navigation through a site and enhance individual perceptions of personal safety.
- Encourage a mix of uses that:
  - facilitate informal surveillance;
  - generate activity, particularly at ground level;
  - support legitimate use of public spaces and isolated areas; and
  - are compatible with neighbouring land uses.
- Ensure that uses which have the potential to generate crime and fear of crime (vulnerable uses) are:
  - sited in highly visible locations with maximum opportunities for informal surveillance; and
  - co-located with compatible uses which may enhance personal safety.
- Ensure that building design contributes to the enhancement of public safety and security and allows buildings to positively interact with the public realm.
- Provide fencing and landscaping that reinforce security principles such as maintaining sightlines, minimising concealment, defining boundaries and allowing for informal surveillance, while having regard to their neighbourhood character context and the environmental values of vegetation.
- Provide materials, colours, finishes, fixtures, landscaping and building forms which discourage graffiti and vandalism and allow for easy maintenance and management.
- Provide a Safe Design Response for vulnerable uses or developments, or for uses and developments in vulnerable settings, as determined by the responsible authority.

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#### Decision Guidelines

In considering any proposal to use and develop land, the responsible authority will have regard to the Banyule Safer Design Guide.

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#### Reference documents

*Banyule Safer Design Guide, City of Banyule, 28 April 2003.*