

Inner Melbourne Action Plan

Briefing Paper

Action 6.3 Managing Conflict in Activity Centres

Purpose

1. To advise the IMAP Implementation Committee of progress to date in implementing the Inner City Entertainment Precinct (ICEP) Taskforce recommendations. Specifically;
 - Recommendation 5 - 'develop planning tools to enable councils to effectively manage cumulative impact'

Background

2. In early 2008, the State Government amended Clause 52.27 of the Victorian Planning Provisions and planning schemes to introduce the concept of 'cumulative impacts' assessing planning permit applications to use land to sell and consume liquor. The task of the working group has been to develop a consistent approach to the consideration of planning permit applications for licensed premises.
3. At the October 2008 meeting, the IMAP Implementation Committee supported a five part approach to assessing cumulative impact within specific areas. The suggested approach was to:
 - Map night time activity through appropriate data sources
 - Create a strategic statement for the alcohol precinct
 - Develop a whole of organisation response to managing the impacts
 - Develop a Cumulative Impact Assessment Model to help determine planning applications
 - Strengthen the model through research, partnerships and improved data sources.
4. To aid in the assessment of Cumulative Impact, three key 'tools' were outlined and are being developed by the Working Group:
 - A Precinct Profile (this contains relevant data / statistics to identify key issues and impacts (both positive and negative) and provide baseline data.
 - An Information Sheet for Applicants outlining the information to be provided. This includes an outline of how the proposed venue addresses potential negative impacts of the new premises.
 - A Cumulative Impact Assessment (checklist) for staff / decision makers.

Discussion

5. The Action 6.3 Working Group has commenced mapping night time activity by developing a uniform set of indicators for assessing cumulative impact (attached). The selected indicators are based on information and data that is readily available and that helps 'tell a story' about the particular location.
6. The Working Group has also identified a longer-term need to access better data sources around assessing cumulative impact. This may entail further research or data gathering, advocating to partners for better access to datasets or creating better internal processes for the collection and analysis of information. This work will extend beyond May 2009, the current timeframe for the working group and can form part of ICEP recommendation 28 (Working group to develop data collection plan.)
7. It is acknowledged that the four IMAP Councils are at different stages, with varying degrees of capacity to implement the cumulative impact assessments. With the general approach and uniform indicators identified, it is proposed that the individual Councils work at implementing this process internally, given the differing internal procedures, policies and practices of each individual Council.
8. Each Council would commence the operational implementation of the indicators and the Cumulative Impacts Assessment Tool. This will involve further internal consultation with Strategic and Statutory Planning in the implementation of the approach and ensure alignment with existing local licensed premises policies.

9. The Action 6.3 Working Group proposes to reconvene after 3 months in April 2009 to evaluate progress and refine and finalise the indicators and tools.

Conclusion

10. The Working Group seeks the endorsement of this approach and the indicators identified.

Recommendation

11. That the IMAP Implementation Committee resolves to:

- a) **Endorse** the proposed set of indicators
- b) **Support** the individual Councils in the operational implementation of the indicators and the Cumulative Impacts Assessment Tool
- c) **Request** the Action 6.3 Working Group report back to the Implementation Committee on the refinement and finalisation of the indicators and tool in May 2009.