

Events Strategy

2022-2026

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Mayor's Message

Vic Park is 'loved, local and alive'.

That's what our community told us during consultation for the development of the Town of Victoria Park's first Events Strategy, and we loved it! This has become the vision for this Strategy, which will help guide the design, planning and delivery of community events for the next four years.

Events are integral to the heart and culture of our Town and this strategy will help us celebrate our community connections, add vibrancy, and cultivate a dynamic place for everyone.

Community engagement was key to the development of this strategy. Through workshops and consultations, we sought to understand what was important to local residents, businesses and key community organisations. The feedback we received highlighted both a need and an opportunity to use events to build a strong sense of community, foster wellbeing and inclusivity, and to contribute to the local economy. We can achieve the community's social and economic priorities in our Strategic Community Plan through a strategic approach to our events program.

Turning the vision of this strategy into reality means events that have a distinctly local identity and harness the talents of our local community. We will design and support events that are diverse, inclusive and accessible; that ignite and celebrate creativity; support local, and champion sustainability. Importantly, we will seek to partner with others and attract events that contribute to making our Town a vibrant destination for visitors.

The strategy is complemented by an Annual Events Plan outlining the specific events and activations to be delivered or supported by the Town in a year. I encourage you to refer to the Annual Events Plan to help plan your activities – I'm sure you'll find reasons to attend events time and again.

I hope you enjoy reading this strategy as much as we enjoyed collaborating on it with you. I look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Venon

Mayor Karen Vernon Town of Victoria Park

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Whadjuk Noongars from the Noongar nation of Australia, and pay respect to past, present and emerging leaders.

' VIC PARK IS LOVED, LOCAL AND ALIVE'

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Introduction

The Town of Victoria Park Events Strategy 2022–2026 provides the strategic framework for guiding the Town's event activities.

The Events Strategy provides Council with clear directions for its planning, delivery, decisionmaking and support for events across the Town. It also establishes a clear pathway to optimise the outcomes and resources associated with identifying, attracting, delivering, and supporting community and major events hosted across the Town of Victoria Park.

Purpose

Events are integral to the heart and culture of our Town.

The Events Strategy enables delivery of events to build a strong community, both socially and economically, and a vibrant, liveable Town inclusive of all.

The Event Strategy defines the Town of Victoria Park's role and ways it will support a program to ensure 'Vic Park' events are relevant, inclusive, best practice, safe and environmentally and economically sustainable.

Objectives

The objectives of the Town of Victoria Park Events Strategy 2022–2026 are:

- Provide an events program that is content diverse, supports social equity, and is geographically spread across the municipality.
- Connect local arts and cultural development with event programming.
- Align the strategy and resourcing for events to the Strategic Community Plan 2022–2032.
- Support communities in Vic Park to deliver inclusive, well managed and safe events.
- Develop audiences and promote events, bringing new audiences and offerings.
- Assist events to be financially viable, environmentally, and economically sustainable and continue to evolve successfully.
- Seek partnerships and opportunities that will support a vibrant events program.

Our Town

The Town of Victoria Park is a vibrant and diverse urban community located just 10 minutes from Perth's CBD, across the causeway on the south side of the Swan River.

The Town is centred around the bustling Albany Highway, famed for its culinary smorgasbord, buzzing café strip and unique retail stores.

The Town promotes a vibrant lifestyle and its vision for the future is to foster a creative, attractive, friendly, and environmentally sustainable place for members of the local community to live, work and play.

Events are important for community wellbeing, as they build feelings of belonging, identity, and a sense of pride in our Town as well as helping to grow awareness of our diverse community.

Take a look at the map of our Town below and explore the different event precincts.



Snapshot of Vic Park



What makes Vic Park awesome?

Location	Albany Highway strip
Central and close to the city, Swan	A thriving meeting place with good
River and Curtin University. Everything	vibes and diverse options for every
you need or want close by.	time of day.
Sense of community Village atmosphere with a close-knit community. Friendly, welcoming and supportive people that celebrate inclusion.	Diversity A mix of cultures, personalities, ages, occupations, lifestyles, housing options and building uses.
Restaurants, cafes and	Public open spaces
entertainment venues	A choice of parks, recreation and green
Many to choose from with a variety	spaces all nearby, loved by people and
of cuisines and lively nightlife.	their four-legged friends.
Community events	Variety of businesses
Something always happening	A good mix of boutique and quirky
whether it be a market, concert	small businesses, some tucked in
or other free event.	suburban commercial precincts.
Vibrancy	Heritage
Trendy, cultural, lively, urban –	A rich history visible today through our
our inner-city vibe.	architecture and character properties.

Stakeholder Engagement

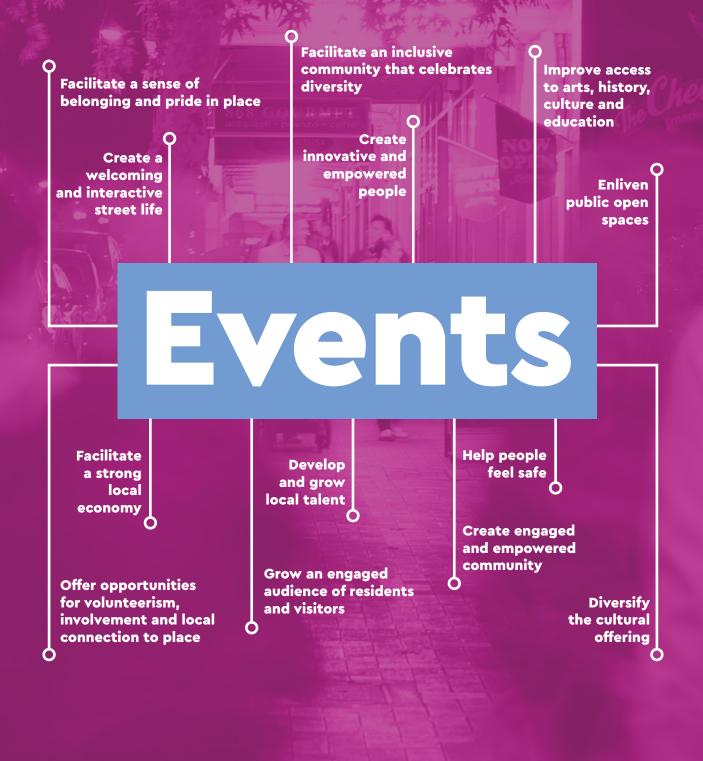
The process of developing this strategy created an opportunity to talk with and understand the aspirations and priorities of the diverse Vic Park community. We have heard there is both a need and opportunity to use events, arts, and culture to foster a sense of wellbeing, encourage social connectedness and to contribute to the economic sustainability of the Town.

What we heard from our engagement:

- The Town of Victoria Park Summer Street Party is an annual drawcard and a signature event/competitive asset to the Town that should be retained and grown year-on-year.
- Arts and culture more please!
- Aside from major iconic events, events in the Town should cater to local residents, businesses and local identity.
- The Town should be proactive and look to leverage new and exciting opportunities to be held in the Town.
- Sustainability should be a key consideration for events.
- Our multicultural identity should be reflected in the types of events available in the Town.
- Events should be inclusive and accessible and offer something for everyone.



Why we love events



Increase attractivity / safety Attract people

> Generate economic benefits

Activate public spaces Liveability

Combat seasonality

Sense of beloinging and pride

Create local identity

Our Vision

Based on the clear feedback received from our community and key stakeholders, we have the following vision for the Town of Victoria Park for 2026:



Vic Park is loved, local and alive

Vic Park is alive with community and events activity that reflects our local identity and is loved by our community.

Our Event Principles

The following key principles underpin the Events Strategy, guiding decision making for the allocation of resources in the identification, attraction, development, and support of events.



Connected Community

Encourage and support a diverse calendar of events that contribute to making Vic Park a desirable place to live, work and play.



Creative and Artistic

Events celebrate and ignite the creativity in our community.



Diverse and Inclusive

Events are inclusive, accessible, embrace diversity and offer something for everybody.



Support and Grow Local

Events support and showcase our local businesses and community organisations so they may thrive.



Sustainable and Green

Vic Park leads in sustainability. Events will support a best practice approach to being environmentally, economically sustainable and evolve successfully.

What does success look like?

Through engaging with our community, we have a clear vision of where we want to be.

	Our events positively contribute to the Town's local identity and showcase our local flavour.	Increased Iocal identity (cultural/social)
	We are a highly engaged community. Our events are loved by our community, cater to local appetite, and are frequented by our community and visitors.	Highly-engaged community (social)
Ē	It doesn't matter what time of year, 'there's always something on in the Town of Victoria Park'.	Year-round vibrancy (social)
	Our events cater to our whole community and offer something for everybody.	Something for everybody (social)
	Our events support, promote and champion our brand and local businesses.	Local business supported (economic)

The Town's role in the delivery of events

The Town of Victoria Park currently undertakes a range of roles in events and festivals as outlined below:



Event Organiser/Producer

The Town delivers and is fully responsible for the event.

Delivery may be wholly organised in-house; outsourced to a contracted event manager or a combination of in-house leadership and delivery with contractors. Can also be produced through a partnership arrangement.



Partner/Supporter

The Town provides a financial contribution and/or in-kind support for an external organisation.

We provide in-kind and financial support for events organised by others through targeted funding programs, as well as partnering with other agencies to co-deliver/contribute to external opportunities.



Approver/Host

The Town assists the creation, attraction or presentation and approval of events but without providing material assistance.

We coordinate the event approvals process for events in the Town ensuring events are safe, fun, and able to meet community needs. As well as ensuring regulatory requirements are met, we empower and develop event organisers through skills development and the sharing of information and advice.



Advocate

The Town will strongly advocate for events and activities.

We are a champion and advocate for events so they may deliver positive outcomes to community and catalyse partnership opportunities.



Communicator/Promoter

The Town contributes to promotion of the event to the public.

We utilise the Town's marketing and communication resources to promote 'what's on' to maximise benefits and generate audiences.



For the purposes of this Events Strategy, OUR PRIORITIES will be (in order):

- 1. Event Organiser/Event Producer
- 2. Partner/Supporter
- 3. Approver/Host
- 4. Advocate

1.1

5. Communicator/ Promoter.



Events Strategy

Roadmap to success

Through extensive stakeholder engagement, research and benchmarking, internal reviews, and gap analysis we have identified four key elements which when integrated with the Strategic Community Plan will transition the Town of Victoria Park to our desired future state.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

1	Create the plan We will create 'the plan' to generate year-round vibrancy and offer something for everyone	 How? Identifying strategic opportunities Holistic, future-focused planning Reduced red tape/barriers of entry
2	Amplify local identity We will positively contribute to the Town's local identity and showcase our local flavour	 How? Direct-delivery focus of loved local content Strategic sponsorship programs/support A 'support local' approach
3	Harness the community We will engage , involve and harness our community, and partner with others	 How? Community involvement/ empowerment Community capacity building Partnership and collaboration Proactive approach to seek new events and opportunities
4	Tell the world We will support, promote and champion our local businesses and brand	 How? Promoting the Town's unique brand Using our channels to increase local identity and generate attendance

Our strategy – in detail

STRATEGY ACTION 1

ALL		
	1. Create the plan	
Vision	It doesn't matter what time of year, 'there's always something on in the Town of Victoria Park'.	
	Our events cater to our whole community and offer something for everybody.	
Objective(s)	Year-round vibrancy (social) + Something for everybody (social)	
	Civic Leadership 3 [*] – Well thought out and managed projects that are delivered successfully	
Strategic links	Corporate Business Plan – Better utilise and beautify existing parks and reserves for the benefit of the community	
	Economic Development Strategy – Profile a major events calendar as a key economic and visitation stimulator highlighting the broad events program to a state and national level.	
Evidence	Particularly in current times of changing dynamics and uncertainty, a well thought out plan will offer the best chance of success, create a year-round calendar of activity that is sustainable, inclusive, and accessible.	
1.1 - Review c	urrent landscape / identify strategic opportunities	
 HOW? Comprehensive event provision analysis Benchmarking Desktop research 		
1.2 – Develop	an annual events program	
 HOW? Annual review Annual Council review Budget planning Trend analysis 		
1.3 – Create a destination of choice for event organisers		

STRATEGY ACTION 2

LOCAL			
	2. Amplify local identity		
Vision	Our events positively contribute to the Town's local identity and showcase our local flavour.		
Objective(s)	Local identity increased (cultural) + Local business supported (economic)		
Strategic	Corporate Business Plan – Ensure a strong sense of place that emphasises each suburbs' unique characteristics and sense of community		
links	Social 4 [*] – A place where all people have an awareness and appreciation of arts, culture, education and heritage		
Evidence	Through the review of community engagement and the Town's strategic vision, key themes emerged that the Town of Victoria Park is unique – and its unique local identity should be supported, central to activities taking place, and enriched.		
2.1 – Facilitate	and deliver loved, local content		
 HOW? Delivery based on community and stakeholder feedback Leveraging existing assets Align events with Place Plan approaches 			
2.2 – Provide significant ev	event funding to support growth and development of new and ents		
 HOW? Annual review and grant budget allocation Strategic partnerships 			
2.3 – Strategically support events that develop local identity and build sense of place			
 HOW? Tailored sponsorship programs Local-centric assessment criteria supporting place-centric rather than cookie cutter events 			
2.4 – Support local business and endeavours / incorporate positive outcomes for local businesses			
HOW?	ementing measures to facilitate local business involvement		

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STRATEGY ACTION 3

LOVED		
	3. Harness the community	
Vision	We are a highly engaged community. Our events are loved by our community, cater to local appetite, and are frequented by our community and visitors.	
Objective(s)	Highly engaged community (social)	
Strategic links	We are Perth's most empowered and engaged community Social 3 [*] – An empowered community with a sense of pride, safety and belonging Corporate Business Plan – Positively impact the social health and wellbeing of the community.	
Evidence	The Town's Strategic Community Plan's vision is to be Perth's most empowered and engaged community. A strategic focus for events to involve and empower community facilitates this vision.	
3.1 – Encourage community involvement in event planning and delivery		
 HOW? Collaborative event design Increased external decision-making 		
3.2 – Build caj	pacity and capability in the local community	
 HOW? Community skills boosting programs Increased access to Town expertise and resources Financial/human resource availability 		
3.3 – Partner with community organisations and other agencies to work together to achieve the vision		
 HOW? Develop new/existing partnerships with other key stakeholders 		

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STRATEGY ACTION 4

ALIVE		
	4. Tell the world	
Vision	Our events support, promote and champion our brand and local businesses.	
Objective(s)	Local business supported (economic) +	
	Local identity increased (cultural)	
Strategic links	Economic 1* – A desirable place for commerce and tourism that supports equity, diverse local employment and entrepreneurship	
IIIKS	We are Perth's premier place for entertainment and entrepreneurship	
Evidence	Using the Town's marketing and communication channels to spread the word and promote the Town's unique, place-centric events will reinforce the Town's brand identity, support entrepreneurship, as well as generate attendance by local residents.	
4.1 – Promote and position the Town through events to increase local identity and brand recognition		
 HOW? Identity and brand focused promotion of the Town's event strengths, achievements, and competitive advantages Leverage cross promotional opportunities through partnerships 		
4.2 – Utilise tl the local com	ne Town's communications channels to improve awareness of 'what's on' in munity	
HOW? • Proa	ctive use of stakeholder engagement systems and marketing channels	

*Refers to Strategic Community Plan 2017-2032.

Key measures of success

1. Create the plan – We will create 'the plan' to generate year-round vibrancy and offer something for everyone

Indicators	Format	Frequency
Number and location of events per year	Internal event approvals report	Annual
Number and location of events per month	Internal event approvals report	Annual
ROI – cost per participant / attendee	Budget	Annual

2. Amplify local identity – We will positively contribute to the Town's local identity and showcase our local flavour

Indicators	Format	Frequency
Resident satisfaction	Community surveys	Annual
Level of Belonging – Feeling part of the Community	Community surveys	Event
Level of insight – Insight or knowledge	Community surveys	Event
Level of safety – Feeling safe and welcome	Community surveys	Event
Number of local business opportunities created	Event plans/grants/sponsorships	Annual
Direct local spend	Event organiser data	Annual

3. Harness The Community – We will engage, involve and harness our community, and partner with others

and partner with others		
Indicators	Format	Frequency
Level of community support	Community surveys	Annual
Level of Impact – It's happening here	Community surveys	Event
Number of community collaborators	Grants/sponsorships	Annual
Number of new partnerships/joint initiatives	Partnership agreements	Annual
Level of funding provided to community / partners	Grants/sponsorships	Annual

4. Tell The World – We will support, promote, and champion our local businesses and brand			
Indicators	Format	Frequency	
Awareness of event	Post event report	Annual	
Quality of event promotion	Comms plan evaluation	Annual	
Value/market reach of media	Marketing/comms reports	Annual	
Level of digital engagement	Marketing/comms reports	Annual	

Background information

Strategy Development

Research and information gathering

The Events Strategy has been developed on a sound evidence base with targeted consultation and engagement.

Key steps in developing the strategy have included:

- Review of the national and international literature
- Benchmarking with other Local Governments
- Conducting an online community survey Your Thoughts
- Consultations with key stakeholders both internal and external to Council
- Analysis of the Town's current events portfolio
- Review of the Town's strategic plans, strategies, and policy documents relevant to the development of the Events Strategy

The outcomes of all this research and information gathering have been used to underpin the Events Strategy.

Consultation and engagement

Talking to the community to understand what they value, how they see themselves and what priorities they have was an essential part of the process to develop the Events Strategy.

Discussions with businesses, community organisations and community members, and event/industry specialists have informed the contents and focus of the strategy.

Our conversations were open and diverse, but also included the following areas of focus:

- Places and spaces and resources
- Issues and challenges
- Activities, programs, and events.

The feedback and ideas provided reflected the diversity of our community and has helped to shape the vision, goals, strategies, and actions contained in this document.

Engagement included:

- Pop-up engagement activations at local events and facilities
- In-depth workshops with community groups, residents, and Town staff
- Online surveys to community and Elected Members
- Concept Forums with Elected Members
- Engagement with the Town's Access and Inclusion Advisory Group
- Engagement with the Town's Mindeera Advisory Group.

Strategic alignment:

The following Town of Vic Park strategies, plans and documents were reviewed to inform the development of the Events Strategy:

- Strategic Community Plan 2017–2032
- Corporate Business Plan 2017-2022
- Vic Vision Engagement Outcomes
- Vic Vision Future Trends Paper
- Community Benefits Strategy 2019–2024
- Economic Development Strategy 2018–2023
- Public Open Space Strategy
- Place Plans
- Social Infrastructure Plan
- Youth Action Plan 2021–2024
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–2020
- Arts and Culture Plan
- Policy 226 Recreational reserve hire
- Policy 261 Sustainable events
- Policy 405 Events on parks and reserves notification to residents
- Other Event Strategies local, regional, and national

Other Events Strategies

Upon review of events strategies from various local governments, the following themes emerged:

- Widespread acknowledgement of the positive role/value events play in social, cultural and economic contexts
- Lack of year-round vibrancy is cited as a common issue
- Increasing issues with competition from other entertainment options (e.g., at home streaming/food delivery, sports, gaming, adjacent local government areas etc.)
- The need for a proactive rather than reactive approach

Common key objectives

- Increase visitation, length of stay and economic benefit for the region
- Attracting events
- Community health and wellbeing
- Supporting event organisers to deliver better market-led results

Current Trends

The trends listed below were relevant at the time of the strategy development.

Sustainability

Aware of how human activity has impacted our planet and climate, we have growing expectations of ourselves, collectively and individually, in how we address this toll. A rising number of consumers, particularly among younger demographics, are demanding genuine action in relation to sustainable consumerism.

The Victoria Park community is no different. In feedback, residents have indicated that while they love gatherings and events, they want sustainability to be a key consideration for event designers and organisers. As far as Victoria Park's people are concerned, events that also address carbon footprint, minimise single-use plastics and the impact on local environment are all key considerations for the Town of Victoria Park (the Town) and event organisers in fulfilling corporate—and community—responsibility expectations.

COVID-19 disruptions

Since 2020, the pandemic has disrupted lifestyles, livelihoods and industries, and caused the cancellation of countless events. And while we are learning to live with COVID, this disruption is not yet over. Supply-chain issues, travel restrictions, changing health requirements, and reduced capacities due to social distancing are ongoing challenges that continue to create uncertainty for the events market.

Despite, and maybe because of, these challenges, Victoria Park's community is 100% behind events that reunite people and families, boost local businesses, and build a sense of confidence and solidarity as everyone emerges from pandemic conditions. Community is not only calling for the large, annual, 'headline' gatherings, which attract numbers from beyond Victoria Park, but are also keen to see more 'neighbourhood-level' events that speak directly to local residents and businesses and reflect the multicultural identities across various districts. It's important also that these events are universally inclusive and accessible.

Hybrid work models

2021 was a year of experimentation with many organisations implementing hybrid work experiences and models. Some organisations are now choosing to continue these hybrid models, resulting in a different geographical spread of population, and changed commuting habits.

For example, working from home patterns might mean an increased and more varied demographic calling on neighbourhood amenities and accessing services during weekdays or unusual hours. Being closer to home, these people might want to participate in community life in different ways, maybe offer some time and talent for the greater good. This new mix of energy could offer the Town a key opportunity identified in community feedback: to be proactive and leverage new and exciting opportunities in the Town.

Increased competition

Compared to a decade ago, there is a plethora of convenient entertainment options now available in people's homes. Access to food delivery services, content streaming services, and virtual performances are almost second nature for many now, increasing the pressure on real-time, live events to innovate and perform to higher standards. And this competition can only be a good thing. It's evident that, especially with the COVID-induced social isolation challenges and their aftermath, there truly is no substitute to that 'being there in person' experience. Consequently, event quality is ever more important.

Perhaps this is why Victoria Park people are asking for more arts and culture, indicating a healthy appetite for an increase in live happenings and events. They've also given the Summer Street Party a ringing endorsement as an annual asset to the Town that should be retained and grown, year-on-year. It's a sign that even with the ease of online and dial-in entertainment, we only truly thrive and connect in the real world.

Experiences over products

An evolution in customer expectations is taking place, with Millennials and Gen Z valuing participatory experiences over material possessions. People are calling for better and deeper engagement, and an increasingly important factor in event design is considering how to address personal relevance for audience segments: the 'what does this mean for me' element.

Accordingly, events that offer individual points of contact with collective, immersive, sensory experiences are now in high demand, and this demand is only expected to increase post-COVID.

With their feedback, Victoria Park's people have given the Town a golden opportunity to make the most of this 'event expectation evolution.' By demanding more events that speak to residents, businesses and diverse cultures, asking for more arts and culture, and encouraging the Town to be proactive with new and exciting opportunities, Victoria Park is showing it is open and ready to engage with innovative strategies and interventions in the events realm.

Culture is king

In 2017–18 (before COVID, in other words), over 82% of Australians attended at least one cultural venue or event. Incredibly, the COVID lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 did not adversely impact this appetite for arts and culture. On the contrary, Australians accessed virtual content and streaming services in place of live experiences at record levels. It's clear that as a nation (and this trend has also been observed in other countries), we love and need culture.

So, when the people of Victoria Park say—as they are—that they want more arts and culture, and more events celebrating local distinctiveness and diversity, they are also articulating the blueprint for the intangible things they consider essential to quality of life in Victoria Park. They're saying what Victoria Park can give to them. Entertainment, enjoyment, dialogue, discovery, exchange. The opportunity to get together, debate, reflect, celebrate, collaborate, connect. And the gateway to all of this is culture.

Opportunties and challenges

Strengths

- History and track record of successful and community valued events
- Strong internal events expertise
- Culturally diverse community
- Transport four train stations in the Town of Vic Park
- Major entertainment venues i.e., Optus Stadium and Crown Complex, State Tennis Centre, Perth Hockey Stadium
- Education institutions i.e., Curtin University, South Metropolitan TAFE Carlisle Campus and Bentley Campus
- Inner city location

Challenges

- COVID-19 disruptions/impacts
- Limited venues/event spaces to hold small-medium, localised events
- Limited parking at localised parks and reserves
- Disruption (traffic and noise) to the local residents when event held
- Increased competition to events (e.g., home entertainment)
- Limited events attraction budget

Opportunities

- Revitalising the Town's events
- Growth of the Town
- Capacity to grow visitor economy
- Optimising world appetite for recycling/waste management with our unique strengths in this area
- Event attraction potential
- Investment in event infrastructure
- Promote engagement with youth
- Connecting stakeholders to promote collaboration
- Hybrid work models (e.g., captured market)
- Cutting of red tape for community event organisers

Threats

- Competition from other neighbouring Councils for the same audience and funding/events opportunities
- Competition from Perth CBD



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