

Planning and Health: Building Sustainable Communities on the Urban Fringe

(City of Casey, 19 August 2002)

Evaluation Report

One hundred and fifteen (115) delegates attended this seminar from across Victoria and the health, urban planning and social planning professions. Representatives attended from Local Government, State Government, academe and the private sector. Senior personnel were more prevalent than at previous forums; CEOs from three Councils spoke at this forum.

Snapshot:

- 59 people completed an evaluation form, representing a response rate of 68%.
- 95% of respondents indicated that the seminar was good, very good or excellent;
- All presentations received average ratings of ‘good’ or better;
- 93% rated the seminar organisation between good and excellent, although participants would have liked to have more time for interaction and discussion.
- 77% indicated that they would ‘probably’ or ‘definitely’ be putting into practice the knowledge they had gained from the seminar.

Ratings for Sessions and Individual Presentations

People were invited to rate sessions and individual presentations according to relevance to their needs, aspects that were useful or not useful. Sessions and presentations were rated using the following key, and are tabulated below.

1 = Unsatisfactory	2 = Satisfactory	3 = Good	4 = Very Good	5 = Excellent
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Ratings given for each session (numbers of respondents)

	Iain Butterworth	Overall, “Local Perspectives”	Sally Everitt	Caroline Bell	Jenny Macaffer
Unsatisfactory	0	0	0	0	0
Satisfactory	4	0	2	6	2
Good	18	17	21	25	8
Very good	27	31	29	19	29
Excellent	6	6	4	6	20
Missing Data	4	5	3	3	0
Total	59	59	59	59	59

	Overall, "What Can Happen"	Greg Bursill	Mark Doubleday	Emma Williams	Dr Michael Kennedy	Panel Discussion	Dr Bob Birrell
Unsatisfactory	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Satisfactory	2	3	4	0	0	16	9
Good	15	26	24	13	1	31	15
Very good	27	20	20	24	23	10	16
Excellent	9	8	8	22	35	1	2
Missing Data	6	1	2	0	0	0	16
Total	59	59	59	59	59	59	59

Ratings given for each session (percentages of respondents providing data)

	Iain Butterworth	Overall, "Local Perspectives"	Sally Everitt	Caroline Bell	Jenny Macaffer
Unsatisfactory	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Satisfactory	7%	0%	4%	11%	3%
Good	33%	31%	38%	45%	14%
Very good	49%	57%	52%	34%	49%
Excellent	11%	11%	7%	11%	34%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Missing	4	5	3	3	0

	Overall, "What Can Happen"	Greg Bursill	Mark Doubleday	Emma Williams	Dr Michael Kennedy	Panel Discussion	Dr Bob Birrell
Unsatisfactory	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Satisfactory	4%	5%	7%	0%	0%	27%	21%
Good	28%	45%	42%	22%	2%	53%	35%
Very good	51%	34%	35%	41%	39%	17%	37%
Excellent	17%	14%	14%	37%	59%	2%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Missing	6	1	2	0	0	0	16

Average Rating for Presentations and Sessions:

Iain Butterworth	Overall, "Local Perspectives"	Sally Everitt	Caroline Bell	Jenny Macaffer	Overall, "What Can Happen"	Greg Bursill
3.6	3.8	3.6	3.4	4.1	3.8	3.5
Mark Doubleday	Emma Williams	Dr Michael Kennedy	Panel Discussion	Dr Bob Birrell		
3.5	4.2	4.6	2.9	3.2		

Putting Knowledge into Practice

Respondents were invited to indicate the extent to which they would be able to incorporate the knowledge gained from the seminar into practice. Thirty-six (36) percent of respondents indicated that they would 'definitely' be using the knowledge they had gained from the seminar, and 41% indicated 'probably'. With an average score for this question of 4.1, it was thus 'probable' that most respondents would be able to put into practice the knowledge they had gained from the seminar.

Maybe	13 (22.4%)
Yes, probably	24 (41.4%)
Yes, definitely	21 (36.2%)
	Total: 59
Missing	1
Average Score	4.1 (Yes, probably)

Specific examples of how people planned to use this knowledge are given below.

Examples of Putting Knowledge into Practice	
Yes, definitely	Broader knowledge of other local government projects and potential relevance to my own setting
Yes, definitely	Partnership and collaboration internally – I will attempt to present findings to Council. Improved consultation
Yes, definitely	To inform discussion with my seminar planners and managers when introducing integrated planning processes in my council
Yes, definitely	Integrated planning across Council and community
Yes, definitely	Conceptualising alternative strategies
Yes, definitely	Provides good 'snapshot' on what's happening and good resource/research for incorporation into my work
Yes, definitely	Development of MPHP and links to MSS
Yes, definitely	Integration at Council level in a non-tokenistic manner, incorporating education
Yes, definitely	By informing staff in local government about what we are on about – involving planners, engineers and social planners in cross-organisational processes

Examples of Putting Knowledge into Practice	
Yes, definitely	Through strategic / physical planning exercises
Yes, definitely	Priority for integrated planning and team approaches, as well as partnerships
Yes, definitely	Assists in the planning and community-building projects; learning about what is happening across Victoria
Yes, probably	Different ideas/ approaches
Yes, probably	To think more about how a range of issues can impact on our work
Yes, probably	Establishing a stronger 'sense of place' through playground development and community consultation
Yes, probably	It is important to bring work under the municipal health and wellbeing plan into the MSS – in fact it should drive aspects of the MSS
Yes, probably	Use of methodology of successful case studies
Yes, probably	Broadening my understanding of links around planning across Councils that are working
Yes, probably	Assistance in implementation of Metro Strategy
Yes, probably	Developing public art planning across the organisation, community and state government
Yes, probably	To a limited extent in current position as a Development Assessment Officer – however the knowledge will be valuable in terms of ongoing professional development
Yes, probably	Designing planning initiatives / priorities
Maybe	No housing estates in my (inner ring) LGA so not too practical, but very interesting nonetheless
Maybe	Enhancement of my own overall knowledge and understanding
Probably not / maybe	Not enough attention paid to environmental issues

Overall Rating of the Seminar and its Organisation

Ninety-three (93) percent of the respondents who returned usable data rated the seminar organisation between good and excellent. Ninety five (95) percent indicated that the seminar was good, very good or excellent. Respondents rated both the seminar overall, and the organisation of the seminar, as between 'good' and 'very good', with an average score of 3.7 for both aspects.

	Seminar organisation	Overall seminar rating
Satisfactory	4 (6.9%)	3 (5.4%)
Good	17 (29.3%)	15 (27.3%)
Very good	31 (53.4%)	31 (56.4%)
Excellent	6 (10.4%)	6 (10.9%)
Missing	1	4
Average Score	3.7 (very good / good)	3.7 (very good / good)

Suggestions for Future Seminars

Topics

- Future seminars could address Federal, State and Local policies that impact on local area planning
- Planning for ageing populations: options and models
- Working with developers – engage more developers (small and large) as speakers/ panel members
- Planning issues in inner-established municipalities
- Integrating community safety into holistic planning
- Commuting, transport, moving about
- Greater focus on arts and culture

Organisation

- Working groups – incorporating crime prevention, social planning, integrated public transport, economic development, infrastructure
- Target key agencies and private practice to create discussion at a higher level. Involve DEET, SRV, DoI, DHS and private developers to create discussion
- More case studies to focus on ‘best practice’ models
- More ‘interaction’ time to discuss issues
- Need to structure future panel discussions to allow panellists more time to present
- Limit to three speakers; concurrent seminars; working groups
- Need for group discussion
- Less speakers, very tight chairing

Miscellaneous

- Target attendance to involve more Human Services personnel
- Target regional/rural regions
- The day seminar could easily be developed into a worthwhile conference
- Ensure that all Councils engage with these forums
- Community building people need to connect into ‘place’ issues
- Discuss ‘general’ issues before specific local case studies
- Catering needs to model ‘healthy’ food
- Keep going!

We had to shorten lunch to make up for lost time, and we acknowledge that this is when a lot of informal discussion and learning would have taken place. We will address this in future.

Other Comments

We note your preference for brewed coffee!