

2020

# Melton – A Learning City



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## Melton – A Learning City

Recognised nationally and internationally as a leader in the learning city landscape, Melton City Council has a history of firsts. We were the first local government in Australia to formally adopt a Community Learning Plan in 1998, the first to establish a joint Council and community group to guide the development of lifelong learning, the first to implement a governance body, the first City in Australia to become a Learning City member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and the first to receive a prestigious Learning City Award.



The history of Melton as a Learning City can be traced back to 1998 when Melton was a Shire Council. The council at that time, as the result of interest from the Mayor, established an Education Board comprising council representatives, education providers, and community representatives. The role of the Board was to establish a community education plan which they completed for 1999 to 2001. The aim of the original plan was to offer “whole of life” education opportunities for all residents of the Shire. The Board changed its name to the Community Learning Board to reflect this emphasis.

Since the original plan, five additional plans have been developed and implemented, the last being 2015-2018. The Board has continued to develop and monitor the plans to ensure the ongoing growth and development of Melton as a Learning City.

The City of Melton was conferred the UNESCO Lifelong City Award in 2015. Melton’s overall vision for the municipality is to make it a vibrant, proud, growing and healthy community offering lifestyle choices. Linked to this vision is a commitment to building a world-class learning community. To achieve this vision, Council recognises that, as a key stakeholder, it must foster a community culture that embraces and encourages continuity of learning at all ages.



The last learning plan ‘Melton: A Learning City – Community Learning Plan 2015-2018’ (CLP), was aligned with the Framework of Key Features of Learning Cities and the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Governments. The next strategy is in the final stages of approval and will represent a major 10 year commitment by Council and the community to develop Melton into a place to live, a place to grow and a place to learn.

We all know that learning is an enabler for vision and aspiration. It is also an enabler for regenerating how we look to grow our social and economic outlook, especially employability and meaningful income earning opportunities. Melton City Council recognises that having a

robust learning strategy and action plan will empower people to embrace learning as a way of life in the homes, community hubs, libraries, educational institutions, outdoor spaces and businesses in Melton.

Though Council plays the leading role in driving the strategic vision forward, the creativity and innovation required to realise our vision will only happen with support of key partners, including individual learners. All learning partners need to collectively work together with the understanding that social and economic wellbeing is created through the participation in lifelong learning.

Council is proud to lead, inspire and motivate the community to engage in and embrace lifelong, lifewide and lifedeeep learning. Through learning, working and growing together we can build a better future for ourselves and our community. In doing so we will raise hopes and aspirations and have a positive impact on our future. Council's aim is to be a city that fosters creative lifelong, lifewide and lifedeeep learning that inspires and enables all our residents to reach their best, to build a better quality of life for themselves, their families and that of the wider community.



The new strategy illustrates the diversity of learners, available learning domains and possible learning environments and highlights the value of establishing these in response to learner's needs. It also facilitates the creation of new approaches and partnerships, seeks the ongoing development of new pathways to learning, builds greater digital and technology strengths and leads, encourages, and supports individuals to self-direct their learning over their lifetime.

By providing individuals with ownership over their education and learning, they experience empowerment, designing their learning around their strengths, needs, interests and experiences, and guide their own learning pathways with a new, invigorating sense of responsibility and purpose.



The 2020 – 2030 strategy identifies the driving imperatives behind facilitating lifelong learning in Melton. It builds on the strengths and achievements of all the previous Community Learning Plans and the work completed in this space so far. The Strategy positions the Melton Lifelong Learning Festival, local Community Hubs, Melton Learning and our strong community partnerships as critical vehicles for

activating learning in our city. The strategy is a roadmap for the continued, yet ambitious transformation of Melton, from a learning community to a City of Learning.



**LEARNER** **CAPABILITY**  
**THRIVE** **LIVE** **COMMUNITY** **LEARNING PLACE**  
**LIFEWIDE** **INCLUSIVE** **GROW** **SKILLS**  
**LIFEDEEP** **KNOWLEDGE** **ACCESSIBLE**  
**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
**MELTON** **INDIVIDUAL** **LEARNER AGENCY**  
**LEARNING CITY** **LEARN** **STRENGTHS**  
**EXPERIENCE** **LEARNING**  
**RESILIENCE**