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1. PREAMBLE

Whilst South Australia is accustomed to hot summers, climate change modelling predicts a 35% increase in extreme heat events in the next 20 years, resulting in more frequent and longer heatwaves.

Heatwaves can have a detrimental impact on communities and affect many parts of everyday life such as health and wellbeing, energy and infrastructure, public transport and agriculture. They can also contribute to an increased fire risk and heat stressed trees, posing a significant threat to public safety.

1.1 Background

Any individual, regardless of age, sex, or health status, can develop heat stress if engaged in intense physical activity and/or exposed to environmental heat for extended periods of time.

However, evidence indicates that those most at risk during extreme heat conditions are the elderly, people who are frail due to acute, chronic and severe health conditions, babies and children under five and people with impaired ability to self-manage.

Social and environmental factors, such as social disadvantage, impairment caused by drugs and alcohol, confined working conditions, lack of ventilation and language and cultural barriers can also contribute to the risk of exposure to the effects of extreme heat conditions.

1.2 Purpose

The Local Government Act 1999 outlines Councils responsibility to provide for the welfare, wellbeing and interests of individuals and groups within its community.

The City of Holdfast Bay is committed to the promotion of community awareness and education regarding the impacts associated with extreme heat conditions and the measures that can be adopted to mitigate those impacts.

1.3 Scope

This document defines the City of Holdfast Bay's commitment to supporting the community in relation to managing the impact of extreme heat conditions.

HEATWAVE RESPONSE POLICY

The document refers only to the use of or provision of services or facilities that are directly under the control of Council.

The document does not include or refer to protection of employees, volunteers or others that are covered under Work Health Safety procedures and guidelines.

1.4 Definitions

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology defines a *Heat Wave* as three or more days of maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for the location.

Whilst there is no single agreed upon definition of Extreme heat, an *Extreme Heat Event* refers to an extended period of high intensity heat wave conditions with the potential to harm human health.

Heat stress occurs when a body is unable to cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature.

Average Daily Temperature (ADT) is an average of the minimum overnight and maximum daily temperature occurring that day.

1.5 Strategic Reference

Placemaking: Creating vibrant and safe places

Community: Building a healthy, active and resilient community

Community: Providing welcoming and accessible facilities

Culture: Providing customer-centred services

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 Notification

2.1.1 The SA State Emergency Service (SES) coordinates the state's response to extreme heat events.

2.1.2 Extreme heat temperature triggers and 'alert levels' have been developed by the SES in conjunction with the Adelaide Bureau of Metrology.

2.1.3 The alerts are issued by the SES in advance of an extreme heat event. They are based on the forecast Average Daily Temperature (ADT) for Adelaide as provided by the Bureau of Metrology.

2.1.4 Public alerts will be issued by the SES as soon as average daily temperatures reach or exceed 32C for three or more consecutive days, e.g. a maximum $\geq 40C$ for three or more consecutive days, and a minimum $\geq 24C$ for three or more consecutive nights.

2.2 Information

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- 2.2.1. Council will activate its Heatwave Response Policy upon receiving a public alert by implementing the Heat Management Strategies as outlined below.

Council will make information issued by the State Emergency Service available to the general public via its website and social media platforms and activate its Heat Management Strategies.

- 2.2.2. Council will make other information regarding reduction of risk during a heat wave available for collection from Libraries and Customer Service Centres.

- 2.2.3. Council will place an emphasis on providing residents that are considered vulnerable with heat wave information by direct mail attached to community newsletters and handouts on Council's Community buses.

2.3 Heat Management Strategies

2.3.1 Community Bus

- 2.3.1.1 The Community Bus service offers a kerb to kerb service. Buses are air conditioned and provide controlled temperature environments during periods of travel.

- 2.3.1.2 Cool water is made available to passengers on hot days.

- 2.3.1.3. Passengers are assisted to their door with shopping and other bulky parcels if unable to do so independently.

- 2.3.1.4. Bus drivers and assistants are advised to observe and report any concerns or indicators of heat related illness for follow up.

2.3.2 Libraries

- 2.3.2.1 Council libraries offer air conditioned comfort and access to computers, daily newspapers and material to read.

- 2.3.2.2 Libraries may extend opening hours on direct authorisation by the Chief Executive Officer.

- 2.3.2.3 Brighton library offers an external drink fountain for people and their pets and Glenelg library has a water fountain in the building.

2.3.3 Community Centres Leased to Management Committees

- 2.3.3.1 Although entry is encouraged, it is at the discretion of the Lessee whether they allow public entry to the centre.

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- 2.3.3.2 Other Community centres owned and operated by Council, but not staffed on a daily basis by paid Council staff, are only open at irregular times and are not suitable for “off the street” entry.
- 2.3.3.3 Centres that are operating are encouraged to supply drinking water facilities.
- 2.3.4 Other Community Centres
 - 2.3.4.1 Other Community centres owned and operated by Council, but not staffed on a daily basis by paid Council staff, are only open at irregular times and are not suitable for “off the street” entry.
 - 2.3.4.2 Centres that are operating are encouraged to supply drinking water facilities.
- 2.3.5 Alwyndor Aged Care Centre
 - 2.3.5.1 Management of Alwyndor has an Extreme Weather Policy relevant to the communities they serve.
 - 2.3.5.2 Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)
 - 2.3.5.3 Council provides entry level services to eligible residents who are older and require support to continue living independently in the community.
 - 2.3.5.4 Recipients of these services that are deemed to be vulnerable are encouraged to be registered with the Australian Red Cross Telecross REDI Service.
 - 2.3.5.5 Staff employed through the CHSP program maintain a list of residents aged 80+ and will conduct wellbeing checks by phone when extreme heat warnings are in place.
- 2.3.6 SA-HACC Program
 - 2.3.6.1 Council operates the LifeLinks program, an externally funded grant program that provides social support activities to residents of Supported Residential Facilities, (SRFs)
 - 2.3.6.2 In extreme heat conditions, these activities are rescheduled or suspended.
 - 2.3.6.3 All SRF’s are legislated and abide by the Supported Residential Facilities Regulations 2009 that outline the responsibilities of proprietors in relation to standards of care.
- 2.3.7 Commercial Centres

- 2.3.7.1 Council may approach individual business centres within the municipality and encourage them to advertise and provide a haven for people in the vicinity during extreme heat events.

3. REFERENCES

3.1 Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Work Health Safety Act 2012*
- *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*
- *Emergency Management Act 2004*

3.2 Other References

- Australian Red Cross SA www.redcross.org.au
- State Emergency Service www.ses.sa.gov.au
- SA Health Extreme Heat Strategy www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
- Local Government Association www.lga.sa.gov.au
- Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au