



Break O'Day
COUNCIL

Strategic Liveability Framework

Supporting people to live the lives they seek



In brief:

The Strategic Liveability Framework provides a shared way of understanding what makes a place liveable and how Council can contribute.

It places people's wellbeing and quality of life at the centre and identifies the conditions that influence people's ability to live well.

The framework will help Council better understand what matters to different people and communities, make informed decisions, plan for the future and focus its efforts where they can make the greatest difference.

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1. WHY

Why liveability matters

Much of Council's work is ultimately about shaping the conditions that help people live well, feel connected, participate, contribute and see a future in their community.

Where we live plays an important part in this. Our access to housing, essential services, care and support, transport, learning, work, recreation, community connection, the natural environment and the quality of the places around us can all influence our wellbeing and quality of life.

Living well, however, means different things to different people. It reflects our values, circumstances, aspirations and choices. What matters to a young person may be different from what matters to a family, an older person, a business owner or someone who has recently moved to the area. Our needs and priorities can also change at different stages of life.

Council does not define or prescribe what a good life should look like.

Instead, the Strategic Liveability Framework helps Council better understand and strengthen the conditions that support people's choices and their ability to live the lives they seek.

The impact we want to support

At the centre of the framework is people's wellbeing and their ability to live well.

People are able to live the lives they seek, with wellbeing, meaning and purpose, connection, participation and confidence in the future

2. WHAT

What is the Strategic Liveability Framework?

The Strategic Liveability Framework is a people centred framework that places people's wellbeing and ability to live well at the heart of Council's work.

In simple terms, it is:

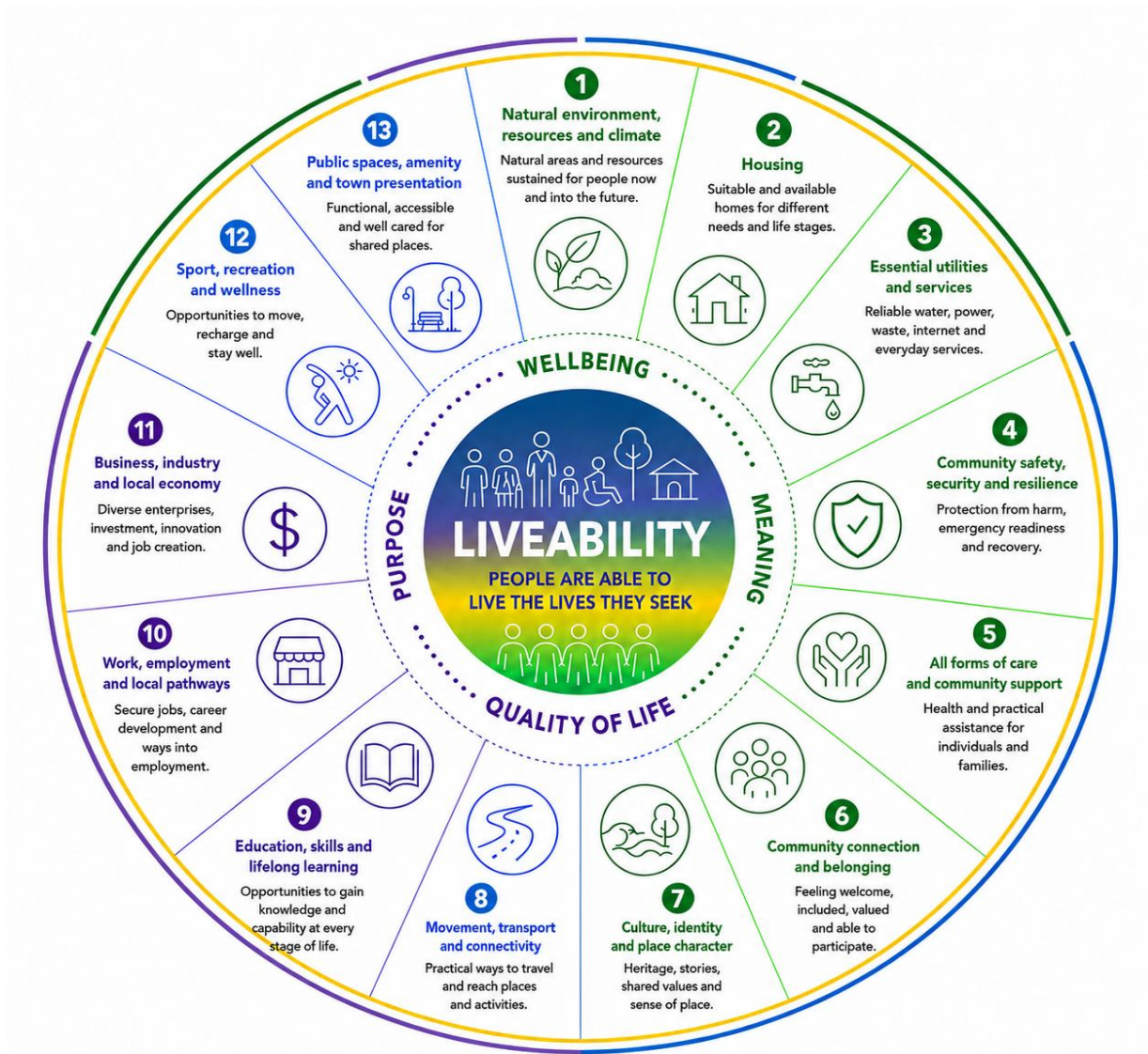
A framework for understanding and strengthening the conditions that support people to live the lives they seek.

It identifies the physical, social, economic, environmental and cultural conditions that influence people's lives.

It also provides a practical way for Council to consider how its decisions, projects, services, partnerships, support and advocacy can strengthen those conditions.

People are at the centre

At the centre of the framework is people's wellbeing and quality of life. Around this sit **13 liveability domains** that describe the conditions that influence people's ability to live well



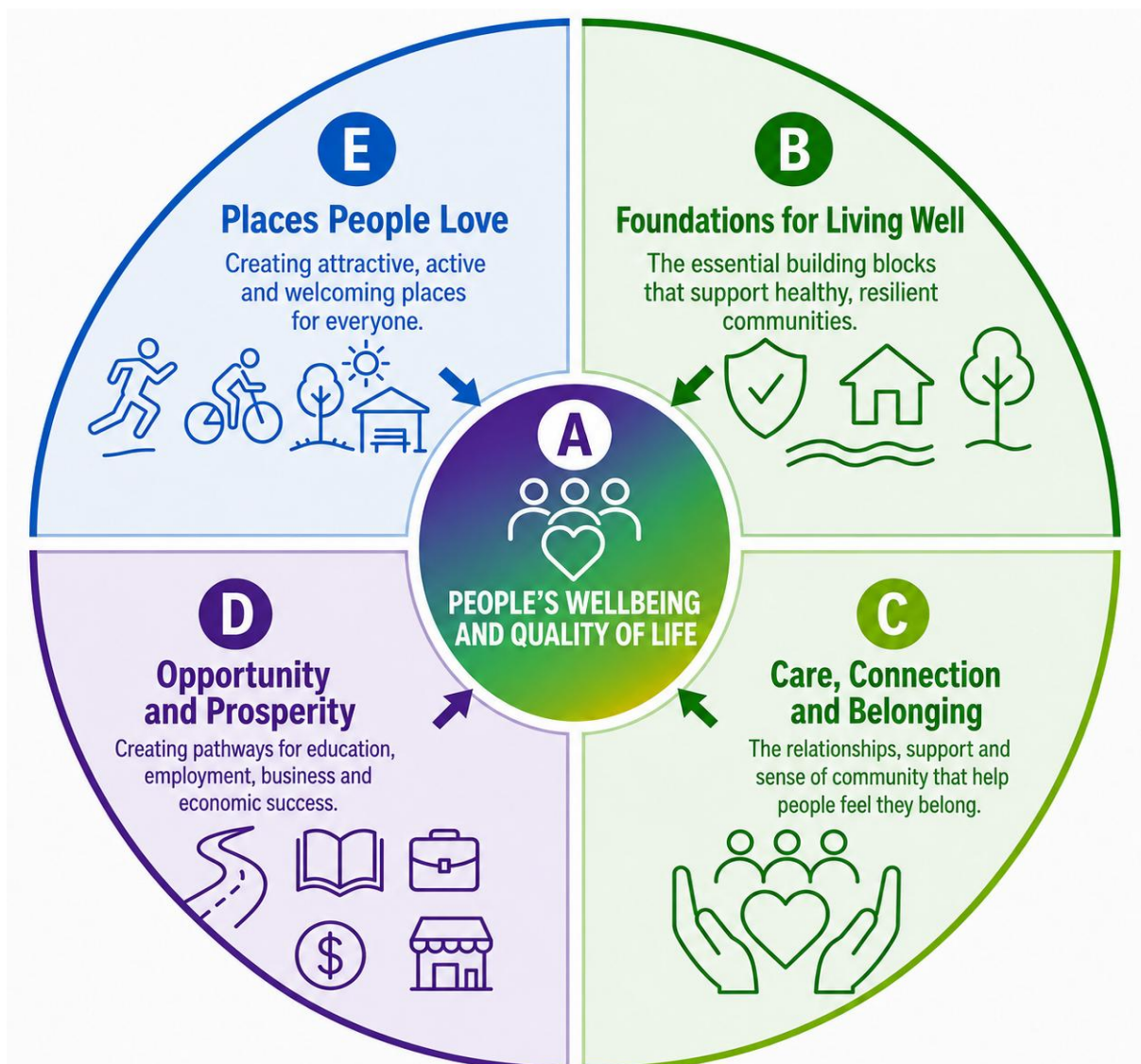
The 13 liveability domains are:

1. Natural environmental, resources and climate
2. Housing
3. Essential utilities and services
4. Community safety, security and resilience
5. Care and community support
6. Community connection and belonging
7. Culture, identity and place character
8. Movement, transport and connectivity
9. Education, skills and lifelong learning
10. Work, employment and local pathways
11. Business, industry and local economy
12. Sport, recreation and wellness
13. Public spaces, amenity and town presentation

Four broader liveability areas

To make the framework easier to understand and use, the domains are also grouped into four broader areas.

Foundations for Living Well	The environment, housing, essential services, safety and resilience people need as foundations for daily life.
Care, Connection and Belonging	The care, support, relationships, identity and sense of belonging that help people feel connected, included and supported.
Opportunity and Prosperity	The access, learning, employment pathways, businesses and local economy that help people participate and build a future here.
Places People Love	The sport, recreation, wellness, public spaces, amenity and town presentation that help make places active, attractive, functional and welcoming.



The conditions work together

These areas and domains do not operate in isolation.

Most Council projects and decisions will influence more than one liveability condition. For example, a transport project may improve access, but it may also affect safety, social connection, economic participation, environmental outcomes and the presentation of towns.

The framework helps Council consider these connections rather than looking at each issue in isolation.

It is also not intended to create a fixed hierarchy. Different conditions may matter more to different people, places or stages of life. The framework therefore helps Council consider the conditions together rather than rank them in a single order.

3. HOW

How does the framework work?

The framework gives Council a shared lens for considering the liveability impact of its work.

Depending on the project, plan or decision, this could include asking:

- Which liveability conditions are we trying to protect, strengthen or improve?
- Why do these conditions matter to people's wellbeing and quality of life?
- Who is likely to benefit?
- Who may be adversely affected?
- What risks, trade-offs or unintended impacts need to be considered?
- What role can Council realistically play?

This provides a clearer connection between individual Council activities and their broader impact on people and communities

Council has different roles

Liveability is not created by Council alone.

It is shaped by the combined influence of many conditions, the contributions of Council, other levels of government, service providers, businesses, community organisations and communities, as well as the choices people make in their own lives.

Council therefore has different levels of control and influence across the liveability conditions

Council does the work	Council directly provides, manages, maintains, funds or delivers services, infrastructure, places, programs or regulatory functions.
Council works with others	Council partners, coordinates and collaborates with government agencies, organisations, businesses and community groups.
Council helps others to act	Council supports and enables local people, volunteers, clubs, groups and organisations to contribute.
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What the framework does and does not mean

The framework helps Council understand what matters to people, consider the liveability impact of its work and determine where Council can act directly, work with others, support others to act or advocate on behalf of the community.

It does not define how people should live or what a good life should look like.

It does not mean Council can control or directly deliver every condition that affects liveability.

Identifying something as important to the community does not automatically mean Council will fund or directly deliver it.

4. WHAT FOR

What will Council use it for?

The Strategic Liveability Framework will help Council keep people’s wellbeing and quality of life at the centre of its work. It will be used to:



Understand our community

Better understand what matters to different people and communities, what is working well, what could be strengthened and where improvement is most needed.

This includes understanding the conditions that influence whether people choose to stay, return, move to or move away from Break O’Day.



Make better decisions and progress projects

Consider the likely liveability impacts of Council projects, actions and investments, including who may benefit, who may be adversely affected, and any risks or trade-offs that need to be considered.

The framework will also help guide place-based work such as local connectivity, including parking, foreshore planning and community facilities, and help shape consultant briefs so the intended liveability outcomes are clear.



Plan for the future

Provide the structure and focus areas for Council's next Strategic Plan, placing liveability at the centre of Council's long-term planning.

Community feedback and other evidence can help identify gaps and priorities and, over time, support targets, benchmarks and measurement of progress.

Until the next Strategic Plan is developed, Council's current Strategic Plan remains the main guide for Council's projects, decisions and investment.



Understand and communicate impact

Provide a shared way to explain what liveability means, the broader purpose of Council's work and how Council contributes to people's wellbeing and quality of life.

It can also help Council communicate what makes Break O'Day distinctive and strengthen the identity and reputation of the area over time.

5. WHAT NEXT

Where do we go from here?

The framework will now begin to be used in practical ways while continuing to be tested and refined.

1

LISTEN

Listen to our community

Council will gather community insights through a series of surveys over time to better understand what people value, what supports their quality of life, what is working well and where improvement may be needed. Community input will help shape what Council learns and where future attention may be needed.

2

APPLY

Put the framework into practice

Council will begin applying the framework to identified place-based projects to better understand their intended liveability outcomes, benefits, risks and trade-offs. These insights will also help shape consultant briefs and expectations for future project work.

3

CONSOLIDATE

Firm up the framework

Council will use what it learns from early practical use and community feedback to make any necessary adjustments and establish a clear, practical framework for the next stage of work.

4

PLAN

Shape future priorities and measure progress

Community insights will help Council understand what matters most and where greater attention may be needed. This will help shape priorities for the next Strategic Plan and provide a basis for setting measures and tracking progress over time.

5

EMBED

Make liveability part of how Council works

Over time, the framework will become a shared reference point for Council planning and decision making, helping Council consistently consider liveability across its plans, projects, investments and decisions

Background

How this work began

Council originally identified a number of place-based projects through its Liveability Strategy, including work relating to transport, car parking, foreshore planning, sport and recreation, infrastructure vulnerability, air access and community facilities.

As this work progressed, Council recognised that liveability could provide a broader strategic framework for connecting these projects and other Council work to the conditions that influence people's wellbeing and quality of life.

The Strategic Liveability Framework has since been developed through research, internal work and workshops with Council's Leadership Team and Councillors and will continue to develop through practical use and community insight.