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1.0 Introduction

The purpose of the Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy 2012-2014 (CSMP) is to continue to provide an integrated and holistic approach to managing sharps in Logan, which supports the community, facilitates community partnerships, supports corporate objectives, and aligns or does not conflict with relevant government legislation and policy. The Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy will continue to provide Logan with the opportunity to facilitate innovative and responsive approaches to reducing the risks associated with inappropriately discarded sharps, and build community capacity by providing appropriate information to better inform the community and help alleviate any misconceptions associated with sharps and sharps disposal practices. The Strategy will assist in defining the appropriate roles in the collaborative effort of building a safer and better informed community.

All sectors of our community are faced with potential risks from sharps, from residents and visitors enjoying community open spaces, to local government employees carrying out their duties. Sharps are used by a range of people in the community including people with diabetes, home-based medical patients, professional businesses and illicit drug users. On this basis it is recognised that sharps are generated by the wider community and as such, require appropriate management practices.

The Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy supports the Council’s Corporate Plan 2009 -2014 strategies ‘Community Health and Wellbeing’ and ‘Community Safety’.

The implementation of the Strategy will be overseen by Council’s Environment and Sustainability Branch.

These strategies aim to:

• Minimise the community’s exposure to health risk by undertaking specific intervention-based preventative programs.
• Support a safe living environment for the community through proactive response to public safety matters.

The Local Government Act 2009 instils in local government a level of autonomy to take responsibility for the good rule and government of its area. Council also has a common law ‘duty of care’ in respect to its public property. All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that persons using local council land or premises are protected from hazards where they are known to exist and where removal of the hazard is reasonably practical.

The Council is a significant employer and contractor of workers whose activities may involve exposure to community sharps. The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 imposes a responsibility on employers to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise risks to employees. This may be achieved by enhancing sharps disposal options and providing employees with expertise, training and equipment to safely deal with risks to which they may be exposed in executing their duties.
The Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy has linkages to other contemporary or well-established strategic planning mechanisms including:

- Logan City Council Safe City Strategy 2011 - 2015
- Logan 2026 City Directions framework (ie. interim LCC Community Plan)
- National Environmental Health Strategy 2007 - 2012
- Strategic Directions for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health 2009 - 2012
- Queensland Health Strategic Plan 2011 - 2015
- Queensland Government Smart State: Health 2020 - a vision for the future
- Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (1986)

A partnership approach, both interagency and across Council, creates knowledge, understanding and awareness across all stakeholders which is conducive to effective sharps management.

It is planned that the alliances forged or reinforced through the consultation processes for the Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy will continue to provide the platform for effective and efficient sharps management into the future.

2.0 Background

2.1 What are Community Sharps?
‘Community Sharps’ are considered to be those needles, syringes and lancets used by members of the community for the administration of drugs and supplements, or for the testing of specific physiological parameters such as blood sugar levels. Due to an increasing population and new patients being diagnosed with illness that requires medication by injection, there will be an ongoing need to provide and encourage the use of community sharps services.
2.2 Sharps Users and Inappropriate Disposal

Injecting drug users (IDUs) are often perceived as the main offenders of inappropriate disposal of sharps. However there are other members of the community who generate sharps and may also be disposing of them inappropriately. Examples of community users are:

- people using prescribed medication
- people using non-prescribed medications
- pet owners

In addition, professional and other business generators of sharps include or are associated with:

- Veterinarians
- Dentists
- Doctors
- Immunisation Clinics
- Tattooists
- Acupuncturists
- Other skin penetration activities

In Queensland, many needles and syringes are distributed outside of the hospital system each year, including via:

- Diabetes Australia - Queensland (DAQ)
- Community Pharmacies (for prescribed and non-prescribed medications) and
- Queensland Needle and Syringe Programs (QNSPs)

It is important to note that, discarded sharps can generate a level of fear in the community that is disproportionate to the actual risk posed by the presence of discarded sharps. The risk of infection following a needle stick injury (NSI) outside a medical setting is low. This is not to say that it cannot happen, simply that the probability is low.

2.3 The Risks Associated with a Lack of Sharps Management Programs

Inappropriate disposal of sharps can have community impacts such as:

- re-use of potentially contaminated injecting equipment
- potential cause of injury and infection, from needle stick injury (NSI) to the community
- public perceptions of public domain safety and cleanliness
- emotional trauma associated with the possibility of disease transmission
- adverse local, regional, state and national publicity
- higher incidence of exposed sharps being discarded in unwanted locations such as in community settings, waste bins and flushed down toilets, with a risk of needle stick injury to the community and workers
- a potentially infectious waste stream generated outside a medical setting
- deterioration in employee relations
- potential for litigation
- environmental nuisance
2.4 Sharps Disposal Facilities

To effectively manage the collection and disposal of sharps, a broad range of services and facilities need to be provided. There are number of existing sharps disposal facilities throughout Logan City.

**City of Logan - Locations of Community Sharps Bins:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Open hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Animal Management Centre</td>
<td>213 Queens Road, Kingston</td>
<td>Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday 9 am to 2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Beenleigh Transfer Station</td>
<td>15 Wuraga Road (Cnr Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road) Beenleigh</td>
<td>Monday to Sunday 7 am to 5.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Browns Plain Smart Tip</td>
<td>349 Browns Plains Road, Heritage Park</td>
<td>Monday to Sunday 7 am to 5.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Carbrook Smart Tip</td>
<td>1801 Mount Cotton Road, Cornubia</td>
<td>Monday to Sunday 7 am to 5.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Greenbank Transfer Station</td>
<td>Pub Lane, Greenbank 2 - 26 Equestrian Drive, Greenbank</td>
<td>Monday to Sunday 7 am to 5.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Logan Central Library</td>
<td>26 Wilbur Street, Logan Central</td>
<td>Monday to Sunday 24 hour access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Logan Village Transfer Station</td>
<td>1406 - 1432 Waterford-Tamborine Road, Logan Village</td>
<td>Monday to Sunday 7 am to 5.30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*‘Community Sharps Container Disposal Bin’ with weather proof and tamper resistant enclosure and disposal chute that is accessible to the community for the disposal of sharps containers.*

*‘Community Sharps Disposal Unit’ for the disposal of single syringes inside a public toilet cubicle in Logan City.*
Queensland Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Open hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Logan Central Community Health Centre</td>
<td>97 - 103 Wembley Road, Logan Central</td>
<td>24 hour access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Beenleigh Community Health Centre</td>
<td>10 - 18 Mt Warren Boulevard, Beenleigh</td>
<td>24 hour access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Browns Plains Community Health Centre</td>
<td>Cnr Middle Road and Wineglass Drive, Hillcrest</td>
<td>24 hour access</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

City of Logan - Locations of Community Sharps Bins (for use by Council Staff only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Marsden Depot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Munruben Depot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A number of pharmacies in Queensland may also provide opportunities for disposal at their stores. Details of pharmacies that may provide this service in Logan can be found at www.findapharmacy.com.au.

Community based disposal facilities may also be found at railway stations, medical centres and public toilets.

Commercial waste producers of ‘clinical or related waste’ are required to contract a licensed waste transporter to collect and dispose of such waste. Refer to section 2.6 Legislation (Summary) for more information.

It is envisaged that a culture of safe sharps disposal can be created by enhancing and promoting the options for safe disposal and appropriate sharps management information.
All QNSPs encourage clients to dispose of injecting equipment at the point of collection. All syringes distributed through the program are supplied with an appropriate disposal container. Queensland Health - Metro South Health Service District - Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Services (ATODS) provide sharps collection services and record the number of returns.

It is important to note that there is ample evidence that ready access to sterile injecting equipment does not cause an increase either in the number of injecting drug users or in the prevalence of injecting drug use in the community. In fact some studies have indicated that the establishment of Needle and Syringe Programs has led to a decrease in the number of injectors by bringing them into contact with treatment services earlier in their drug using careers.

It is estimated that from 2000 - 2009 needle and syringe programs, which ensure the safe supply and disposal of syringes to injecting drug users, have directly averted over 32,000 HIV infections and nearly 97,000 Hepatitis C infections (The National Drug Strategy 2010 - 2015).

2.5 Inappropriate Sharps Disposal and Collection

Logan City Council employees undertake the collection of inappropriately discarded sharps on a regular basis. The collection of inappropriately discarded sharps poses a risk of Needle Stick Injury (NSI) to both workers and the general community. The Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy articulates Council’s commitment to the principles of risk management and due diligence. Council has a clear moral, common law and legislative duty of care to employees and the community to respond quickly to inappropriate sharps disposal.

Inappropriate discarded sharps are illegally disposed of in rubbish bins, flushed down toilets (sewerage system), and dropped in parks, roads and storm water drains; and pose a risk to the community and workers in these areas. It is important that the community dispose of sharps in an appropriate manner by placing in a secured, rigid-walled, puncture resistant container (ie sharps container) which is preferably placed in a community sharps container disposal bin.

The community can report inappropriately discarded sharps by contacting:

Logan City Council: Ph: 3412 3412 Web: www.logan.qld.gov.au

Needle Helpline: (1800 Needle) 1800 633 353

Information and resources can also be found on the Queensland Needle and Syringe Program (QNSP) website at www.health.qld.gov.au.
The following branches in Council undertake the collection of inappropriately discarded sharps:

- **Environment & Sustainability - Environmental Health Compliance** – responds to inappropriate sharps disposal on private land and provides an after-hours service.

- **Parks** - responds to inappropriate sharps disposal in parks, public toilets in parks, and coordinates the servicing of community sharps disposal units in public toilets.

- **Road Construction and Maintenance** - responds to inappropriate discarded sharps found on roads, footpaths, laneways or stormwater infrastructure.

- **Waste Services** - deals with inappropriate discarded sharps in the general waste stream via the kerb side pickup of rubbish/recycling bins and waste disposed of at Council's Smart Tips.

Commercial waste producers of ‘clinical or related waste’ are required to contract a licensed waste transporter for appropriate treatment and disposal. Refer to section 2.6 Legislation (Summary) for more information.

- **Water Business** - responds to inappropriate sharps found at Council’s sewage treatment facility and within or on water and sewerage infrastructure.

- **Other Staff and Council Contractors** - opportunities may arise to undertake collection of inappropriate sharps found in the Logan City’s public gardens, parks, public toilets, waterways and other public areas that are managed by Council Branches.

Although Council has a primary role and responsibility in relation to sharps collection and disposal, other government and non-government agencies have vital programs in place. Other groups that may be or are involved with the collection of inappropriately disposed sharps include:

- Queensland Health - Queensland Needle and Syringe Program (QNSP)
- Businesses or schools
- The community

An example of inappropriate disposal of sharps.

Community Sharps Container Disposal Bin with safety enclosure.
The legislation that is relevant to sharps disposal, is summarised below. It shows the wide-ranging responsibility across the community for disposing sharps in an appropriate manner.

2.6 Legislation (Summary)

*Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000*

The regulation requires a person to dispose of a sharp in a safe manner:

**Disposal of Sharps**

- A person in a domestic setting such as a diabetic, therapeutic medical user, a drug user, or a professional tattooist, body piercer or acupuncturist, as a minimum when disposing of sharps, must place the needle or sharp in a **rigid-walled, puncture resistant container; and seal or securely close the container**. A rigid-walled, puncture resistant container is one that has hard, unbending sides and is resistant to splitting, breaking and perforating.

  Maximum Penalty: 20 Penalty Units ($2,200).

- Commercial premises that generate ‘clinical or related waste’ such as a doctors surgery, hospitals and immunisation clinics must dispose of needles or other sharps in an **approved sharps container that complies with Australian/New Zealand Standards**.

  Maximum Penalty: 40 Penalty Units ($4,400).

The sharps containers used for the collection, storage, transport or disposal of sharps must be in a predominately yellow container, with biohazard symbol and be labelled as clinical waste.

Maximum Penalty: 20 Penalty Units ($2,200).

- A person who discards a sharp must ensure a needle or a sharp is not accessible to another person.

  Maximum Penalty: 40 Penalty Units ($4,400).

- Clinical waste (sharps) are required to be treated and disposed in accordance with ‘Schedule 5 - Treatment and disposal of clinical and related waste’, which may involve treatment and disposal by high temperature incineration.

  Maximum Penalty: 165 Penalty Units ($18,150).

**The Australian/New Zealand Standards are:**

*Australian/New Zealand Standard 4261:1994 - Reusable containers for the collection of sharp items used in human and animal medical applications.*

*Australian Standard 4031:1992 - Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas.*
Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011

A person must not litter at a place -
• if the offence involves dangerous littering.
Maximum Penalty: 40 Penalty Units ($4,400)

dangerous littering means depositing waste that causes or is likely to cause harm to a person, property or the environment.

Examples of dangerous littering include:
• smashing a bottle and leaving the broken glass on a footpath
• leaving a syringe in a public place other than in a container intended for receiving used syringes

Minimum Standards - Sharps Disposal for the General Public

The general public’s minimum standards for disposing of sharps are that disposal occurs in a rigid-walled, puncture resistant container that is sealed or securely closed. The container can then be placed in the general household wheelie bin (general waste stream) or preferably in a community sharps container disposal bin (see page 6 for sharps disposal locations). Sharps MUST NOT be placed in any recycling bin.

Examples of a suitable container include:
• Recycled thick plastic laundry liquid container with secure lid
• Metal coffee can with securely taped lid
• Australian Standard approved sharps container

Otherwise a single syringe can be placed in a Community Sharps Disposal Unit (see page 6).

Best Practice - Sharps Disposal for the General Public

Best practice disposal for the general public entails disposal in an approved Australian Standard sharps container. The container should then be placed in a Community Sharps Container Disposal Bin. These sharps are required to be treated and disposed of by a licensed waste transporter in an approved method of treatment and processing such as high temperature incineration.

Public Health Act 2005

The Act provides mechanisms for controlling, reducing and preventing risks to public health. These risks may include inadequately disposed sharps. From this perspective, the community must dispose of sharps safely and should be aware of their responsibility accordingly. Council has a responsibility to control, reduce and prevent public health risks within its jurisdiction, including those relating to sharps.
Sharps Management in action

Logan City Council Environmental Health Officer responding to inappropriate disposal.

Needle disposal using tongs.

Community sharp being placed into a sharps container.

Community Sharps Container placed into sharps container bin.

Note: The pictures above are examples only and are not intended to provide all the information relating to the safe disposal of sharps.
3.0 Consultation with Key Stakeholders

The following key stakeholders were invited to participate in developing the Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy 2012 - 2014 in accordance with a Council endorsed Community Engagement Plan:

- Logan City Council - Mayor and Councillors
- Logan City Council (LCC)
  - Environment and Sustainability Branch
  - Animal & Pest Services Branch (A&PS)
  - City Standards Branch
  - Community Engagement and Marketing Branch
  - Road Construction and Maintenance Branch
  - Waste Services Branch
  - People and Culture Branch
  - Libraries and Cultural Services Branch
  - Major Venues and Facilities Branch
  - Administration Branch
  - Parks Branch
  - Information Services Branch
- Allconnex Water
- Queensland Health - Metro South Health Service District - Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Services (ATODS) - Queensland Needle Syringe Program (QNSP), West Moreton and Logan Public Health Units
- Queensland Health - Logan and Beaudesert Hospitals
- Youth & Family Service (Logan City) Inc
- Diabetes Australia - Queensland (DAQ)
- Drug Arm
- Pharmacy Guild
- Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services representative
- Queensland Rail
- Queensland Police
- Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)
- Australian Veterinary Association Qld
- Logan Women’s Health & Wellbeing Centre
- Life Education Australia
- ACE Waste
- Kachel Cleaning
- Total Building Maintenance (TBM)
- Queensland Injectors Health (QuIHN) Network Ltd

At the expiry of the Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy, Council’s Environment and Sustainability Branch will, following consultation with key stakeholders, report to Council on the implementation and outcomes of the Strategy.
4.0 Objectives

The three objectives identified in the Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy 2012-2014 are:

- Maximising Appropriate Sharps Disposal.
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Continuous Improvement.
- Promoting Population Health and Harm Reduction.

Council’s Logan Smart Tip located at 349 Browns Plains Road Heritage Park provides a ‘Community Sharps Container Disposal Bin’ for the disposal of sharps that are contained in a rigid-walled puncture resistant container with sealed lid.
## 5.0 Action Plan

### Objective 1.0  Maximising Appropriate Sharps Disposal

### Strategy 1.1  Provide an effective network of sharps disposal facilities throughout the City.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Indicator/s</th>
<th>Responsible Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1</td>
<td>Continue to maintain and service existing community sharps disposal units in public toilets and bins located at Council facilities.</td>
<td>• Disposal units/bins and bin enclosures in good working condition free from damage&lt;br&gt;• Locations are easily accessible and subject to Work Health and Safety considerations&lt;br&gt;• No overflowing units/bins occurring&lt;br&gt;• Sharps containers not permitted to accumulate outside the bin enclosure&lt;br&gt;• Regular and lawful collection and disposal from licensed waste contractors&lt;br&gt;• Keys for the bin enclosures provided to relevant personnel&lt;br&gt;• Keys kept in a known secure area at each site and easily accessible</td>
<td>• Parks Branch&lt;br&gt;• Road Construction and Maintenance Branch&lt;br&gt;• Waste Services Branch&lt;br&gt;• Animal and Pest Services Branch&lt;br&gt;• Bin/unit collection and disposal contractors&lt;br&gt;• Other relevant internal stakeholders</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2</td>
<td>Investigate and identify potential locations within Council facilities for the installation of new sharps bins/units</td>
<td>• Land use, demographic, socio-economic changes and trends monitored and investigated&lt;br&gt;• Relevant divisional councillor consulted and Council endorsement provided on new sharps bin proposals&lt;br&gt;• Bins/units located at appropriate Council facilities&lt;br&gt;• Sharps bins installed with weather proof safe and tamper proof enclosure with chute&lt;br&gt;• Locations are easily accessible and subject to Work Health and Safety considerations&lt;br&gt;• Data collected on inappropriate sharps disposal informs the decision making process</td>
<td>• Environment and Sustainability Branch&lt;br&gt;• Waste Services Branch&lt;br&gt;• Administration Branch&lt;br&gt;• Libraries and Cultural Services Branch&lt;br&gt;• Other relevant internal stakeholders</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A public toilet designed to ‘Crime Prevention through Environmental Design’ (CPTED) principles and containing a ‘community sharps disposal unit’ inside the toilet cubicles for the disposal of single sharps.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action Number</th>
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<th>Responsible Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.1.3         | Liaise with external agencies/businesses to identify and implement new sharps disposal options/locations for the community                                                                                     | • Consultation undertaken  
• Available data shared  
• Locations are secure and accessible  
• Councillors consulted and Council endorsement provided on new proposals which involve a potential extension to Councils respective collection and disposal contracts | • Environment and Sustainability Branch  
• Pharmacy Guild  
• Pharmacies  
• Qld Health - QNSP  
• Other relevant stakeholders                                                                 | Ongoing |
| 1.1.4         | Manage unified collection & disposal contracts for the sharps disposal bins and for the sharps units                                                                                                         | • Terms and conditions of the contract met  
• Contract issues that may arise resolved in a timely and appropriate manner  
• Service contracts including collection times reviewed and renewed as appropriate and in a timely manner  
• Preferred service providers selected in accordance with Councils procurement policies and protocols | • Environment and Sustainability Branch  
• Administration Branch  
• Parks Branch                                                                 | Ongoing |
| 1.1.5         | Explore the feasibility of utilising existing “staff only” community sharps bins located at Council Depots, for use by the general public.                                                                   | • Suitable locations identified on site  
• Locations are secure and accessible                                                                                                                                                   | • Environment and Sustainability Branch  
• Other relevant internal branches                                                                 | Ongoing |
Strategy 1.2  Ensure timely collection of inappropriately disposed sharps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Indicator/s</th>
<th>Responsible Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1</td>
<td>Maintain a high priority response to reports of inappropriately disposed sharps.</td>
<td>• Customer requests /reports registered and associated data/ information recorded in Council’s corporate management system&lt;br&gt;• Disposed sharps appropriately removed in a safe and timely manner&lt;br&gt;• Valid customer requests satisfactorily resolved</td>
<td>• Parks Branch&lt;br&gt;• Roads Construction and Maintenance Branch&lt;br&gt;• Waste Services Branch&lt;br&gt;• City Standards Branch&lt;br&gt;• Allconnex Water</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2</td>
<td>Review and update Council response mechanisms to inappropriately disposed sharps</td>
<td>• Consistent processes/procedures established and reviewed on an ongoing basis&lt;br&gt;• Council’s corporate management systems efficiently utilised</td>
<td>• Environment and Sustainability Branch&lt;br&gt;• All relevant internal branches</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qld Health and Local Government Association of Queensland endorsed sharps management information card provides details of ‘Managing a Needle Stick Injury’ and ‘What to do if you find Used Syringes’.

This double-sided education information card folds down to credit card size and is available by calling the Clean Needle Helpline 1800 NEEDLE (1800 633 353).
**Objective 2.0**  
**Promoting Population Health and Harm Reduction**

**Strategy 2.1**  
**Provide information sources to inform and encourage safe community sharps disposal.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Indicator/s</th>
<th>Responsible Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2.1.1         | Review and update Council’s ‘Safe Sharps Disposal’ community information brochure | • Content up to date and contemporary and fit for purpose  
• Printed and online versions produced  
• Online version easily accessible | Environment and Sustainability Branch  
Community Engagement and Marketing Branch  
Qld Health - QNSP  
Other relevant internal and external stakeholders | Ongoing as required |
| 2.1.2         | Review and update Council’s ‘Community Sharps Information Sticker’ for placement on community sharps disposal units and bin enclosures | • Content up to date and contemporary and fit for purpose  
• Stickers appropriately placed on disposal units and bin enclosures | Environment and Sustainability Branch  
Parks Branch  
Community Engagement and Marketing Branch  
Qld Health - QNSP | 2012 |
| 2.1.3         | Develop a GIS mapping layer on Easimaps of community sharps bin locations in the City | • All relevant data uploaded and usability tested | Environment and Sustainability Branch  
Information Services Branch | 2012 |
| 2.1.4         | Explore opportunities for installing signage at Council’s Parks and other suitable locations | • Suitable locations identified  
• Signage publicises appropriate disposal  
• Signs produced and installed | Environment and Sustainability Branch  
Parks Branch  
Other relevant internal stakeholders | Ongoing |
### Strategy 2.2  Promote risk awareness and responsible protective practices in relation to sharps handling, inappropriate disposal and needle stick injury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Number</th>
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<th>Indicator/s</th>
<th>Responsible Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>Promote best practice sharps disposal in domestic settings and within the general community.</td>
<td>• Newsletters, local newspapers, conferences and local expos utilised&lt;br&gt;• Sharps information brochure distributed to relevant stakeholders&lt;br&gt;• Relevant web pages maintained within Council&lt;br&gt;• Educational talks provided to community groups, residents and schools</td>
<td>• Logan Waste Services Branch&lt;br&gt;• Environment and Sustainability Branch&lt;br&gt;• Other relevant internal and external stakeholders</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2</td>
<td>Continuously improve internal mechanisms for disseminating sharps related information to Council staff</td>
<td>• Customer service focussed knowledge base updated in a timely manner&lt;br&gt;• Internal networks consolidated</td>
<td>• Environment and Sustainability Branch&lt;br&gt;• Customer Service Branch&lt;br&gt;• Other relevant internal stakeholders</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3</td>
<td>Ensure that the Corporate WH&amp;S Directive on the ‘Handling and Disposal of Sharps’ continues to represent best practice OH&amp;S.</td>
<td>• WH&amp;S Directive systematically reviewed</td>
<td>• People and Culture Branch (Health and Safety team)&lt;br&gt;• Environment and Sustainability Branch</td>
<td>2012/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.4</td>
<td>Provide sharps training and personal protective measures to Council staff and external contractors.</td>
<td>• Training subject to ongoing review&lt;br&gt;• Trainer/trainee packages produced&lt;br&gt;• Training records completed&lt;br&gt;• Appropriate PPE, sharps containers, collection equipment etc. provided in accordance with Council’s relevant WH&amp;S Directives&lt;br&gt;• Disposal kits placed in outdoor work vehicles&lt;br&gt;• Training aligns with relevant position descriptions</td>
<td>• People and Culture Branch (Health and Safety team)&lt;br&gt;• Parks Branch&lt;br&gt;• Road Construction and Maintenance Branch&lt;br&gt;• City Standards Branch&lt;br&gt;• Waste Services Branch&lt;br&gt;• Other LCC staff</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
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| 2.2.5         | Continue to provide vaccinations to Council’s ‘At-Risk Employees’ and relevant Contractors as per Council’s Workplace Health and Safety Directive - Staff Immunisation. | • All Council’s ‘At-Risk Employees’ and relevant contractors vaccinated and immunised as per Council WH&S Directive - Staff Immunisation PSM050.  
• Employee records and WinVaccs database indicate the requisite vaccinations received and blood tests for immunity undertaken  
• Staff Vaccination Program promoted to staff  
• Staff Vaccination Program reconciles with the most recent Australian Immunisation Handbook | • Animal and Pest Services Branch  
• People and Culture Branch (Health and Safety team) | Ongoing |

**Objective 3.0** Monitoring, Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

**Strategy 3.1** Develop effective sharps management policies and practices supported by collaborative and cooperative partnerships for achieving effective sharps management outcomes

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| 3.1.1         | Develop a systematic and standardised approach for “in the field” data collection and analysis | • Corporate property system modified  
• Internal data collection resources developed and utilised  
• Data on Sharps unit/bin usage provided through contractor reports  
• Trend data collated and analysed  
• Hot spots determined | • Environment and Sustainability Branch  
• Roads Construction and Maintenance Branch  
• Parks Branch  
• Animal and Pest Services Branch  
• City Standards Branch  
• Allconnex Water  
• External contractors | 2012 |
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<td>3.1.2</td>
<td>Formulate a Council policy/procedure to reinforce administrative arrangements pertaining to sharps management at Council</td>
<td>• Policy/Procedure developed, endorsed and promulgated&lt;br&gt;• Environment and Sustainability Branch&lt;br&gt;• All relevant internal stakeholders</td>
<td>Environment and Sustainability Branch&lt;br&gt;All relevant internal stakeholders</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>Form new and consolidate existing partnerships for reviewing sharps management planning, policy development and associated service delivery</td>
<td>• Partnerships and related communication networks established/ reinforced.&lt;br&gt;• Timely contributions made to the development of State policies/guidelines&lt;br&gt;• Proactive and collaborative communications underpin timely assessment of action implementation under the Strategy</td>
<td>Environment and Sustainability Branch&lt;br&gt;All relevant internal and external stakeholders</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy - strengthening community health and safety
Glossary

Blood Borne Virus (BBV) – The three major blood-borne viruses are Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV). These BBV are members of different virus families. However the one thing in common is that the major mode of transmission is via blood or bodily fluids.

Clinical Waste – waste that has the potential to cause disease, including the following waste: animal waste, discarded sharps, human tissue waste, laboratory waste.

Community ‘Sharps Container’ – is a rigid-walled puncture resistant container that is able to be securely sealed that can be used to dispose of sharps and syringes. Best practice sharps containers are Australian Standard approved yellow coloured rigid-walled puncture resistant container with the infectious disease symbol and a secure lid, that are required to be used at professional ‘clinic or related waste’ locations such as doctors clinics, hospitals, and immunisation clinics.

Community Sharps Disposal Unit – a tamper proof secured container designed to accept single syringes and needles that are located in a community setting. Examples of this unit are located in public toilets and are a yellow metal container with a small opening at the top for the safe disposal of needles/syringes.

Community Sharps Container Disposal Bin – a tamper proof and secured disposal facility designed to accept ‘community sharps containers’ in a community setting. This type of facility is designed to accept containers used for sharps storage and is not designed for individual sharps disposal.

Crime Prevention Through Environment Design principles (CPTED) – means a holistic approach to the design of a building, a structure and a space to ensure a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime as well as an improvement in the wellbeing of people and communities by reducing criminal opportunities and fostering positive social interaction among legitimate users of a building, a structure or a space.

Hepatitis – means inflammation of the liver. This condition causes damage to liver cells. Hepatitis can be caused by several things including: viral infections, hazardous alcohol consumption, and chemicals. In Australia, the three most common viruses that infect the liver are the hepatitis A, B and C viruses which are all related with the main commonality being that they affect the liver.

Hepatitis A virus (HAV) – is passed from person-to-person through the ‘faecal-oral’ or enteric (intestinal) route. This means that the faeces of an infected person contains the virus and is somehow ingested via the mouth. The virus can be spread through food or drink, eating utensils, contaminated nappies and oral/anal sex. HAV is not a blood borne virus. Infection by HAV results in life long immunity. Immunisation is available to provide immunity for the Hepatitis A virus.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) – is an aggressive virus that replicates rapidly, is easily targeted by the body’s immune system often resulting in clearance of the virus with ensuing life long immunity depending upon age at the time of infection. Those people who do not completely clear the virus are classified as “carriers” and are chronically infective. HBV is transmitted by blood and body fluids. It can enter the body via the mucous membranes (sexual and oral), mother-to-baby and blood-to-blood contact; it is classified as a blood borne virus. Vaccines are available to provide immunity for the Hepatitis B virus.

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) – is a virus that causes a mild immune system response with symptoms of (liver) disease slowly progressing over 10 - 40yrs. It is transmitted by the blood of a person infected with HCV entering another person’s blood. Currently, it is the second most frequently notified infectious disease in Australia. Due to the poor immune system response to this virus, people can be re-infected with different strains of the virus on multiple occasions. There is no vaccine to prevent infection by the hepatitis C virus.

Hotspot(s) – are those areas identified as having significant sharps disposal issues. Usage in these areas may vary significantly with frequent use for a period of time, followed by relative inactivity and then again by frequent use. Hotspots are most often on discreet areas located in close proximity to NSPs or other places that issue injecting equipment, or areas of convenience such as public toilets, rest areas and so on.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) – are viruses that attack the cells of the immune system. HIV causes a lifelong infection that usually results in to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). HIV is transmitted by blood and body fluids. It can enter the body via the mucous membranes (sexual and oral), mother-to-baby and blood-to-blood contact; it is classified as a blood borne virus. There is no vaccine to prevent infection by the HIV.

Immunisation – The process of inducing immunity to prevent certain infections to a person by using a vaccine. The vaccine is a product often made from extracts of killed viruses or bacteria or from live weakened stains of viruses or bacteria; the vaccine is capable of stimulating an immune response that protects against infection.
Needle Stick Injury (NSI) – Is an injury, which occurs when a needle, from a needle and syringe, penetrates the skin or the mucous membranes. There are two categories of NSI: An occupational needle stick injury that occurs to a health care worker and other staff in the course of their work and an accidental needle stick injury that occurs when a member of the public is pricked by a needle that has been improperly discarded in a community setting. It is important to note that ‘There are no published reports of HIV, hepatitis B or C infection being acquired by a member of the public after injury from a discarded used needle in the community in Australia’.

Needle & Syringe Program (NSP) – NSPs are Australian wide. For more information refer to Qld Health’s website: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qnsp/

Non-Government Organisation (NGO) – is an organisation not belonging to a government.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – includes any clothing, equipment and substance designed to be worn; and to protect the person from risks of injury or illness.

Sharp – an object or device having sharp points, protuberances or cutting edges that are capable of causing a penetrating injury to humans, for example needles, syringes, scalpels or blades, lancets, edged instruments, broken glass, bone fragments or any other item that might penetrate the skin.

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11. Logan City Council, Corporate Plan 2011 - 2014;
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15. NSW Health - Community Sharps Management Guidelines for NSW Councils 2004;
17. Queensland Health - Accidental Needle Stick Injury in Public Places, February 2003;
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LOGAN COMMUNITY SHARPS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

2012 - 2014

Strengthening Community Health and Safety