

Executive Summary

Coral Bells

September 8, 2024

Holistically Enhancing Public Safety, Community Empowerment, and Civic Engagement

Abstract

Coral Bells is a friendly yet innovative mobile application designed to enhance public safety and community wellbeing through an empathetic and holistic approach. Tailored to meet the needs of diverse users—students, parents, individuals with accessibility needs, and those feeling uneasy about travelling—the app seamlessly integrates real-time open government data with crowd-sourced reports to offer personalised safety guidance for everybody.

Inspired by the resilient Coral Bells flower, our app embodies a vision of community empowerment and mutual support. The “raise the bell” feature invites users to contribute safety reports and express concerns, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and enhancing collective security. By leveraging a broad range of data, including bushfire boundaries, traffic patterns, and crocodile sightings, Coral Bells provides comprehensive and actionable insights, aligning with both community priorities and government constraints.

Our approach extends to advocating for improved data access for vulnerable groups, seeking to uncover and address previously invisible concerns. The app's design promotes a connected, resilient community, reflecting our commitment to safety, comfort, and proactive civic engagement. Coral Bells not only supports informed decision-making and regional development but also aims to boost local tourism, demonstrating that a thriving society is built on empathy, safety, and collaborative effort.

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Introduction

Coral Bells embodies a friendly and innovative approach to public safety and community engagement, aimed at addressing both immediate and long-term needs. Our mobile app integrates open government data with crowd-sourced reports to provide personalised safety recommendations, fostering a supportive and proactive community, by letting users plan their journey safely, and reporting safety/comfort incidents (“raise the bell”). This summary outlines our strategic vision, the app’s unique contributions, and its alignment with government priorities and constraints.

Holistic Approach to Safety and Comfort

Coral Bells is designed to enhance safety and comfort across diverse scenarios, from students travelling late at night to individuals with accessibility needs. By integrating real-time data on crocodile sightings, bushfire boundaries, traffic patterns, and crowd-sourced safety incidents ("bells"), the app offers a comprehensive view of safety that helps users make informed decisions, presented with an easy-to-use, natural-language interface. This holistic approach ensures that all aspects of journey safety are considered, providing a well-rounded solution that aligns with community and government priorities.

Empowering Community Engagement

At the core of Coral Bells is the belief that community engagement is essential for effective safety management. The app's "raise the bell" feature enables users to report safety concerns and contribute to a shared pool of information. Recognising these contributions through in-app gratitude and rewards encourages ongoing participation and fosters a culture of mutual support. This proactive engagement helps to build a stronger, more connected community.

Building and Integrating New Data

Coral Bells leverages existing open government data while advocating for increased access to information about vulnerable and marginalised groups. We recommend that governments and organisations provide such data to identify and address previously invisible concerns. By integrating diverse data sources, Coral Bells creates a richer understanding of safety and wellbeing, supporting targeted interventions and informed policy-making.

Aligning with Government Priorities

Our app is designed with a keen awareness of government constraints and priorities. By providing valuable insights into community safety and wellbeing, Coral Bells supports strategic decision-making and policy development. The app's AI-powered dashboard offers actionable insights and trends, enabling governments to respond effectively to emerging issues and align with community needs.

Innovative Wellbeing Measurement

Coral Bells goes beyond traditional safety solutions by offering a holistic view of community wellbeing. The app's data analysis capabilities reveal connections between safety incidents and broader wellbeing factors, helping to identify and address underlying issues. This approach supports the development of new wellbeing indicators and enhances the overall understanding of how safety impacts quality of life.

Supporting Regional Development and Tourism:

The app also contributes to regional development by fostering safe exploration and by virtue, boosting local tourism. By instilling confidence in users about the safety of new areas, particularly in regions like the Northern Territory, Coral Bells encourages travel and supports local economies. Data-driven insights further aid in developing strategies for regional growth and infrastructure improvements.

Conclusion

Coral Bells represents a forward-thinking solution to public safety and community engagement. By adopting a holistic approach, empowering community contributions, and advocating for comprehensive data access, the app aligns with government priorities and addresses both immediate and long-term needs. We are committed to making our users—our corals— feel safe, comfortable, included, and *represented*.