



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY GOAL	2	To provide a framework for meaningful community engagement and transparent decision making for projects and issues which impact the community.
POLICY SUB GROUP	2.3	Community Engagement
VERSION	4	
DATE ADOPTED	19 September 2019	
PLANNED REVIEW DATE	September 2023	



Objectives

- 1 To ensure the community have meaningful and timely input into Council decision making relating to policies, procedures, plans, development applications, issues and service delivery
- 2 To ensure Council meet their legislative requirements regarding community engagement for plans, policies, procedures, service delivery and development applications
- 3 To provide a clear approach to community engagement which ensures consistency across all Council's projects and initiatives that impact the community.
- 4 To increase levels of community awareness and engagement in the planning for implementation and management of Council's services.

Policy

- 1 All members of the community have a right, and a responsibility, to contribute to their community's future.
- 2 The local community will have consistent, meaningful opportunities to participate in and contribute to planning Council services.
- 3 Information about the planning for, implementation and management of Council services will be freely available as an integral part of the engagement process.
- 4 Community feedback on the planning for, implementation and management of Council services is encouraged.

- 5 All statutory advertising and public exhibition periods for Council related matters will be met.
- 6 Community attitudes and priorities will be surveyed on a regular basis with the results made public.
- 7 Council will leverage best practice IAP2 Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement as the foundation for community engagement; taking into consideration the following levels of public participation in decision making:
 - a) Inform: to provide the community with balanced objective information to help them understand Council plans, policies, procedures, issues, and development applications presented to Council.
 - b) Consult: to obtain community feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
 - c) Involve: to work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
 - d) Collaborate: to partner with the community in each aspect of the decision-making process including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solution.
 - e) Empower: to place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
- 14 Council's engagement will reflect the adopted values of the organisation.
- 15 Council's engagement with the community will exhibit the following characteristics:
 - a) Be within clear and reasonable timeframes
 - b) Aim for continuous improvement
 - c) Be simple, accessible and open
 - d) Value the contribution of community members and report back on findings
 - e) Ensure that the manner of engagement or consultation is reflective of best practice for the related project.

Policy implementation procedures, guidelines and documents

Reference No.	Title
2.3.1	Community Engagement Strategy
2.3.2	Councillor Communication

Related Kempsey Shire Council policies

Policy No.	Title
3.9	Risk Management and Insurance Policy