Policy 5.17 Community Engagement

**Department** | Strategy and Business Services
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**Responsible Officer** | Community Strategic Planning Coordinator

**Scope**
This policy and procedure manual encompasses all processes implemented to facilitate and enhance the level of and satisfaction with Bega Valley Shire Council’s community engagement practices across the shire.

**Purpose**
- To increase levels of community awareness and engagement in the planning for, implementation and management of Council’s services.
- To utilise Council generated information in facilitating community engagement activities

**Definitions**
Nil

**Legislative requirements**
- Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009
- Local Government Act 1993
- Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979

**Policy Statement**
Bega Valley Shire Council will address the matter of ‘Community Engagement and Information Sharing’ in a systematic manner by:
- Ensuring all members of the community has a right, and a responsibility, to contribute to their community’s future.
- Providing the local community with consistent, meaningful opportunities to participate in and contribute to planning Council services
- Providing information about the planning for, implementation and management of Council services will be freely available as an integral part of the engagement process
- Providing community feedback on the planning for, implementation and management of Council services is encouraged
- Ensuring all statutory advertising and public exhibition periods for Council related matters are met or exceeded
- Independently surveying community attitudes and priorities on a regular basis with the results to be made public.
- Considering the following level when developing and reporting on its community engagement approach:
  a. Informing: To provide the community with balanced and objective information to help them understand a problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
  b. Consulting: To obtain community feedback on alternatives and/or decisions
c. Involving: To work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

d. Collaborating: To partner with the community in each aspect of the decision making process including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solution.

- Ensuring Council’s engagement reflects the adopted values of the organisation.
- Ensuring Council’s engagement with the community exhibits 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

- Ensure that the manner of engagement or consultation is reflective of best practice for the related project.
Policy Version Control

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<td>Strategy and Business Services</td>
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<td>Engaging, consulting and information sharing</td>
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Procedures, guidelines and supporting documents

5.17.1 Community Engagement

Related BVSC policies

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Note: Policy details may change prior to review date due to legislative changes. For the most up-to-date version please refer to Council’s website: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au