Policy 6.16 Community Engagement

Scope

This policy prescribes the 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 outline Council’s commitment to engage with the community in a respectful, effective and transparent manner.
- To better understand, value and include the views of the community in Council’s decision making.

Definitions

Community engagement is defined as the range of opportunities for community involvement in Council decision making, relationship building and community strengthening.

Community engagement is achieved when the community is and feels part of a process.

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 engage with the community by:

- Providing the community with consistent, meaningful opportunities to participate in, and contribute to, Council decisions.
- Aligning Council’s engagement processes to reflect the adopted values of the organisation.
- Utilising a range of engagement strategies to enable all members of the community who are affected by, or interested in, a decision to have the opportunity to contribute.
- Providing relevant and timely information about the planning, implementation and management of Council programs, services and facilities.
- Ensuring that engagement strategies are accessible and culturally appropriate.
- Meeting or exceeding all statutory advertising and public exhibition periods for Council related matters.

The level of community input will be determined by the decision to be made and guided by the IAP2 model of engagement.
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.

Policy Version Control

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Key theme area
1. We are an informed and engaged community with a transparent, consultative and responsive Council.
2. Our Council is financially sustainable and services and facilities meet community needs

Responsible Officer | Manager | Community, Culture and Information

Version | 2

Adopted | 29 November 2017

Next revision | May 2021

Related BVSC policies

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