

Policy 6.16 Community Engagement

Directorate	Community, Environment and Planning
Responsible Officer	Director, Community Environment and Planning

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1.1 Introduction

Community engagement is the active link between Council and the community to enable community input to inform solutions. Community engagement is achieved when the community is and feels part of a process. **Scope**

This policy prescribes the processes implemented to facilitate and enhance the level of participation and satisfaction with Bega Valley Shire Council's community engagement practices across the shire.

1.1.2 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.

1.2 Definitions

Word or Terminology	Description
Community engagement	The range of opportunities for community involvement in Council decision making, relationship building and community strengthening

1.3 Legislation

Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009

Local Government Act 1993

Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979

1.4 Implementation

1.4.1 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
- using 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 engagement strategies are accessible and culturally appropriate
- meeting or exceeding all statutory advertising and public exhibition periods for Council related matters
- closing the loop by reporting back to the community on how their input is used in decision making and how community involvement shapes our actions.

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

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- **Informing**
To provide the community with balanced and objective information to help them understand a problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
 - **Consulting**
To obtain community feedback on alternatives and/or decisions
 - **Involving**
To work directly with the community throughout a process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered
 - **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
 - **Empowering**
To offer advice and provide tools that help the community to lead initiatives that align with Council's adopted Community Strategic Plan

1.4.2 Responsibilities

1.4.2.1 Elected Council

All Council reports have a community engagement section to ensure the elected Council is aware of community feedback prior to making a decision.

1.4.2.2 Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Leadership Executive Group (LEG)

Ensure that Council's engagement processes reflect the adopted values of the organisation.

1.4.2.3 ALL directorates

Ensure Council meets or exceeds all statutory advertising and public exhibition periods for Council related matters, and ensure all engagement is undertaken in accordance with the Community Engagement Strategy.

1.5 Supporting documents

1.5.1 BVSC procedures that relate to this policy

Procedure No.:	Procedure Name	External or Internal Procedure
	There are no procedures sitting under this policy	

1.5.2 BVSC policies that relate to this policy

Policy No.:	Policy Name
6.10	Communications
6.11	Records Management
6.12	Access to Information
6.13	Organisational Service Standards

1.5.3 Other related documents

Bega Valley Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy 2019

Note: Policy details may change from time to time. To ensure you are viewing the most recent version please view Council's adopted Policies and Procedures on Council's website: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au