

Community Engagement

Head of Power

Local Government Act 2009

Related Legislation

Information Privacy Act 2009

Planning Act 2016

Place Names Act 1994

Objective

To establish the key principles that guide Council's community engagement activities.

Definitions

Communities A group of people who are connected by place, interest, affiliation, demographic or other characteristics.

- *Communities of place* represent people who are connected by the area in which they live, work and/or visit. For example, people who live in the same street, neighbourhood, or suburb; or businesses located in a precinct or area.
- *Communities of interest* represent people who have a shared interest. For example, the environment, history, or active transport.
- *Communities of affiliation* represent people who are members of the same group or club. For example, members of a sporting club, church group, cultural group (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Authority), community group (Lions, Rotary etc.) or volunteer organisation (SES, Rural Fire etc.).
- *Demographic communities* represent groups within the population that share specific characteristics. For example, age, gender, LGBTIQ+, culturally and linguistically diverse people, First Nations or people with disability.

Engagement A planned process by which Council works together with its communities to develop and share information and facilitate input into its decision-making.

Stakeholder An individual, group or organisation that is directly impacted by or can directly influence a project or decision.

Application

This policy applies to Council's strategic and operational planning, and service delivery, across the Moreton Bay region where there is potential to enhance outcomes for our communities.

This policy defines:

- our commitment to engaging well
- the principles underpinning our engagement
- our engagement approach
- our engagement process, and
- roles of Councillors and Council Officers in engaging with the community.

Policy Statement

We are committed to inclusive, meaningful and responsive communication and engagement to support our decisions so we can deliver informed leadership and decision making.

We can improve our strategic and operational planning, asset maintenance and service delivery, by identifying the priorities, needs and aspirations of our communities through engagement. In turn, our communities can shape and influence the decisions that affect their lives by participating in the engagement process.

Underpinning this policy is Section 4.2 of the *Local Government Act 2009* which requires Council to adhere to the local government principles of democratic representation, social inclusion, and meaningful community engagement.

Community engagement occurs for the following reasons:

- **Statutory compliance:** We are required to consult under regulations including the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Planning Act 2016* to ensure the community is involved in key decisions
- **Strategic issues, policies and programs:** We engage to obtain input into the development of some Council policies, strategies and plans that impact the future of our communities.
- **Specific projects:** We consult on the provision of efficient and effective services to our community, such as major infrastructure projects.

Our engagement approach

Our approach to community engagement is in accordance with the engagement spectrum endorsed by the Local Government Association of Queensland through their Community Engagement Policy (LGAQ Policy 2.3.1, 2009).

Our engagement roles and responsibilities

Our Council Team Members identify the issues, policies, plans, projects, budgets and services impacting our communities and determine an appropriate level of communication and engagement. They are involved in developing and implementing community engagement plans and providing key technical information to both our Councillors and communities.

Councillors are advocates for their communities. Councillors engage with our communities to understand their issues, views and opportunities to help inform Council decision-making.

Related Documents

This Policy complements and is to be implemented in conjunction with other Council policies, directives and relevant documents published by other agencies including, but not limited to:

- MBRC Community Engagement Framework
- MBRC Code of Conduct
- MBRC Corporate Plan 2022 - 2026
- MBRC Information Privacy Plan
- Local Government Association of Queensland Policy 2.3.2, 200
- A Practical Guide to Accessible and Inclusive Communication - [ECM 62537841_v5 A Practical Guide to Accessible and Inclusive Communication - Final \(t1cloud.com\)](#)

Review and evaluation

This policy will be reviewed for applicability, effectiveness, and consistency with relevant legislation, Council resolutions, and other Council documents. Reviews of this policy will occur as required, or at least once every four years.

The impact of this policy will be measured by:

- Applicability: to what extent does the policy still reflect Council's preferred approach to community engagement
- Effectiveness: to what extent has the policy been effective in guiding activities to achieve the stated objective
- Consistency: to what extent have changes to State or Federal legislation, regulations, policies, or Council resolutions impacted this policy

Responsibility

This Policy is to be:

- (1) implemented by Director, Finance and Corporate Services; and
- (2) reviewed and amended in accordance with the "Review Triggers" by Manager, Community Engagement.

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