



BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL

Policy

TITLE	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
POLICY NUMBER	50
FUNCTION / ACTIVITY (for Policy Register Purposes)	COMMUNITY SERVICES (OTHER)
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
LEGISLATION	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i>
ADOPTED	Executive Management Team Meeting – 6 November 2017
REVIEWED/AMENDED	
NEXT REVIEW DUE	JULY 2020

SCOPE

This policy outlines the principles underpinning Council's engagement activities, the role of Councillors and staff in engaging with the community and the methods which Council will use to engage the community.

OBJECTIVE

To:

- Set the framework for all community engagement activities conducted by Banana Shire Council, other than that conducted in accordance with statutory requirements;
- Ensure the people of Banana Shire have the opportunity for genuine involvement in Council's decision making and policy development;
- Ensure the community is well informed about issues, strategies or plans that may directly or indirectly affect them;
- Seek the views of a wide cross-section of the community, selecting engagement methods that are flexible, inclusive and appropriate to those being engaged;
- Provide members of the community with the opportunity to hear each other's opinions and to recommend appropriate solutions to community issues;
- Ensure all community engagement processes are accessible;
- Provide participants with adequate feedback following the completion of the engagement process;
- Ensure Council is meeting its legislative requirements regarding community engagement in all areas of its service delivery;
- Encourage a commitment and consistency across Council in undertaking effective and appropriate engagement with the community and internally.

- Improve Banana Shire Council's internal systems and procedures to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to engagement.
- Provide staff with the support and training necessary to conduct effective community engagement processes;

DEFINITIONS

Community Engagement

Involving members of the community in decisions that affect them. Seeking broad agreement and the best possible solution for Council and the community.

Council

Banana Shire Council

POLICY

That Council endeavour to ensure that its engagement processes are appropriate, accessible, well-planned and adequately resourced.

That a commitment to, and consistency in, undertaking effective and appropriate engagement with the community and also internally is encourage across Council.

That Council's approach to community engagement be based on the spectrum of engagement activities as advocated by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) utilising the five levels of participation – Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. (see appendix A IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum).

That the level of community engagement undertaken relate directly to the level of community involvement required, and is appropriate to the nature, complexity and impact of the issue, plan or strategy whilst recognising that there is diversity in the activities and projects across Council and the type of engagement undertaken should vary accordingly.

PROCEDURE

As approved and issued by the Chief Executive Officer and subject to further revision, amendment and issue under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer.

CERTIFICATION


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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL

23.1.18
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DATE