

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Policy Number:	5.1.6
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	20 February 2018
Date of Next Review:	March 2022
Applicable to Unit(s):	Whole Organisation
Responsible Officer:	General Manager Community & Culture
Related Policies:	Nil
Related Documents:	Wellington Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy 2021
Statutory Reference:	<i>Local Government Act 2020</i>

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this policy is to establish the expectations on Wellington Shire Council staff in conducting effective community engagement during council planning, decision making and management of projects.

THE POLICY

Staff at Wellington Shire Council will conduct genuine and effective engagement that involves those who will be impacted by decisions and projects at the right level for the issue being engaged on.

Individual Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all staff to follow appropriate processes for effective community engagement.

Responsibilities for Managers and Supervisors

It is the responsibility of Managers and Supervisors to ensure staff follow the appropriate processes and store community engagement plans for audit.

The Community Engagement Process

The Wellington Shire Council approach to engagement is set out in the Community Engagement Strategy 2021 and associated processes.

The Community Engagement Strategy 2021 provides:

- meaning to the term community engagement
- meaning to the term deliberative engagement;
- the context in which community engagement is undertaken;
- core values in community engagement; and
- an explanation of why community engagement is an effective way of doing business leading to better outcomes for the organisation and the community.

Wellington Shire Council will update templates and resources to assist staff with delivering

community engagement plans that align with this policy and with the Community Engagement Strategy 2021. These resources will support an effective and consistent approach to community engagement across the organisation.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.