

 Central Highlands Regional Council	CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL POLICY:	
	TITLE: Community Engagement	POLICY REF NO: CHRCP: 0020

1.0 Policy Purpose

- 1.1 To guide the council in its approach to seeking input from stakeholders on decisions that will impact on them. The policy applies to councillors, employees and consultants engaged by council.
- 1.2 Community engagement is a planned process undertaken by council with the specific purpose of working with communities, organisations and other stakeholders to support informed decision making or actions relating to an opportunity, problem or outcome.

2.0 Policy Statement

2.1 Council is committed to seeking input from stakeholders on matters that affect them. Community engagement does not replace, but rather informs, the decision making function of council. The purpose of conducting community engagement is to support council decision making that reflects the concerns and interests of residents, within approved budgets and resources.

2.2 Council will be guided by the following principles, which are aligned with those of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2):

- 2.2.1 **Opportunity** – create genuine opportunities for members of the Central Highlands community to participate in matters that interest and affect them.
- 2.2.2 **Inclusiveness** – offer inclusive processes and practices that increase citizen access to local government information and broaden involvement in policy development, planning and decision making.
- 2.2.3 **Reaching out** – provide new and more effective ways to involve citizens in planning and decision making processes that will encourage local government to move beyond traditional networks. This will enable council to tap into the significant diverse knowledge and expertise of our citizens.
- 2.2.4 **Mutual respect** – listen and understand the views, concerns and experiences of citizens, so that council's decisions are better informed and strengthen government community relationships.

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2.2.5 **Integrity and transparency** – provide open and accountable engagement practices and processes that genuinely inform decision making and delivers satisfactory outcomes for community.

2.2.6 **Affirming diversity** – incorporate the diverse opinions and perspectives of citizens into policy development, planning and decision making to assist effective and sustainable outcomes.

2.2.7 **Timeliness** – provide appropriate timelines to the engagement process ensuring citizens have reasonable time to consider and respond to matters.

2.2.8 **Adding value** – by government and citizens working productively together, value is added in improved and better informed policy development and program and service planning.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 **CEO** refers to Chief Executive Officer.

3.2 **Council** refers to Central Highlands Regional Council.

3.3 **Councillor** means a councillor as defined under the *Local Government Act 2009* and includes the mayor of council.

3.4 **Council Officer** means a local government employee as defined under the *Local Government Act 2009*, also referred to as staff.

3.5 **Stakeholder** refers to person/s with an interest or connected with the subject matter.

3.6 **The Act** shall mean the *Local Government Act 2009* (as amended).

3.7 **The Regulation** shall mean the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (as amended).

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Strategic Link	Central Highlands 2022 Community Plan Local Government Act 2009 Local Government Regulation 2012 Planning Act 2019 IAP2 Framework
Category	Community Development
Lead Business Unit	Connected Communities
Public Consultation	Yes
Adoption Date	21/01/2020
Next Review Due	Biennially
Document Number	899232
Record Keeping	ECM, vine and council website.
Related Documents	Central Highlands 2022 Community Plan Code of Conduct for Councillors Policy Employee Code of Conduct Policy

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