

6.5.2 Community Engagement Update

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Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the community engagement activities being undertaken this month.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

Monthly update on community engagement opportunities commencing or continuing.

Background

Community engagement is a process whereby Council uses a variety of methods to proactively seek out information and feedback from the community, including their values, concerns, ideas and aspirations. Where possible and when required by legislation, Council will include the community in the development and delivery of identified initiatives and projects. This practice establishes an ongoing partnership, ensuring that community members continue to shape Council's decision making and implementation process.

Council's *Community Engagement Policy* (Policy) sets out Council's accountability for community engagement practices. The Policy meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's commitment to undertaking best practice, high quality community engagement activities to receive input, feedback and ideas from the community on Council projects, services, plans, policies, strategies and other Council decisions.

Council uses the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation (see below) as the model for its community engagement activities depending on the nature of the project, legislative requirements affecting the project and level of influence the community can have on the project, the risk and level of complexity of the project and available resources.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advise and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
EXAMPLE TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Websites • Open houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Deliberate polling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advisory committees • Consensus building • Participatory • Decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated • Decisions

Policy Implications

Community engagement is undertaken in line with Council's *Community Engagement Policy*.

Relevance to Council Plan

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

Climate Emergency Consideration

Nil.

Consultation/Communication

This month, the following Engagement Plans are being implemented:

Community engagement activity July to end August 2022			
Project	Project description	Proposed consultation date/s	Responsible Business Unit
Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan	Engagement on draft masterplan consultation. Following extensive consultation in 2018 and 2019, this next phase of engagement is for the masterplan concept, use of some infrastructure within the reserve along with features and design of some facilities. Engagement activities will include an online survey via Creating Cardinia - Have your say, pop ups and drop-in sessions at the reserve, pop ups at schools, mail-outs to residents living near the reserve and posters with QR codes to link to the online survey will be distributed.	1 July (Closes end August)	Active and Connected Communities (LC)
Playgrounds - Annual Renewal Program	Three playgrounds are scheduled for upgrades as part of the Annual Renewal Program. Phase 1 engagement via the Creating Cardinia - Have your say page invites community members to share how they use these reserves and what equipment they would like to see included in the new playground designs. Following phase 1, detailed designs informed by the community feedback will be made available via the Creating Cardinia - Have your say page for the community to vote for their preferred option.	Proposed 1 August (Closes 28 August)	Active and Connected Communities (LC)

Some projects will involve more than one stage of engagement. The relevant Engagement Plans for each project will document the stages and purpose of engagement.

Financial and Resource Implications

Nil.

Conclusion

The table above outlines projects for engagement that can be promoted to the community this month to support its awareness and involvement and will assist Council in the delivery of the Council Plan action.

The relevant Business Unit can be contacted for additional information and for further details on specific engagement activities planned (including dates).