

10.0 PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION REPORTS

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| ITEM 10.1 | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND FRAMEWORK |
| REPORTING MANAGER | DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER PUBLIC AFFAIRS |
| TRIM FILE REF | 2016/296573 |
| ATTACHMENTS | <p>1 ↓ Community Engagement Policy (Draft)</p> <p>2 ↓ Community Engagement Framework and Matrix (Draft)</p> |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To seek approval from the Administrator to publicly exhibit the draft Community Engagement Policy and Framework for the Northern Beaches Council.

SUMMARY

The Northern Beaches Council is committed to improving how it engages with the community as key input to its decision making process. Effective engagement is good business practice and critical to good governance. Further, community consultation is a key driver of overall satisfaction with Council.

The community engagement policies from the three former Councils have been reviewed in preparation of the new draft Policy and Matrix. The preparation of a single policy and framework for the new Council has been a key component of the transition process.

The attached draft Community Engagement Policy and Framework have been prepared to enable meaningful community engagement and connection between the Northern Beaches Council and the community.

Public exhibition of the draft Policy and Framework will ensure that the community engagement process for the Northern Beaches Council continues to be timely, relevant and meaningful for both the Council and the community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Any financial impact of implementing this policy will be factored into current and future project planning and operational budgets.

POLICY IMPACT

The new Policy and Matrix will replace the previous Community Engagement Policies and supporting frameworks from the three former Councils.

RECOMMENDATION OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER PUBLIC AFFAIRS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

That the draft Community Engagement Policy and Framework be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, and that the submissions received be brought back to Council for consideration and adoption.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Northern Beaches Council is committed to maintaining a high level of community engagement to ensure that residents and key stakeholders have an opportunity to be involved in the decision making process. The former councils were committed to community engagement and each had its own policies based on similar principles.

Previous research has confirmed that community engagement is a key driver of overall satisfaction with Council and is an important aspect of the decision making process.

The development of a combined Community Engagement Policy and Framework for the northern beaches is a critical part of maintaining business as usual during the transition process.

Since May 2016, community engagement has played a key role in the transition process. To date we have:

- Formed an Implementation Advisory Group and Local Representation Committees comprising of 22 former councillors.
- Transitioned the previous community committee structures across the region to a new Committee and Community Group Framework consisting of 11 new Strategic Reference Groups, existing Project Working groups, existing External Joint or Statutory Committees and a register of Community Groups.
- Discussed community engagement principles and the proposed approaches supported by the Engagement Framework with the IAG and LRC members.

This new draft Policy and Matrix is primarily based on the former Pittwater and Warringah documents and processes. These were both based on the IAP2 principles (International Association of Public Participation) and proven methodologies. They were recognised as leading practice in this field and often referenced by other Councils.

The attached Community Engagement Policy and Framework have been developed to build on the strengths of the different approaches of the former Councils.

CONSULTATION

The development of the draft policy and framework has been supported by a review of engagement practice and previous community consultation studies undertaken by former councils.

Consultation on the draft Engagement Framework commenced in June with the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) on 8 and 29 June 2016 and Local Representation Committees (LRC) on 15 and 29 June 2016.

The draft Policy and Framework will be on public exhibition for 28 days in October and November. The consultation process will include:

- Information on the Your Say project web page including online submission form
- Advertisements in the Manly Daily
- Community information sessions in Manly, Dee Why and Mona Vale
- Community feedback during the CSP engagement activities
- Bulk emails to our community engagement database, registered community groups and other key stakeholders.

TIMING

At the conclusion of the public exhibition period, the submissions will be considered and it is anticipated that the final documents will be adopted by Council in November or December 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Any financial impact of implementing this policy will be factored into current and future project planning and operational budgets.

SOCIAL IMPACT

The social impact of this draft Policy and Framework is a clear approach in providing consistent, meaningfully and effective community engagement between Council and our community. The community input will be used to effectively plan for the future of our area and provide an understanding of how their input has been used in Council decision-making.

Involvement of the community in Council decision making helps to promote a socially inclusive society. The draft Policy and Framework is established to foster social inclusion and to improve the social outcomes for all in the northern beaches community.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The draft Policy and Framework does not impact on the environment.