

Summary of Proposed changes to Community Engagement Policy

There are significant formatting changes, and some content has moved, to bring the policy in line with council's new policy template. This may give the appearance that there are more, and more significant, changes than there actually are.

Type	Summary of changes	Reason	Page reference
KEY CHANGES			
Delete references to CGD Engagement framework	References to the CGD framework has been removed noting that the framework is an internal, operational document. It doesn't need to be referenced in this policy.		Page 3
Formatting	- Table of contents updated - Sections 4-7 have now been subsumed under the same section (section 4), and renamed, 4. <i>Response and considerations to key frameworks, policies and legislations</i>	To improve readability of the community engagement policy. Sections 4-7 in the current policy are all responses to extant policies	1, 3-4
Changes to minimum consultation period (Move from mandatory 4 weeks to minimum of 2 weeks)	Included the following to clarify timeframe for public exhibition/consultation: <i>A minimum consultation period of two weeks may be sufficient in some circumstances.</i> <i>The consultation period should be adapted as appropriate for the level of engagement and influence, taking into consideration whether:</i> <i>this is appropriate under relevant legislation,</i> <i>there is a need for a longer consultation period, after considering the:</i> <i>likely level of interest in the engagement matter</i> <i>complexity of the information which needs to be processed and understood</i> <i>level of impact of what is being proposed</i> <i>the time required to communicate the engagement opportunity widely</i> <i>Whether this is an update or phase of an engagement matter that the target audience is already familiar with.</i> <i>Identify and address all challenges related to participation in the community engagement plan.</i>	Providing some flexibility around managing timeframes for public consultation to give allowance to adaptive timeframes particularly when we go out for check-ins with the community on things/issues they have previously provided feedback.	Page 5
Exemptions regarding when we engage	- The following statements have been added to clarify when we may not go out to engage the community: - during the caretaker/election period in the lead-up to Council elections	This is important in managing expectations and to signal	Page 8-9

	- when it conflicts with local laws, the Local Government Act, or other Victorian or Commonwealth laws or regulations.	that there might be times when the risks of engaging the community is far more than the benefits. In those cases, council may decide not to engage or push engagement to a later time.	
MINOR CHANGES			
Section 3.1: Clarifying what is excluded/what this policy does not include.	Included a section to clarify what the policy does not cover.	Setting the scope, revising what is covered and what is not covered under this policy. Also to clarify that the policy may be supported by internal procedures, guidelines or toolkits for effective implementation	Page 3
Revised background	Revised to reflect the linkage between reviewed CE policy and new Council plan priorities.	Rewritten for readability and to provide the right amount of info in this section.	Page 2
5.6.2 Engage Clarity around how we apply different methods and tools when we consult or involve the community	Included a brief statement: <i>"In both participatory and deliberative engagement processes, a wide array of methods can be employed to involve stakeholders. These approaches may include public forums, workshops, surveys, drop-ins/pop-ups and collaborative decision-making sessions, each designed to foster dialogue, gather diverse perspectives, and encourage active involvement."</i> to clarify that we might use same	To clarify and note that methods of engagements are dynamic and can apply	Page 9-10

	tools/method of engagements for both deliberative and participatory engagements.	across both approaches.	
IAP2 Engagement framework	Revised the content under engagement framework and included the actual IAP2 Spectrum of Public participation table to replace the current table.	Updated with IAP2 diagram	Page 7
5.4 Who do we engage with? Diversity and inclusion in determining who we engage	Included this statement that acknowledges that: <i>“Council considers inclusive and accessible principles in accordance with its Diversity, Access and Equity Policy in determining who we engage”</i>	To demonstrate our commitment to inclusion and diversity principles.	Page 8