
6.1 BROADER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - REVISED DRAFT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**REPORT OF:** Customer Experience & Community Engagement Manager

REPORT OVERVIEW**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress, as well as next steps for the completion of action 3.1 in the Transition to Council Plan.

Criteria: Public Record

CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY

Next Generation Governance

NG2.1 Engage stakeholders on projects that affect the future of the city and residents, to gain community input on Council decisions.

REPORT DETAILS**BACKGROUND**

In July 2019 the Interim Management Committee's 'Transition to Council' Plan (June 2019 to March 2020) was endorsed with a commitment to deliver key actions under three priority areas. Within priority area three, Broader Community Engagement, Council committed to:

3.1 *“Review the Community Engagement Strategy to identify opportunities to further engage with all sectors of the Logan community”.*

It was also identified by the Community Engagement Program that an opportunity existed to undertake a simultaneous review of the Community Engagement Framework. The Framework guides how Council officers work with community to make informed decisions.

The Community Engagement Strategy and Framework will support broader community engagement by improving;

- opportunities and tools for all sectors of the community to engage with Council;
- internal community engagement service provision, and;
- broader, meaningful community and stakeholder engagement processes and practices across the organisation.

DISCUSSION

In October 2019, Council engaged an external consultant to undertake a review of the Community Engagement Strategy and Framework. Their advice and support has been important to make sure Council can draw upon their extensive experience and industry knowledge of current best practice in community engagement in a local government context.

In November 2019 and January 2020, the consultant facilitated two internal workshops. Internal engagement was needed to capture the perspectives of staff and make sure that the Strategy and Framework are appreciative of organisational needs. Workshops were attended by staff from 17 branches who are key participants for driving meaningful engagement across the City of Logan.

Next Steps

A community engagement process is important to enable transparent and cohesive partnerships between Council and the community. The first stage of external engagement has been to share information with actively engaged community members. Our Have Your Say online project page provides the most current information and an opportunity for community to ask questions in a public (digital) forum.

The first drafts of the Community Engagement Strategy and Framework have now been completed and are attached as background papers to this report. A final internal review across Council will occur shortly.

Before finalising the Community Engagement Strategy and Framework, broader input from key stakeholders and community is required. In order to understand the needs and capture the insights and ideas of community and stakeholders in a cohesive manner, it is also important to gain appropriate buy-in and support from newly Elected Members to Council. It is for this reason that the proposed community engagement process would occur once a new Council has returned.

CONCLUSION

As an outcome of the Transition to Council Plan, a review of Council's Community Engagement Strategy has taken place. The revised Community Engagement Strategy and Framework will provide the direction and tools required for broader engagement with all sectors of the Logan community.

The Community Engagement Strategy and Framework are key foundational pieces of work in shaping a new and exciting path for Council and its engagement with the community.

It is important that the Community Engagement Strategy and Framework are finalised in collaboration with key stakeholders and community following the local government elections.

For information