



FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
TITLE	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
DATE OF ADOPTION	23 NOVEMBER 2010 ITEM 2.2.3.3 NOVEMBER 2010 MINUTES
REVIEW DATE	NOVEMBER 2011

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Flinders Shire Council is committed to ensuring inclusive and effective community engagement to assist in the delivery of high quality local government.

2. PRINCIPLES

The Flinders Shire Council Community Engagement Policy is based upon the following principles:

- Providing inclusive opportunities for informed community involvement in Council's decision making.
- Ensuring that all groups in the community are provided with opportunities to engage with Council.
- Providing culturally appropriate processes to encourage people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to engage with Council.
- Achieving meaningful community engagement using an engagement policy and framework.
- Fostering a Council-wide culture of community engagement.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all facets of Flinders Shire Council's service-delivery activities.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

The Mayor and all Councillors are responsible for adhering to this policy in so far as it applies to their activities. The Chief Executive Officer, Directors, Managers and Supervisors are to ensure that this policy is understood and adhered to by all Council employees and contractors.

5. DEFINITIONS

Community Engagement – is a term used in this policy to describe a broad range of interactions between the Council and the community, including consultation and communication with the community, and involving and endeavouring to understand our community. Engagement may include any of the following:

- **Information Sharing**
Supports all types of community engagement and keeps the community informed about such things as decisions, services and local events.

Consultation - Can be used when there is a decision to make about something or when there are a number of choices about the details of a potential project/program.

- **Deciding Together**
Can be used when the local community decide on actions together with Council.
- **Acting Together**
Communities, partner agencies, other levels of government, and the Council are jointly responsible for both decisions and resulting actions.
- **Supporting Independent Community Initiatives**
The Council and partner agencies help community groups to develop and carry out their own plans/projects.

Community – in this policy refers to the broader Flinders Shire population, and all groups (communities) that are a part of it. It is important to note that people usually see themselves as belonging to one community of place but more than one community of interest or identity. They can be:

- **Communities of place**
People living in neighbourhoods and localities.
- **Communities of identity**
People from ethnic minority groups, older people, younger people, people with disabilities, religious groups, etc.
- **Communities of interest**
People involved in groups which might cut across other communities. For example horse enthusiasts, public housing tenants, art and craft makers, etc.

6. POLICY

The Flinders Shire Council believes that fostering democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement greatly assists in the delivery of high quality local government.

The Council is committed to achieving inclusive and effective community engagement, and will develop and adhere to a Community Engagement Framework to guide the Council's efforts to enhance the planning and delivery of the Council's services and programs.

7. LEGAL PARAMETERS

- Local Government Act 2009
- Sustainable Planning Act 2009
- Local Government (Finance, Plans and Reporting) Regulation 2010
- Local Government (Operations) Regulation 2010
- Local Government Financial Standard 2005

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Flinders Shire Council's –
 - Community Engagement Framework
 - Community Plan
 - Corporate Plan
 - Priority Infrastructure Plan
 - Operational Plan
 - Flinders Shire Planning Scheme 2005
 - North West Regional Plan 2010
 - IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

9. NEXT REVIEW

Two years after adoption.

Stephen McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
23 November 2010