



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

### **Policy Purpose and Objectives**

Community Engagement creates an active and informed dialogue that seeks an understanding of the views and aspirations of the community.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework that facilitates understanding and decision making between the Council and the Hobart community.

The Community Engagement Policy objectives are to:

- Achieve good governance by facilitating open, fair and constructive dialogue.
- Allow for informed decision making and achieve together an improved quality of life in Hobart.
- Achieve active public participation through involvement and inclusiveness.
- Provide the public with a clear understanding of the Council's participation processes.

### **Policy Statement**

The Hobart City Council recognises the right of the community members to be informed and have input into decisions which affect their lives.

Hobart City Council values effective engagement in developing a positive relationship with its community and recognises that public participation contributes to better decision-making.

Council seeks to take account of the views, needs, issues and aspirations expressed by the community and to balance these with other influences such as budgetary constraints to make informed decisions.

In applying this policy, the Council will demonstrate its values of leadership, community involvement, responsiveness, equity and excellence.

The Hobart City Council has developed the following nine (9) principles to guide the application of this policy:

***Principle 1 – Engagement Culture***

Council embraces engagement as a key process in its governance of Hobart. A culture of engagement will continue to be developed at all levels of the organisation.

***Principle 2 – Building Relationships***

Council is committed to building effective relationships to improve the outcomes of engagements.

***Principle 3 – Inclusiveness and Accessibility***

Council acknowledges the diversity of its community and will work to diminish barriers that may exist in order to encourage participation in engagement.

***Principle 4 – Participation***

Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the process and to express their views in a respectful and open manner.

### ***Principle 5 – Communication***

The Council will clearly communicate the purpose of the engagement process; the steps involved and will allow sufficient time for effective involvement.

### ***Principle 6 – Transparency***

Council's engagements will be clear and transparent to allow the community access to information and an understanding by the stakeholders of the processes and resources involved.

### ***Principle 7 – Considering the Results***

The results of engagements will be included in the considerations of the Council and in decision making.

### ***Principle 8 – Feedback***

The Council will provide a means for stakeholders to obtain feedback on the engagement.

### ***Principle 9 – Evaluation and Review***

The Council will evaluate and review its engagement framework to ensure it is responsive to the views and aspirations of the community.