Engagement - Community and Stakeholders

Policy Objective

To foster and support an engagement culture that keeps people informed on matters that affect them and respects and encourages the participation of community and stakeholders in decision-making processes.

Policy Detail

The City embraces a positive approach to engaging with our community and stakeholders; promoting understanding and involvement to achieve better outcomes for our whole community.

We will:

- Strive to keep our community informed of matters that affect them.
- Engage with our community and stakeholders when it is valuable to inform decision-making, as well as when it is required by legislation.
- Engage with relevance, noting engagements will be designed at an appropriate level and may be broad or targeted depending on the nature of the project or decision.
- Identify barriers to engagement and try to include people who are hard to reach.
- Provide our community and stakeholders with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- Include the results of engagement activities within decision-making processes.
- Review the City's engagement processes on a regular basis.

The results of engagement activities inform, but do not replace, the decision-making role of the City and Council. Unless it is an aspect of the engagement activity, decisions are at the discretion of Council or the relevant decision maker.

Engagement will not occur when there is no scope for community or stakeholder involvement to influence a decision. For example, where legislative or policy provision gives a clear right to an outcome.

Reference/Associated Documents

Local Government Act 1995

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015

Strategic Community Plan 2020-2040

Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-2026

City of Belmont Consultation and Engagement Strategy

City of Belmont Communication Strategy

Reference to Internal Procedure

SP03 Communications - Internal and External

PM - Manage Online Engagement (Belmont Connect)

WI - Consultation

WI - Belmont Connect Project Creation

Definitions

Example:

'**City**' means the City of Belmont.

'**Community**' means individual and groups of people who reside, interact, or do business within the City of Belmont, this includes our residents, ratepayers, business owners, community groups, customers, employees, and frequent visitors.

'**Engagement**' means the process for interacting with our community or stakeholders to seek their input, to help inform decision-making.

'**Stakeholder**' means individuals, a group of individuals, organisations, or a political entity with a specific stake in the outcome of City decisions.

This Policy is supported by:	
Policy No:	CP55
Strategic Community Plan:	**Goal 5: Responsible Belmont Strategy:** 5.5 Engage and consult the community in decision-making
Delegation Register:	N/A
Service Area:	Corporate and Governance
Policy Owner:	Manager PR & Stakeholder Engagement
Policy Stakeholder:	N/A

Amendment Status:		
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25/09/18	Review - Minor	12.5
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