

## 7.5.4 Community Engagement Update

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### Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the community engagement activities being undertaken in July 2024.

### Attachments

Nil

### Executive Summary

This report provides a monthly update on Council's community engagement opportunities commencing or continuing.

### Background

Community engagement is a process whereby Council uses a variety of methods to proactively seek out information and feedback from the community, including their values, concerns, ideas and aspirations. Where possible and when required by legislation, Council will include the community in the development and delivery of identified initiatives and projects. This practice establishes an ongoing partnership, ensuring that community members continue to shape Council's decision making and implementation process.

Council's Community Engagement Policy (Policy) sets out Council's accountability for community engagement practices. The Policy meets the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's commitment to undertaking best practice, high quality community engagement activities to receive input, feedback and ideas from the community on Council projects, services, plans, policies, strategies and other Council decisions.

Council uses the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation (see below) as the model for its community engagement activities depending on the nature of the project, legislative requirements affecting the project and level of influence the community can have on the project, the risk and level of complexity of the project and available resources.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advise and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
EXAMPLE TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact sheets</li> <li>• Websites</li> <li>• Open houses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public comment</li> <li>• Focus groups</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Public meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Deliberate polling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen Advisory committees</li> <li>• Consensus building</li> <li>• Participatory</li> <li>• Decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen juries</li> <li>• Ballots</li> <li>• Delegated</li> <li>• Decisions</li> </ul>

**Policy Implications**

Community engagement is undertaken in line with Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*.

**Relevance to Council Plan**

**5.1 We practise responsible leadership**

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

**Climate Emergency Consideration**

There are no climate emergency considerations as part of this report.

**Consultation/Communication**

This month, the following Engagement Plans are being implemented.

Community engagement activity July 2024			
Project	Project description	Proposed date/s and details of the community engagement	Responsible Business Unit
WB (William Bruce) Ronald Reserve, Pakenham.	Stage 2 community engagement on the draft detail designs of the playground based on community feedback gained in Stage 1.	Period of engagement: 8 July – 5 August 2024.  Community engagement will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email/letter to key stakeholders</li> <li>• Present the draft designs on the Creating Cardinia website</li> <li>• Place QR code posters in surrounding areas directing people to the Creating Cardinia site.</li> </ul>	Active and Connected Communities.

Some projects will involve more than one stage of engagement. The relevant Engagement Plans for each project will document the stages and purpose of engagement.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

The activities undertaken fall within Councils existing budget and resourcing.

### **Conclusion**

The table above outlines projects for engagement that can be promoted to the community this month to support its awareness and involvement and will assist Council in the delivery of the Council Plan action.